

# 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 → TOYS FOR TOTS

This time each year our Chapter supports the Capital Region U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots (TFT) in three ways: (1) As long as we have enough in our Chapter account, we make a direct donation of \$100 to help them defray operating costs; (2) we encourage you, Chapter members, to donate *new, unwrapped toys either at our December meeting (we will drop them off for you), or on your own to any collection site in the Capital Region; (3) we encourage you to volunteer to help at the TFT warehouse.*



**DONATING TOYS.** TFT accepts just about any type of toy for children up to age 16, *EXCEPT realistic looking weapons and food.* If you can't make it to our meeting on December 8, you can drop toys off at any of the sites listed on the TFT website here: <https://albany-ny.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/donate-toys.aspx>. **The Last Collection Date is 12/16/2024.**

[TFT distributes toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the following counties: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington. Distribution of toys is expected to be completed by December 17. Last year (2023) they distributed **682,145 toys to 401,336 children!** According to their website, *they are currently **THE LARGEST Toys for Tots campaign in the world!***]

**VOLUNTEERING TO HELP.** Toys for Tots has sign up slots currently available at their warehouse for sorting toys collected from drop boxes into bins according to the age and sex appropriate for the toy. There might be more volunteer opportunities posted on Facebook later, depending on the needs at the time. These opportunities include taking toys from the bins and placing 20 in a large garbage bag labeled with age and sex, taking the marked bags and putting them into age/sex conex containers, or taking the bags from the bins and giving them to nonprofits, like the Albany County Sheriff's Department, that distribute the toys. It is not hard work and it is rewarding. Also there are always meals, coffee, donuts, snacks donated for the volunteers. To sign up for specific times and dates at our warehouse please visit this link:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10C0848A5A92CABFDCE9-44568173-toys> . New dates and times will continue to be available at that link as the season goes on.

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Our next Chapter meeting is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, at  
NORRINE'S RESTUARANT**



**405 Hudson River Rd, Waterford, NY 12188**

*(a.k.a. Routes 4 & 32, in the town of Halfmoon)*



***This is our Annual Business Meeting and also a Christmas/Holiday Party.***

*We'll keep the "business" portion of the meeting short. Members who are present will hear brief reports from Chapter Committees and also the Treasurer (account balances, dues). You will also get to vote for a change in our by-laws exempting surviving spouses from any obligation to pay annual dues, and for a slate of candidates for Chapter officer and Board of Directors positions for 2025-2027.*

*There is no guest speaker. The "party" portion is the opportunity to converse and socialize with one another over a nice meal. **We encourage members to bring gifts, not to exchange with each other, but for the needy children of the Capital District, through the USMC Reserve's Toys For Tots program.***

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**DRESS CODE:** Business attire – Jacket & tie for the fellas; dresses or pantsuits for the gals

**PROGRAM:**

*1300 hrs: Check-in; Buy your 50/50 tickets; Mix & mingle*

*1330 hrs: Welcome; Pledge of Allegiance; Prayer for Service Members*

*Between 1345 & 1400 hrs: The servers will begin serving the entrees*

*About 1445: Chapter Business: Status Reports; Change to By-Laws vote; election of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2025-2027 term*

*About 1530 hrs: 50/50 drawing; Announcements and Farewell*

**ENTRÉE SELECTIONS (choose one):**

STEAK w/potatoes & veggies

CHICKEN PARM over pasta w/garlic bread

SALMON over pasta w/white wine lemon sauce

*With the meal: Salad, dessert, coffee, tea, and soft drinks*

*Also available: Wine, beer, adult beverages are available at the bar. You may pay as you go or ask for an individual tab.*

*Norrine's Restaurant has a large private space for us with rest rooms close by. You can park on the side lot near the entrance which also has a couple of Handicap Parking spaces, or behind the restaurant. The lots are not paved. The entrance has a wheelchair ramp.*

**COST:** \$40 per person, members and guests.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NLT Saturday, November 30:** Please email your **reservation and entrée selection(s)** to AL MEMOLE before the deadline to confirm your attendance, because we owe the restaurant a final count of guests and entrée selections one week in advance. Email Al at [pres@cdnymoaa.org](mailto:pres@cdnymoaa.org) or [ammemole@gmail.com](mailto:ammemole@gmail.com). OR, you may call Al at 518-641-8664 and leave a voicemail (because he always leaves his phone on a table somewhere) or else you may mail Al the luncheon reservation form found at the [very end](#) of this newsletter along with your payment (check), *but* he **must** receive it by the due date above.

**Invite officers you know who are not members of MOAA or not Chapter members to our upcoming luncheon!**

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](#)

## Chapter Due\$

Dues for the upcoming year are **due on January 1**, per Chapter by-laws. The Board of Directors has set annual dues at **\$30**.

All *regular* Chapter members *under the age of 85* are required to pay Chapter dues annually to remain a member in good standing. (Regular members are members of MOAA, i.e., those who are serving or have served honorably in a U.S. Uniformed Service.) Surviving spouses of regular members do *not* pay dues. Our by-laws require the Treasurer to notify any members of their delinquency who haven't paid their dues by the 90<sup>th</sup> day after January 1st (i.e., March 31<sup>st</sup>). Members who haven't paid by then have 60 days to pay (May 30<sup>th</sup>). If we don't receive dues by then, the Board of Directors may drop the member from the rolls at its discretion.

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We depend on dues to cover our operating expenses: NY Council dues, website fees, liability insurance, annual post office box fees, mailings, ROTC & JROTC awards, token gifts of appreciation for guest speakers, and the acquisition, maintenance, and replacement of property and equipment (flags, banners, AV equipment, etc.). The payment of dues also lets the Chapter know that members who have been unable to attend our meetings are still alive and residing in the area. Our only other sources of funds are a MOAA Insurance newsletter ad (\$100) and Wreaths Across America™. After meeting expenses, and with an eye to maintaining a sufficient balance in our accounts, we donate to local charitable causes that help service members and families, veterans, and military-related entities, which is also a big part of our mission.

We have three options for paying dues: Paying by cash or check at a Chapter meeting, mailing a check to the Chapter PO Box, or paying online through MOAA. *This last option is in the process of changing.* MOAA has entered an agreement with a provider (**Cheddar Up**) to establish and maintain the payment portal for Chapter dues. Our Chapter is just now starting test runs. As soon as we're confident about how the new method works, we will provide detailed instructions on our Chapter website here:

[https://cdnymoaa.org/?page\\_id=1076](https://cdnymoaa.org/?page_id=1076)

## Chapter Meetings For 2025

**For 2025, we are moving our *luncheon* meeting dates to SATURDAY**

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING LOCATION, NOTES
<b>FEB 8, Luncheon Meeting</b>	<i>To Be Determined (TBD)</i>
<b>MAR 29, Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<i>(Proposed – NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs beginning at 10 am)</i>
<b>APR 12, Luncheon Meeting</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>JUN 7, Luncheon Meeting</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>AUG <u>TBD</u>, Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<i>(Proposed – Scheiber's House, Bolton Landing, beginning at 10:30 am)</i>
<b>OCT 4, Luncheon Meeting</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>NOV 15, Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<i>(Proposed – NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs beginning at 10 am)</i>
<b>DEC 6, Holiday Party-Annual Business Mtg</b>	<i>TBD</i>

**JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, stories, or reviews of books, movies, food, or wine** for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at [ammemole@gmail.com](mailto:ammemole@gmail.com).

## Our Last Meeting, October 6, at Norrine's Restaurant

We had a pretty good turnout for our first ever luncheon meeting at Norrine's in Waterford/Halfmoon, considering that a few of our regular attendees couldn't make it due to other commitments. A total of 21 members and guests enjoyed the bright and very spacious venue. The staff was very accommodating and the food was excellent. The feedback from attendees was positive, which is why we immediately booked the venue for our December 8 meeting. Our guest speaker, *Captain Jonathan Guagenti* of the 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, NY Air National Guard, wowed everyone with his compelling account of his unit's deployment to Afghanistan in 2021 to conduct air evacuation of refugees – and the bodies of the 13 Americans killed in the terrorist bombing. Everyone had a very nice time.

*At right above, Chapter President Al Memole, at right, thanks Capt. Guagenti, at left, for sharing his experiences. At right below, Al Memole, at left, congratulates Pat Piccirilli, at right, the Chapter Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman, for receiving a MOAA Certificate for Outstanding Service for his contributions to MOAA's advocacy efforts. (Photos by LTC Christine Richardson, USA Ret.)*



## Board of Directors Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup>

The Chapter Board of Directors met at the NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, on November 16. Present were President Al Memole, Secretary Ralph Folger, Treasurer Pat Piccirilli, Board members Rocco Acquilano, Skip Bebernitz, and Vince Memole, and Membership Committee Chair Christine Richardson. Excused were 1VP Kathy Gates, Public Relations Committee Chair Ed Balaban, and Board members Chris Costigan, Tony Ficara and Ed Scheiber. The meeting ran from 10:00 am to 12:45 pm.

The Board reviewed and discussed Chapter finances, which are in very good shape, and reviewed current and recent past actions of Chapter committees. Skip Bebernitz (Program Committee) has been lining up guest speakers for our 2025 meetings. Other discussions centered around Chapter involvement with Wreaths Across America<sup>TM</sup>, the election of Chapter officers and Board members at the upcoming Dec 8 meeting, ideas for recruiting new members, advocacy issues, liability insurance, plans to apply for MOAA Community Sponsorship and Community Service Grants, ways the Chapter might use social media more effectively, MOAA's new dues payment portal (Cheddar Up), and the 2025 NY Council of Chapters convention to be held in Saratoga Springs next September.

**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.**

## Chapter Election at the December Meeting

*(Submitted by the Nominating Committee of Kathy Gates, Pat Piccirilli, and Vice Memole)*

### MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR CHAPTER OFFICER POSITIONS FOR 2025-2027

*All current incumbents have agreed to run for re-election.*

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT
President	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<i>No candidate</i>
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET
Treasurer	Patrick J. Piccirilli, LTC USAR RET

### MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*All current incumbents (shown in black font) have agreed to run for re-election.*

New Candidates for the two vacant positions are shown in blue font.

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
Edward E. Balaban, Jr., LT USNR RET	Lance Richardson, MAJ USA RET

\* Immediate Past-President      \*\* Former President

We still need a candidate for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** position, and we will accept nominations from the floor at the December 8 meeting. Only regular members (serving, former, or retired military) may serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. **The official duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP are:** (1) assist the president, as required, (2) perform the duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> VP in the event of temporary disability or absence, and (3) succeed the 1<sup>st</sup> VP when the 1<sup>st</sup> VP succeeds the president. As a practical matter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP attends Board meetings (three per year), attends the general membership meetings as much as possible (five per year), and be ready to pinch hit for the 1<sup>st</sup> VP or president. As 2<sup>nd</sup> VP you are free to contribute to the mission of the Chapter according to your own interests and availability.

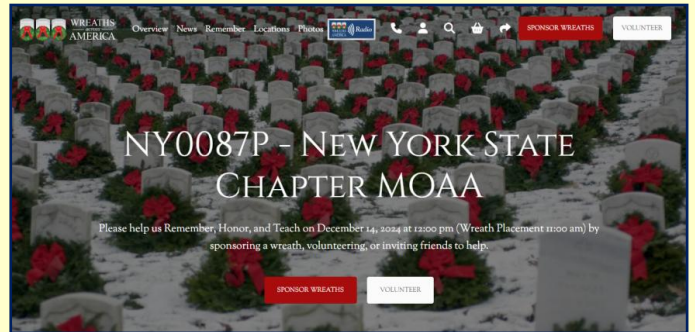
We also need a **chaplain**. The chaplain may be drawn from any clergy that we may have in the membership – *or perhaps a new member*. If you are one or know of one please let Chapter President Al Memole know.

## Proposed Change to Chapter By-Laws

The Board of Directors proposes to change Art. II, Sect. 1 to read: "The annual dues for each **Regular Member under the age of 85**, for the next calendar year, shall be determined by the Board of Directors. **Surviving Spouses and Regular members age 85 and older are exempt from paying Chapter dues.**" (New text shown in red font.)

## Wreaths Across America™ Update

As of November 15, a total of 12,049 wreaths have been sponsored for the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. That is only 70.5% of the total number of wreaths needed for all of the graves. *They need 5,051 more!* **162 wreaths have been sponsored through our Chapter.** That's not bad, but we did better last year (170 wreaths), and we are aiming for 400 wreaths this year! Perhaps that was too ambitious, but there is still time to sponsor wreaths for this year, *if the orders are in before the end of November.* The cost to sponsor a single wreath is **\$17**. Please use the link on the main page of our [Chapter website](#) to donate wreaths online, or use the order form in the last issue of our newsletter, which is also accessible on our website.



### *Remember, Honor, and Teach*

This year's wreath laying event at Saratoga will be held on **Saturday, December 14**. **Wreath placement begins at 11:00am**, followed by a solemn memorial ceremony honoring the fallen and deceased veterans of each military service at the flagpole **at 12:00 noon**. *We recommend that you arrive early if you want to participate, as it will be crowded.* But don't let that deter you. It is a highly worthwhile experience.

## Legislative Affairs Committee Report

*(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli, Legislative Affairs Committee)*

The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, which has enacted the least amount of legislation by any session in recent memory, returned to work on Sept. 9 with a full plate, to include many issues affecting the wider uniformed services community. Although the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress ends on 1/3/2025, there are scant few days scheduled for the legislators to act on any proposals. Let us hope that the next session of Congress is much more productive in terms of veteran benefits legislation.

Although Veterans Day has passed, critical legislation offering a lifeline for all types of VA beneficiaries continues to languish in Congress. This delay leaves veterans and their families questioning the true priorities of our lawmakers.

While the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2025* passed the Senate, it languishes in the House. Reported issues causing this include perceived responses by the President-elect in terms of policies concerning support for Ukraine, Israel, and NATO. In addition, the quality of life for service members and their families and our approach to China are significant issues. At this point, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is covering the military budget, but that caps spending at 2024 levels.

The *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371)* sits stalled in the House, with no corresponding bill in the Senate. The bipartisan bill is more than a collection of policies – it's a comprehensive package of needed improvements for the veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors who depend on VA health care and benefits. Benefits reforms are aimed at ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve. These include –

*Continued on next page*

- Expanded Long Term Care Services: Providing essential support for aging veterans.
- Caregiver Program Support Services: Offering much-needed resources for those who care for our veterans.
- Resources for Homeless Veterans: Addressing the critical issue of veteran homelessness.
- Assistance for Surviving Family Members: Supporting those who have lost a loved one in service.

MOAA and fellow veterans service organizations have worked diligently over the past two years with the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to secure this omnibus legislation. Without it, veterans and their families may face uncertainty and hardship, especially those who rely solely on VA health care and benefits for their livelihood. The clock is ticking: With less than 24 congressional working days left this year, the window to pass significant veterans' legislation is rapidly closing. This Congress has yet to pass any major veterans' legislation, making the passage of the Dole Act even more critical.

November is also *National Family Caregivers Month*, a time to recognize and support those who care for our veterans. A recent RAND report, "America's Military and Veteran Caregivers: Hidden Heroes Emerging from the Shadows", offered more reasons to ensure these often-overlooked members of the wider military community receive the attention they deserve:

- Three-quarters of veteran caregivers support a veteran age 60 or older.
- Veterans over 60 often face cost as a barrier to their care.
- Caregivers incur high out-of-pocket costs to provide the necessary care for their veterans.
- 42% of military/veteran caregivers providing care to those 60 years old or under meet the criteria for depression.

These caregivers are unsung heroes who ensure our veterans receive the care they need, often at great personal and financial sacrifice. Veterans Day is more than a symbolic date; it is an opportunity for America to honor its past, present, and future veterans. Passing the Dole Act this year would help Congress live up to that commitment, help ensure a strong national defense, and allow veterans to receive the support and care they have earned. **Help MOAA drive Congress to take decisive action. Reach out to your lawmakers today and urge them to pass the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*.**

#### Legislative Factoid

A new Congress begins at noon January 3<sup>rd</sup> of each odd-numbered year following a general election, unless it designates a different day by law. A Congress lasts for two years, with each year constituting a separate session. Any and all bills not passed in the previous session must be reintroduced and go through the entire process again with new committee hearings, markups, and votes in both chambers. This is a burden that MOAA and the other members of The Military Coalition (TMC), as well as other VSO/MSOs must bear. But it can't be done without your intervention. *Please remember that we are primarily an Advocacy organization.*

**How we can help:** The more these lawmakers hear from their constituents, in addition to MOAA's advocacy team, the greater the chance they will push for inclusion of our key priorities in their official NDAA request. Find details on each of these advocacy campaigns via MOAA's Legislative Action Center.

The **Legislative Action Center website is:**

[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction). Or if you prefer, you can call MOAA's Capitol Hotline at **(866)272-MOAA** (6622), a toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard to connect directly with lawmakers. Ask to speak with the military legislative assistant or legislative director. If neither staff is available, ask to schedule a follow-up call when they are available. One other resource for keeping up to date with legislation and happenings on Capitol Hill is [www.moaa.org/advocacy-news](http://www.moaa.org/advocacy-news).



# NY COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS ANNUAL CONVENTIONS 2024 & 2025

## This Year's NY Council of Chapters Convention

*(Official Press Release by Edward Balaban, Sep 26, 2024)*

### New York MOAA Council of Chapters Hosts National Leaders at Annual Convention

Clymer, N.Y. (Sept. 16, 2024) -- The Military Officers Association of America New York Council of Chapters recently hosted members of the national leadership team at their annual convention held at the Peek 'n Peak Resort in Clymer, at the western edge of the state.

During the three day event, nearly 50 members from across New York, representing seven chapters, received real time updates from MOAA leadership about legislative activity, ongoing and projected membership projects, as well as chapter activities and projects impacting members at the local level. There was also time allotted for social interaction and recognition for chapter and individual achievements.

*At their recent annual convention, New York Council of Chapters President Maj. Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, USA (Ret), second from right, presented keynote speakers MOAA Vice President for Government Relations Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret), far left, and Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret), Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, far right, as well as Convention Chair Lt. Col. Norma Weissand, USAF (ret), second from left, a token of the council's appreciation for their input and contribution to the success of the event.*

*Below left, Skip Bebernitz leading the Annual NY CoC meeting; below right, convention attendees tour the National Comedy Center, Jamestown, NY.*

*(Photos on this page courtesy Lt. Edward Balaban, USN (Ret), NY Capital District Chapter MOAA Life Member).*



*More photos from the 2024 NY CoC Convention:*



*Above left: NYS Capital District Chapter attendees, l to r, Lance & Christine Richardson, Mary & Al Memole, Ralph & Vicki Folger, Skip & Mary Lou Bebernitz, and Ed & Mary Balaban, missing are Tony Ficara & Liz Graziane; above center: a view of Lake Chautauqua; above right: Maj. Gen. April Vogel from MOAA HQ, and MAJ Skip Bebernitz representing the NY Council of Chapters present the 5-Star COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for the Chapter website to Chapter Webmaster LCDR Ralph Folger.*

*(Above photos courtesy of Mary C. Memole)*

## NEXT Year's NY Council of Chapters Convention

**GREAT NEWS FOR CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER MEMBERS:** The 2025 NY Council of Chapters Annual Convention will be held at the INN AT SARATOGA, SARATOGA SPRINGS, SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1. Chapter member *Christine Richardson* has seized the initiative to make arrangements for the event in close coordination with Council President (and member of our Chapter's Board of Directors) *Skip Bebernitz*. Here's a sneak peek at a tentative schedule, which will likely see some adjustments as Skip and Christine confirm commitments:

Sunday, Sep 28 – 3 p.m. Arrive/Check in; 6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner Buffet; 8:00 p.m. Hospitality suite opens

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We will need a few Chapter members or spouses to help staff the welcome desk on Sunday Sep 28 when guests arrive to check in.

Monday, Sep 29 – 8-9 a.m. Breakfast; 9:15 a.m. MOAA Meeting\*; noon Lunch Buffet; 1 p.m. MOAA Meeting\*; 4 p.m. Break; 6:30 p.m. Plated Dinner; 8:30 p.m. Hospitality suite opens

*\* Spouses of members are invited and encourage to attend these meetings, but are free to make other plans. There's a lot to see and do in Saratoga!*

Tuesday, Sep 30 – 8-9 a.m. Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. Professional Guided Tours of Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga National Cemetery (memorial ceremony for deceased MOAA members), and Schuylerville; 4:00 p.m. Break; 6:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet; 8:00 p.m. - Hospitality suite open

Wednesday, Oct 1 – 8-9 a.m. Breakfast; Checkout

### CONSIDERATIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

- If you've never been to a NY CoC convention before or haven't gone in a while, this is a great opportunity to check it out.
- As with recent conventions, we will probably offer attendance options that would allow you to attend the full event or portions, in order to fit your schedule and budget.
- Because next year's convention is in our backyard, you *could* consider commuting from home to the venue, but that could also add complications and you would miss out on some of the fun.

*Continued on next page*

- The MOAA meetings feature key leaders from MOAA national HQ. They provide updates on all MOAA activities and issues and encourage questions and suggestions. This is a great opportunity to become informed first-hand. The Council-level meeting is a great opportunity to hear from sister chapters and exchange ideas and best practices to make our chapters better.
- The arranged tours will be first-class. Yes, you could do them on your own – *but will you?*
- MOAA members from five other NY chapters will attend. They are a fantastic and fun group of people whom you'll enjoy meeting.
- The "Hospitality Suite" is a room dedicated to socializing – great conversations and laughs! Adult beverages abound. Many long-time convention attendees agree that this is the best part of the event. If you are leaning toward commuting, you might want to reconsider staying at the Inn for the "Hospitality".
- To help fund next year's convention, Council holds 50/50 and gift basket raffles. Come take a chance to win big \$\$ or some really cool stuff from across NY state.

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award

Each year since 1966, *Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans* has presented the **Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award** to recognize a member of the local community whose contributions to the community embody the values of sacrifice and selfless service of the Four Chaplains lost on the US Army Transport Ship, the USS *Dorchester*, on February 3, 1943. The award recognizes the principles of selfless service to humanity without regard to race, creed, ethnicity, or religious belief. Nominees for the award do NOT need to be veterans themselves, nor does their charitable work or project have to be directed to veteran causes. Anyone who serves our community in any fashion is worthy of consideration for this recognition. The selection committee meeting for the 2025 Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award will convene on December 6. A remembrance ceremony marking the loss of the *Dorchester* and the immortal Four Chaplains and the presentation of the Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to a selected local community member is scheduled for **2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, 2025**. The ceremony is taking place in early February to better coincide with the anniversary of the loss. *Albany Post 105 of the JWV* invites us to mark the date on our calendars and help spread the word. *Our own Chapter member, Pat Piccirilli, is a past recipient of this prestigious award!*

### International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS) Northeast NY Chapter

*(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli)*

The local Northeast NY Chapter (NENY) of the International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS) works with the local VA on an annual basis to distribute model kits and supplies to its patients. It's a program that is referred to as "**Kits for Vets**". A chapter with similar objectives located in the Ozarks region of Missouri states it well " *As part of larger VA recreational therapy programs, we help veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI and other post combat related issues find a way to refocus the mind's attention. Much like meditation, we have found that building plastic model kits is a great way to tie the veteran's past to a more positive present and future. A little goes a long way.*"

➔ If you are interested in supporting this local initiative, please bring a basic plastic model kit and/or supplies like non-toxic glue, or sprue cutters, but no paint, please. Or if you prefer, you may make a monetary donation by check made out to "IPMS-NENY". You may mail the check to the NYS Capital District Chapter of the MOAA, PO Box 373, Waterford, NY 12188-0373. Attn: Pat Piccirilli. For more information about the IPMS-NENY chapter, visit their website (unsecure) at <http://www.ipmsnyny.org/>.

**Veterans Support Group – Civilian Employment/Networking Help**

**Who: All Veterans (All Services, All Eras)**

**What: Civilian Employment & Networking**

**When: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

**9 AM-2 PM or by appointment**

**Where: 175 Central Ave, Albany, NY (2nd Floor)**



**Thank You for Your Service!**



**POC: Derrick Ambrose, US Army (Ret.), Combat Veteran of  
Iraq and Afghanistan**

**Work Phone: (518) 380-5134**

**Cell Phone: (580) 919-5705**

**Email: [Dambrose@albanyny.gov](mailto:Dambrose@albanyny.gov)**



## LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

Date: **DECEMBER 8, 2024**

Location: **NORRINE'S RESTAURANT, Waterford, NY**

Time: **1:00 PM** – Check-in; Social Mixer // 1:45 – 4:00 PM – Luncheon/Election

Price: **\$40 per person** (Please make checks payable to: **NYS CDC MOAA.**)

*You may pay Chapter dues for **2025** by adding **\$30** to your total.*

Please make your reservation **Not Later Than Saturday, November 30**

E-mail **Al Memole** at [pres@cdnymoaa.org](mailto:pres@cdnymoaa.org), or [ammmemole@gmail.com](mailto:ammmemole@gmail.com), **OR** call him at: 518- 641-8664, **OR** send reservation form and check to: Al Memole 8 Rose Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144



### Mail-In Luncheon Reservation Form

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of persons attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée selection(s)** [indicate how many of each]: STEAK \_\_\_\_\_

CHICKEN PARM \_\_\_\_\_

SALMON \_\_\_\_\_