

NEW YORK STATE CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The NYS Capital District Chapter and the Military Officers Association of America are non-partisan member organizations that honor, assist, and advocate for all who serve and have served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States of America.



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4-Star Chapter – 2023

5-Star Chapter: 2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017

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HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → VETERANS MIRACLE CENTER (VMC)

“The Veterans Miracle Center is a special place for Veterans and Active-Duty Military Personnel as well as their immediate families to receive daily life necessities absolutely free.”

VMC Albany

10 Interstate Avenue

Albany, NY 12205

Phone: 518.486.8398

Email: Info@VMCAlbany.org

Website: www.vmcalbany.org

Hours: By appointment only

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

Our Chapter donates annually to the VMC. The VMC in Albany stocks a variety of items essential for living, to include “brand new clothes, shoes, personal care products, kitchenware, children’s toys, beds and more.” They also offer a complimentary van transportation service to and from their store. The VMC is open by appointment-only to Veterans by presenting their DD214 or current military ID. Monetary donations and volunteers are always welcome. To donate or volunteer your time, please visit the VMC website at the web address shown in the box at the left.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are excited to welcome two new members to our Chapter:

- **DAVID M. CUMMINGS, COL USAR**
- **DOUGLAS BRIAN SHERMAN, CW4 USA Ret., and his wife, KIMBERLEY**

Hey, let’s invite more officers to get in on the action ...

If you know former, retired, or still-serving military officers who aren’t yet MOAA members or Chapter members, please invite them to join us and hand them a membership application (or send them this link):

[Joint MOAA-Chapter Membership Application](#)

A SAD FAREWELL TO A LONG-TIME MEMBER



HAROLD JAMES BROCKMAN, LCDR US Navy (Retired), passed away on May 11, 2024, at age 93. Born in Nebraska, Harry earned degrees in architecture and German literature. He served on active duty as a Seabee in the U.S. Navy with duty in Okinawa, Japan, from 1960 to 1964. He continued his military service in the Naval Reserves into the early 1980s. In his profession as an architect, he designed buildings all over the US and in foreign countries, including Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and Nicaragua. Harry and his wife Nancy were regular attendees at our Chapter meetings for years. They had many interesting life experiences; hearing about their stories and adventures was always a joy. In June 2022, Harry took a Patriot Flight to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his loving daughter, Amy. We featured his trip in the July-August 2022 issue of our newsletter (still accessible through our website). We will miss Harry, but we hope Nancy will still join us at our luncheon meetings.

Legislative Affairs Committee Report

(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli, Legislative Affairs Committee)

Here's a look at some of the key issues MOAA will champion for inclusion in the FY 2025 NDAA, along with links to more information and ways you can make your voice heard via our [Legislative Action Center](#).

- **Enact the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bills, as well as the other appropriations bills, and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by October 1, 2024.** This is critical to national security, which requires a whole-of-government approach. Without consistently on-time authorizations and appropriations, Congress has lapsed into an overreliance on continuing resolutions, causing uncertainty and waste throughout the federal government and placing an unfair burden on the all-volunteer force. MOAA, the Military Coalition (TMC), and other stakeholder groups already have engaged with lawmakers to advocate for key priorities they would like to see addressed in the FY 2025 NDAA. This must-pass legislation offers the largest annual platform for MOAA's work to support and protect service-earned benefits, while ensuring the continued strength of the all-volunteer force.
- **Uniformed Services Pay Raise:** The Employee Cost Index (ECI) rose [4.5% in the third quarter of FY 2023](#); by statute, that figure should set the pay raise for servicemembers beginning in January 2025.
- **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):** MOAA urges Congress to support the BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) and include it as part of the FY 2025 NDAA so that BAH is restored to 100% of projected housing costs, up from the current 95%.
- **Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) Calculation:** Food insecurity among the ranks is a problem, especially for junior servicemembers and their families. DoD's budget request included a change in eligibility for the BNA, boosting the threshold from 150% to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- **TRICARE Network Adequacy Oversight:** Reports of network erosion are increasing. MOAA recommends a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the next-generation TRICARE contracts to ensure they are structured to identify network adequacy issues and improve beneficiary access to care.
- **Concurrent Receipt:** MOAA continues its work to urge lawmakers to end the unjust offset faced by combat-injured veterans, tens of thousands of whom remain unable to receive their full DoD retirement pay and full VA disability compensation. MOAA is asking lawmakers to include the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) in the base text of the FY 2025 NDAA.
- **Military Spouse Employment:** Military spouses continue to face a staggering unemployment rate – [over five times the national figure](#). Addressing decade-plus-long high unemployment among military spouses will take a multipronged approach, to include improved tracking of military spouse employment beyond the existing biannual survey.
- **Servicemember Pay During a Government Shutdown:** Often, there are measures in place to ensure members of the armed forces continue to receive pay even in the event of a lapse in government funding. However, these protections do not extend to the broader uniformed services

Continued on next page

to include the Coast Guard and the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA. Including the bipartisan [Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act \(H.R. 2693\)](#) in the FY 2025 NDAA would be a significant step forward on this issue.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Take action at MOAA's *Legislative Action Center*

1. Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
2. Click on the button at the top right corner of the page that says "Sign up".
3. You will need to create a profile. This is different from your profile on <http://www.moaa.org> since it is technically a separate website.
4. Explore the features on the site and send your legislators the letters that MOAA crafted.

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2024 – FYI

Aug 1: The last day both the House and Senate were expected to be in session before leaving for a five-week recess. MOAA will make additional resources available to members seeking to reach out to their lawmakers during this break, which many House and Senate members will use to connect with constituents.

Sep 9: Both the House and Senate return to work for three weeks. This period represents the last chance for Congress to pass a budget before the end of the fiscal year – a key duty of lawmakers, one that they've failed to accomplish (with rare exceptions) for several decades.

Sep 27: The end of the three-week working period. Both chambers will adjourn until after the election.

Sep 30: The end of the current federal fiscal year.

Nov 5: Election Day.

Nov 12: Both the House and Senate return for a "lame-duck" session. Despite the name, this session may prove critical to the advancement of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), must-pass legislation which contains many key MOAA priorities. (During the lame-duck session after the 2022 midterm elections, that year's NDAA saw dozens of legislative actions eventually moving to the president's desk and becoming law before year's end.)

Nov 21: The last day both chambers are in session prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dec 2: The Senate begins its three-week, year-end session; the House starts the following day.

Jan 3, 2025: Start of the 119th Congress.

MOAA is NOT an organization of officers concerned *only* about officers. We are an organization of officers dedicated to protecting the earned benefits and welfare of ALL RANKS in all of the uniformed services.

Presentation of MOAA JROTC Awards

(Submitted by Al Memole, ROTC/JROTC Awards Committee)

Our Chapter had the honor of presenting a MOAA medal and certificate to recognize the academic achievements and demonstrated leadership of *three* more outstanding Capital region JROTC cadets:

- **PATRICK McDONOUGH**, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel, **La Salle Institute**, Troy, NY, Army JROTC led by Senior Army Instructors 1SG Paul Peters and 1SG Durvell Smith, presented on May 30. Patrick is a wide receiver and safety as well as captain of the La Salle football team. He loves American history and hopes to go to the US Military Academy at West Point.
- **BRAYDEN McKOWN-BLEDSOE**, Cadet 1st Lieutenant, **Amsterdam High School**, Amsterdam, NY, Marine Corps JROTC led by 1stSgt James Bautista, Senior Marine Instructor, presented on June 6. Brayden is most excited to be part of the Rifle Team. He hopes to go to Lemoyne College to major in criminal justice, with a future goal of either law school or the NY State Police. He is also interested in the US Air Force and Space Force.
- **FLORA AYO**, Cadet Major, **Albany High School**, Albany, NY, Army JROTC, Sgt Henry Johnson Battalion led by Senior Army Instructor and Chapter member, **MAJ David Erickson**, USA Ret., presented on June 7. Flora is an outstanding student and leader. She was one of only two cadets promoted to major for the upcoming school year – the second highest rank in the Battalion.

(Below: Al Memole as Chapter President presenting the MOAA JROTC award to, from left to right, Patrick McDonough of La Salle Institute, Troy, Brayden McKown-Bledsoe of Amsterdam HS, and Flora Ayoo of Albany HS. Photos by Lawrence Clarke.)



September 9th is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, stories, or reviews of books, movies, food, or drinks** for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com.

Chapter Meetings For 2024 – Updated

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING LOCATION, NOTES
<i>AUG 17 Board of Directors Meeting</i>	<i>Beginning 10:30 am at Scheiber residence on Lake George</i>
OCT 6, Luncheon Meeting	<i>Guest Speaker: [tentative] Capt Jon Guagenti, NYANG, Transport and evacuation missions in the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021</i>
<i>NOV 16, Board of Directors Meeting</i>	<i>TBD</i>
DEC 8, Holiday Party-Annual Business Mtg	<i>TBD</i>

Our Last Luncheon Meeting – June 9th

Despite predictions of rain, 17 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful sunny afternoon at the outdoor Pavilion of the Veterans of Lansingburgh facility along the Hudson River, across from Peebles Island State Park and the Erie Canal lock in Waterford.



Once again, the VoL served delicious summer cookout-style fare – hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, baked potatoes, tossed salad, grilled half-chickens, and watermelon. *Matt Sprenger, COL USA Ret.*, who is the President of the Mid-Hudson Chapter, joined us to share camaraderie and hear our guest speaker, *COL Alain Fisher, Commander, US Army Watervliet Arsenal.*

COL Fisher talked about being “an Army brat” and recounted his Army experiences as a Quartermaster officer and logistician. His assignments prior to commanding the Arsenal took him to Hawaii, Virginia (multiple times), Korea, North Carolina, Italy, Georgia, and Kentucky. He also deployed to Afghanistan for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM three times (2006, 2007, and 2013). He spoke very passionately about the Watervliet Arsenal and its vital role in US defense. The high level of quality control in production greatly impressed him, and he expressed optimism about future weapons systems. [On July 25, COL Jason W. Schultz assumed command of the Watervliet Arsenal, replacing COL Fisher.]



PHOTOS: Above left – MAJ Skip Bebernitz. COL Matt Sprenger (Mid-Hudson Chapter) and COL Alain Fisher; Above right – COL Fisher emphasizes a point during his presentation on the multifaceted operations of the Watervliet Arsenal. (Photos by Ed Balaban)

DID YOU KNOW ...
 that the initials of the Arsenal Commander are stamped onto every gun barrel produced by the Arsenal? It’s the equivalent of the Commander’s signature attesting to the quality of the product!

June 12 – Women Veterans Recognition Day at the Empire State Plaza

Chapter Membership Committee member *Christine Richardson, LTC USA Ret.*, seized the initiative to set up and staff a MOAA table for the Women Veterans Recognition Day event held in the concourse of the Empire State Plaza on June 12. NYS Department of Veterans' Services sponsored the event which sought not only to honor female veterans but also provide assistance. Chapter member *Julia Holcomb, MAJ USAF Ret.*, joined Christine at the table to distribute information about MOAA and our Chapter to officers and those who might know officers who might be interested in joining. There were not as many people at the event as Christine and Julia had hoped, but they interacted with those who attended. Of most importance, they gave MOAA some visibility among this particular demographic, and that is something that our Chapter needs to do more often. THANK YOU CHRISTINE AND JULIA!

[Below left: LTC Christine Richardson and MAJ Julia Holcomb flank the NY Council of Chapters MOAA banner. Below right: The very inviting MOAA table.]



Chapter Trips & Outings

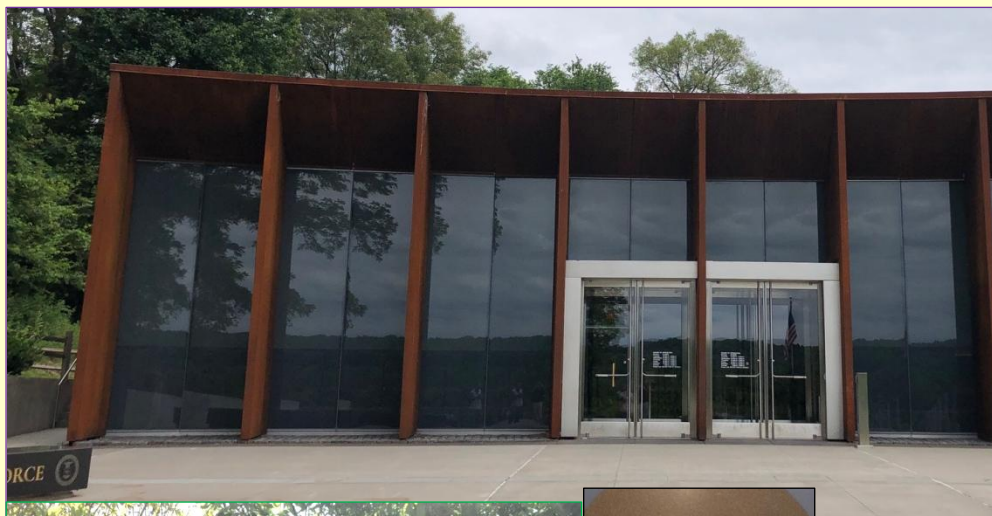
- June 12 – Tour of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor (PH HoH).** Chapter members *Tony Ficara, Vince Memole, and Al Memole* joined MOAA members from the Mid-Hudson and Southern Tier Chapters for a tour of the PH HoH, hosted by our April 2023 guest speaker, *Peter Bedrossian*. The PH HoH is a unique *national* place of tribute to the PH and its holders, but is not a US Government site: It is actually part of the New York State Department Parks Recreation, and Historic Preservation. It is a national repository for official historical documents and artifacts as well as personal documents, stories, and artifacts dedicated solely to the Purple Heart medal, those who created the award, and, most importantly, those who received it – those wounded and those killed in action. The Hall is also a museum and an educational medium presenting the artifacts, the history, and the personal stories of the PH and its recipients. Although it's not a large area, it's packed with interactive displays that flow in a logical order. It starts with the creation of the award and follows its history. What makes the museum special is that it follows the personal stories of PH recipients through official documents, personal correspondence, photographs, and audio and video recorded testimony. Stories are grouped by war and conflict, but also by sequential steps in recipients' combat experiences. Experiences span the time from entrance into the armed services including personal motivations for joining, training, deployment and combat, wounds or death, emergency aid and evacuation from the combat zone, hospitalization and medical interventions, reception of the award, and, for those who survived, convalescence and adjustment to post-conflict life. There is also

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an authentically reconstructed Revolutionary War cantonment adjacent to the PH HoH. Its history and artifacts are displayed in the same building as the Hall of Honor.

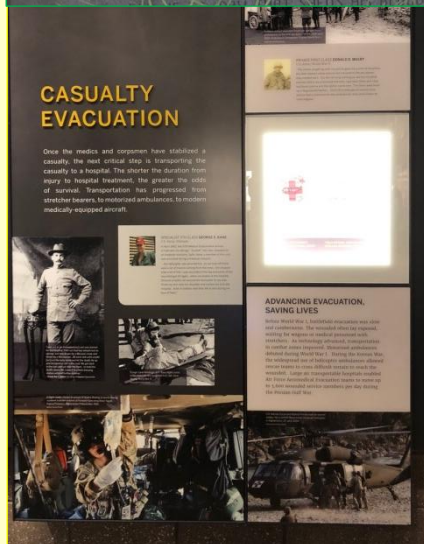
IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE PH HoH, YOU REALLY SHOULD GO!

[Photo collage below by Al Memole]



THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

Purple Heart recipients are those service members who were killed or wounded by enemy action. The mission of the Hall of Honor is to collect, preserve and share the stories of all Purple Heart recipients.



- June 13 – Veterans Night at the Valley Cats, at Bruno Stadium, Troy.** The day after both Women Veterans Recognition Day and the trip to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Chapter members gathered at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium for Veterans Night at the Valleycats. Veterans got in FREE. Attending from our Chapter were *Skip and Mary Lou Bebernitz, Christine and Lance Richardson, Al and Mary Memole, and Michael Golden.* (*Vince Memole* couldn't



make it, but his cousin Jim Moore represented him nobly.) It was an absolutely beautiful evening – perfect weather for baseball, and our seats were directly behind home plate!. One could tell there were a lot of veterans by all of the different military and veteran organization hats they were wearing, including our Chapter members! Patriot Riders kicked things off circling the stadium on their motorcycles with American flags flying! Everyone had fun ... except the Valleycats. They got trounced! But we'll write no more of that.

- July 9 – New England Air Museum. Windsor Locks, CT.** Chapters members *Skip “Energizer Bunny” Bebernitz, Pat Piccirilli, and Kathy and Laurie Gates* visited this gem of a museum dedicated to all aspects of the history of flight. The displays included many historic aircraft. Another great example of Chapter members going on impromptu outings for fun and camaraderie. [*At right: Skip pilots a B-29 bomber flying at ground level. That’s really nap-of-the-earth flying!*]



OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

Upcoming Options for Informal Chapter Outings

- Aug 30, Aug 31, or Sep 1 – Military Appreciation weekend at Yankee Stadium.** Friday is an evening game; Saturday and Sunday are afternoon games on Labor day weekedn. *Let us know ASAP if you are interested in going to one of the games. If there is enough interest we might be able to get tickets for a block of seats and perhaps arrange to carpool and go as a group.*
- Sep 7 – Wings & Wheels, 10 a m-3 pm at Hangar 743 Albany Shaker Rd Bldg 202, Latham.** This event, sponsored by the Prescott Foundation, includes a family-friendly, aviation-themed car show, local vendors, food, and other entertainment in addition to the aircraft collection on full display. Wings & Wheels is different each year, but past years featured warbirds, such as a P-51 Mustang, a WWII airborne demonstration, and helicopter rides. Details for this year's event are coming soon.



- Sep 14 – 10th Annual LTC TODD J. CLARK GOLF TOURNAMENT**, starting 7:30 am at the **Western Turnpike Golf Course, 2350 Western Ave, Guilderland**. LTC Todd J. Clark was the son of our Chapter member *Jack Clark*. Todd was killed in action in Afghanistan on 8 June 2013. This popular tournament honors him and raises money to support a wide array of local veterans, veterans organizations, and veterans causes. (Last year's tournament donated \$30,000 to local veterans and veterans organizations.) You may sign up for 18 holes of golf (carts provided) with lunch and dinner, or attend the dinner only. If you can not attend you may still make a monetary contribution or provide items for their raffle/silent auction. For golfers, registration is 7:30 am. The Practice Range is open 8:00-9:00am; Shotgun Start - 9:00am; Lunch at the Turn - 11:00am - 1:00pm. Dinner takes place at The Hedge Bistro at Western Turnpike with Happy Hour at 2:30pm, Banquet and Awards at 3:30pm, and a Raffle/Silent Auction. For additional information contact: COL Jack Clark, U.S. Army, Retired (518-669-9920) or Pat O'Brien (518-423-4771). *This event will sell out quickly, so reserve your space early!* To sign up, visit the website at <https://www.ltctoddjclark.com/tournament> . DEADLINE for registration with payment is **Aug 22!**
- Sep 14 – TRIVIA NIGHT, 5:00 to 10:00 pm at the Elks Colonial Hall, 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**. *The Friends of the New York State Military Museum* (one of our Chapter's annual charities) is running this event to benefit the museum. Cost is \$50 per player, and there is a maximum of 125 players allowed. Entry fee includes a buffet package and plated entrees. *It would be great if our Chapter could sponsor a table (8 players) or help fill a table. Let us know ASAP if you are interested.* Contacts for this event are Chapter members *Dave Cummings* (518-366-4762, cummindm@aol.com) and *Mark O'Rourke* (518-275-8389, mark.orourke@icloud.com).
- Oct 19 - Army Football vs East Carolina, Michie Stadium, West Point**. *Let us know ASAP if you are interested in going. If there is enough interest we might be able to get tickets for a block of seats and perhaps arrange to carpool and go as a group.*

TRIVIA NIGHT
with Chad From Albany
To Benefit *the Friends of* NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM
Sat. Sept. 14, 2024
5pm to 10pm @ Elks Colonial Hall
Trivia @ 7pm
\$50 per player with Dinner Buffet Included
Teams Will Be Placed in Tables of 8
5 Rounds- Prizes Each Round with One Grand Prize!
Limited Seating Available!
Contact Dave Cummings
To Reserve Today! @ 518-366-4762
or Cummindm@aol.com
Friends of the NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM
Preserving Our Military Heritage
CRAFT TRIVIA
Koenig
SINCE 2009
Elks Colonial Hall
1 Elks Lane,
Saratoga Springs, NY

NYS Assembly Bill A 9900 and NYS Senate Bill S8999 - Status

NO ACTION SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER. Assembly Bill A9900 was referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee on April 26 and NY Senate Bill S8999 was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on May 16. Background: Money that New York State had collected from check offs on individual income taxes that were specifically meant to help veterans within New York has been sitting in the state treasury and not a penny of it has been distributed yet to benefit veterans. State legislators are attempting to address this odd and unjust retention of taxpayer funds through identical bills drafted in each house. The bills would direct “...that moneys in the veterans' home services fund shall be payable on vouchers certified by the commissioner of veterans' services; directs a report to be submitted by such commissioner; directs that moneys in the military family relief fund shall be payable on vouchers certified by the commissioner of veterans' services.” Please contact your Assembly Representative and State Senator asking that they support the passage of this legislation.

Naval Support Facility Saratoga Springs MWR Upcoming Activities

- **Aug 14 – Book Lover's Day at the Liberty Center.** Read with NSF Saratoga Springs MWR for Book Lover's Day on Wednesday, August 14 at the Liberty Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Aug 16 – Golf Tournament at Airway Meadows Golf Course.** Registration is required by Friday, August 9.
- **Aug 22 – Trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum.** The tour will leave the Liberty Center at 11:30 a.m. and return around 5:30 p.m. Online admissions through the museum are required. Register by Tuesday, August 20.
- **Aug 23 – Lunch and Learn: Mission Nutrition at the NPTU Fitness Center.** Learn the concepts of nutrients, metabolism and energy balance and explore strategies for achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.
- **Aug 24 – Travers Day Horse Race from the Community Rec Center.** Make your prediction for the Travers Day Race on Saturday, August 24. Pick who you think will win each race to earn points. The participant with the most points will win a gift certificate for a free rental item.
- **Aug 24 - Paint a Wine Glass, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center.** Paint your own design on a wine glass! Registration is required and space is limited.

Rest In Peace

- **Major General (Retired) Thomas P. Maguire, Jr.**, age 77, passed away in Florida on July 20, 2024. MG Maguire was a retired member of the New York Air National Guard and a former New York Adjutant General from August 2001 to October 2005.
- **Peter W. Dowley, Captain US Navy (Retired)**, passed away on July 21, 2024, at the age of 83. Peter was a Life Member of MOAA and a past president of the Mid-Hudson Chapter.

MOAA is hosting a **Virtual Leader Training Workshop** (Aug 14, 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT) and a webinar on Tuesday, Aug20: **Preparing a Spouse or Family Member for Survivorship**

Reminder: The New York State Council of Chapters (NY CoC) is holding its 52nd Annual Meeting & Convention, 15 to 18 September at the Peek'N Peak Resort in Clymer, NY.

BOOK REVIEW

The Bedford Boys: One American Town's Ultimate D-Day Sacrifice

Author: Alex Kershaw

Length: 240 pages

Reviewed by: Vincent Memole, LTC IN USAR (Ret)

Kershaw has written many books about historical events and uses this book to tell the stories of the 22 boys from rural Bedford, Virginia; all of them assigned to the 116th Infantry Regt of the 29th Infantry

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Division. Nineteen would be killed in the first 30 minutes when CO. A of 1st BN/ 116th INF Regt is part of the first wave to land on Omaha Beach on June 6th 1944.

Kershaw does a fantastic job describing life in Bedford during the depression of the 1930s and how most of the boys joined the National Guard simply to earn extra money to feed their families. He introduces us to each “boy”: what they looked like, how they did in school, their lives, their families, their homes, the things they did after high school graduation, their jobs, what they thought about after joining the local National Guard, and briefly what they did on “Drill Night” at the local armory for \$1 in pay every night they “drilled”. He mentioned their “summer camp” training in the summer of 1939 and how different it would be the following year after FDR called up the entire National Guard for one year of training beginning in the late fall 1940. Some units would not see home again until late 1945. He described the training in the States and how things slowly got more and more serious the longer they were away, and then writes about the training that took place in England when they arrived in 1942. The “boys” had some fun on weekend passes, to include the 29th Division, including a few Bedford boys, winning the European Theater of Operations (ETO) World Series game in early May 1944.

Kershaw spends considerable time describing the landings on Omaha Beach and recounts in detail what occurred with the first wave to hit the beach. He recounts what each of the soldiers did or was assumed to have done in that first 30 minutes of what one can only imagine was pure hell, with chaos and total confusion added for good measure. Many of the survivors said they were told the Navy and the Air Corps would pulverize the beaches and the landings would be just like training. We now know how wrong they were. The book also covers the actions of the senior leaders who landed in the 3rd and 4th waves and how they got the “boys” moving and off the beach and over the sea wall. The final chapters of the book, the most gut wrenching to read, retell what occurred on “bloody Omaha”. Kershaw describes the four-week wait for news, any news from anyone about what occurred on June 6th, how the little rural town and the families in Bedford reacted when the news finally started to trickle in via Western Union Telegraph, and what the town’s telegraph operator and the locals she relied on did for days as the sad news began to arrive.

This is a fantastic book that starts out slow-paced in the beginning but picks up the action as it goes along. Always having been fascinated about The Second World War my entire life going all the way back to grade school (yes I should have become a history teacher), I knew why Bedford Virginia was selected as the location of the National D-Day Memorial and I highly recommend that everyone visit it (a 2.5-hour drive from Richmond). Reading about the lives of the “Boys from Bedford” who grew up there and went off to war is a story I will never forget.

IT’S AN ELECTION YEAR!

Yes, everyone knows that. But we are not referring to the usual Democrats and Republicans. We’re referring to *MOAA elections*. First, MOAA has a new slate of candidates for its Board of Directors, a set of Resolutions for 2024-26, and a By Law Amendment. By voting, we members can have “...a voice in the running of our organization and engage new board members who will bring critical representation, knowledge, and diverse views into the association’s decision-making.” To vote, start here, right now: <https://www.moaa.org/vote> . And that’s not all!

Our Chapter will also hold a vote at our Annual Business Meeting in December for our Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for the next two-year term (2025-2027). Our Nominating Committee (Kathy Gates, Pat Piccirilli, and Vice Memole) confirmed that **all present incumbents have agreed to serve for another term in the office they are currently holding. This includes: President, 1st Vice President; Secretary and Treasurer, and six of the eight Board of Director (BOD) positions.**

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However, we are still in need of members to fill **the 2nd Vice President position and two BOD positions**. Only regular members (serving, former, or retired military) may serve as 2nd VP, but surviving spouses are eligible to be elective Directors. *Also, any of you may volunteer for any position for which you are eligible, even if the incumbent has agreed to stay on*, in which case we would have to cast ballots at the December meeting. If you are interested in helping our own Chapter to grow and make a bigger impact, please contact Kathy, Pat, or Vince, to let them know you're ready to step up. And finally, we are also in need of a chaplain drawn from any clergy that we may have in the membership. If you are one or know of one please let our President know. And never stop serving!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Patrick J. Piccirilli, LTC USAR RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR USNR RET	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz**, MAJ USA RET
Christopher J. Costigan*, CDR USN RET	Anthony J. Ficara**, COL USA RET
Vincent A. Memole, Jr., LTC USAR RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF RET
VACANT	VACANT

* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

Chapter Due\$ Status Report

A hearty *Thank You* to our members listed below who have paid their dues for this year. (Blue font indicates those whose dues were deposited since the last newsletter issue.)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ed Balaban | David Cummings | Mark O'Rourke |
| Skip Bebernitz | David Erickson | Joseph Peck |
| Arthur R. Benoit | Anthony Ficara | Patrick Piccirilli |
| Emanuel Biondi | Ralph Folger | Sean Piccirilli |
| Fredrick Bockis | William H. Frank Jr. | Christine Richardson |
| Harold Bressett | Kathy Gates | Merle Schreckengost |
| Harold Brockman [RIP] | Laurie Gates | Douglas Sherman |
| Myles Caggins III | Michael Golden | Carl J. Thurnau |
| Edward Choiniere | Julia Holcomb | Thomas Walsh |
| Stephen Cipperly | Jeffrey Hughes | Dorsey Whitehead |
| Ray Clark | Al Memole | |
| Chris Costigan | Vincent Memole | |

If you notice that your name isn't on the list above and you want to do your part – You can find instructions on how to pay dues on our Chapter website here: https://cdnymoaa.org/?page_id=1076