

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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5-Star Chapter – 2024
5-Star Chapter: 2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017

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CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year our nation will celebrate the 250th Anniversary (the Semiquincentennial) of the signing of our Declaration of Independence in 1776. The American patriots eventually prevailed in war against the British, and several years later, constituted a government to unite the newly independent states as one nation – the nation, government, and constitution that *we* took an oath to defend.

We will have many opportunities in 2026 to commemorate the Declaration of Independence with parades and other events. **Another way to honor the birth of our nation is to continue to serve our communities and our comrades in arms/uniform – those who served our country and those still actively serving.** Our Chapter, as an affiliate of MOAA, is well-equipped to do that. Here are just a few of the things we are planning to do, *with your help*:

- Support the **New York Global War On Terror (GWOT) Veteran Recognition and Honor project** [See [pg 9](#)]
- Participate in MOAA's annual **Advocacy in Action** campaign contacting our Representatives
- Volunteer to **assist the Albany Stratton VA Med Center**; *we are in the process of booking Mr. Jason Goman of the Stratton VA Med Center to speak at our 19 April luncheon meeting about VA needs and volunteer opportunities*
- Volunteer to **work at the Capital Region Toys for Tots warehouse** this Fall

Another part of MOAA's and our Chapter's mission is to build camaraderie among officers, which we do when we gather at Chapter luncheon meetings throughout the year. We try to recruit relevant guest speakers for all but our December luncheon/party. At our Feb 7th meeting, COL Richard Goldenberg, USA RET, will tell of the ultimate sacrifice of the "Four Chaplains" in WWII. At the June 6th meeting, LTC Pat Chaisson, USA RET, will give a presentation on D-Day, appropriately. We are also going to do our best to schedule a variety of social get-togethers and outings, in addition to our scheduled meetings and community service activities. These are intended for all of us members and our guests, *but especially for those who are not able to attend our regularly scheduled weekend meetings.*

As far as meeting our obligations and accomplishing our missions, we've done fairly well up to now with just a little over a dozen members handling Chapter responsibilities. But **we won't be able to improve or even sustain operations at the present level unless more members step up.** One of our Chapter leaders is over 90; two are over 80; five of us are in our 70's with the others "in hot pursuit". We're aging, but we ain't dead yet. Still, we need to recruit a deeper bench, pronto.

We Chapter leaders welcome everyone interested in helping. **Please give serious thought to doing something – one thing – to support our Chapter**, in addition to paying annual dues. None of the duties by themselves is overly demanding. **Consider joining a Committee.** (Most have only one member.) To "lighten the load" invite MOAA members or *potential* MOAA members whom you know to join our Chapter to help. Also, we will be forming a nominating committee in the coming months to find candidates for Chapter Officer and Board of Directors positions for 2027-2029. *All positions are open to anyone interested.* You, as Chapter members, have a stake in our mission, and your opinions count. If you have ideas or a vision for what our Chapter should do, take advantage of this opportunity. The last page of this issue shows the Chapter Officer and Board positions, all of the active and potential Committees, and the current incumbents.

Al Memole

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 HAPPENINGS

Our next Chapter meeting is
SATURDAY, Feb 7, at NORRINE'S RESTAURANT

405 Hudson River Rd, Waterford, NY 12188

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

Please invite officers whom you know who are not members of MOAA or not Chapter members. Tell them about MOAA and our Chapter and hand them a membership application (or send them this link): [Joint MOAA-Chapter Membership Application](#)

GUEST SPEAKER: RICHARD GOLDENBERG, COL USA (Ret), former Public Affairs Officer for the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA), will tell the story of the **FOUR CHAPLAINS**, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of others during WWII.

DRESS CODE: Business casual (*jacket & tie optional; no jeans or t-shirts, please*)

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

PROGRAM:

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

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

1345-1400 hrs: Entrées served

about 1445 hrs: Guest Speaker Presentation

1545-1600 hrs: 50/50 drawing; announcements and farewell

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.

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS (choose one):

STEAK w/potatoes & veggies **CHICKEN PARM** over pasta w/garlic bread

HADDOCK (lightly breaded & seasoned) w/linguini and white wine buttery 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.

RESERVATIONS AND ENTRÉE SELECTION(S) REQUIRED NLT Friday, JAN 30th because we owe the restaurant a final count of guests and entrée selections one week in advance. You may ...

Make your reservation *before* the deadline by selecting your entrée(s) and paying through the Cheddar Up online payment platform, which you can access here: <https://treas-4444.mycheddarup.com>.

OR

Email your reservation and entrée selection(s) to AL MEMOLE at pres@cdnymoaa.org or ammemole@gmail.com, or call Al at 518-641-8664 *before* the deadline (please leave a voice message), and pay when you arrive at the meeting.

Our Last Chapter Meeting – Dec 6



Above: Chapter President Al Memole introduces recently elected President of the NYS Council of Chapters, Norma Weissend, Lt Col USAF RET (Photo by Ed Balaban)

December 6th was our annual Business Meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party. We gathered at Norrine's Restaurant once more for a delicious meal and lively conversations. Attendance was slightly lower than normal, but that just made the atmosphere warmer and more relaxed. We kept the business part (committee reports) short and sweet. The new President of our NYS Council of Chapters, Norma Weissend (*pronounced WHY-send*), Lt Col USAF Ret., stopped by for the first hour of the meeting to say hello and update us on important MOAA and Council matters. Norma was on her way to the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs for the kickoff meeting of NY Global War On Terror (GWOT) Veteran Recognition and Honor project,

a grand-scale undertaking [see [pg 9](#)]. The NY Council and NY Chapters of MOAA are being invited to support this unique and worthy endeavor, and we are excited for this opportunity to serve.

R.I.P. Manny Biondi – 3 January 2026

We report with great sadness the death of fellow Chapter member, and former Chapter leader, Emmanuel D. "Manny" Biondi, MAJ USA Ret. He died on January 3rd at the age of 76. Manny graduated from Siena in 1982, commissioned as an Infantry Officer. He spent a year on active duty, then came to the 1-310 Armor in 1973 where he excelled as the Battalion Communications-Electronics officer. Then he commanded A Co., 1-210 Armor. When the 42 Inf Div moved to Troy, he was assigned as Assistant G2 Communication Intelligence Officer. He attended the Intel School at Fort Huachuca, AZ, to earn that MOS. He excelled at the course and was offered a staff Communications position in *Delta Force* which he declined. He joined our Chapter in October 2014 and served as 2nd VP for our Chapter from 2016 to 2019 until health issues forced him to scale back activities. May he rest in peace.

Chapter Due\$ for 2026

Dues for 2026 were due on January 1, per Chapter by-laws. Annual dues are **\$30**. All regular Chapter members under the age of 85 are required to pay in order to remain a member in good standing. Members who are 85 and older and surviving spouses of regular members do *not* pay dues. If you haven't paid yet, it's not too late. But don't delay any longer! (We will notify members who haven't paid their dues by March 31st.) We have *three* options for paying dues:

1. Paying by cash or check at a Chapter meeting,
2. Mailing a check to the Chapter PO Box, or
3. **THE EASIEST OF ALL** – paying online using [Cheddar Up](#), a portal provided through MOAA by which Chapter members may pay dues. Cheddar Up resides on the provider's site and Chapters have our own accounts and pages that we maintain. MOAA handles all fees. You can access Cheddar Up through the "[Pay Your Annual Dues](#)" link our Chapter website's Homepage, which opens our Chapter dues page on Cheddar Up.

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Thanks to the following 15 members who have paid their dues:

John Andonie
Edward Balaban
Ernest Bebernitz
Stephen Cipperly
Christopher Costigan

Ralph Folger
Kathy Gates
Jeffrey Hughes
Alfred Memole
Vincent Memole, Jr

Joseph Peck
Patrick Piccirilli
Sean Piccirilli
Christine Richardson
Lance Richardson

Chapter Meetings For 2026

REMINDER: This year we are offering a mix of our traditional weekend luncheon meetings with a variety of other activities. Please note that *two luncheons are on Saturday and three are on Sunday*, as shown in the schedule below. We will announce guest speakers and confirm the date, time, location and menu for each luncheon in subsequent newsletters.

Board members are developing ideas for activities, outings, or gatherings, that *they* will set up and lead. We will add these to the schedule as we confirm the activity, date, time, location, and purpose. *If YOU want our Chapter to do something that fulfills MOAA's and the Chapter's missions that you would be willing to lead, please let the President know ASAP.* Describe your idea as specifically as possible to aid planning.

Below is the schedule of luncheon and Board Meetings for 2026. Please mark your calendars!

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING DETAILS *
February 7, luncheon (Saturday)	Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford Guest speaker: Richard Goldenberg, COL USA RET Topic: The Four Chaplains
April 19, luncheon (Sunday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i> Guest speaker: Jason Goman, Stratton VA Med Ctr Topic: Volunteer Opportunities at the VA
April 25, Board of Directors	NYS Military Museum, Saratoga
June 6, luncheon (Saturday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i> Guest speaker: Pat Chaisson, LTC USA RET Topic: D-Day
August TBD, Board of Directors	<i>Scheiber's on-the-lake, Bolton Landing</i>
October 4, luncheon (Sunday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i>
November 21, Board of Directors	<i>NYS Military Museum, Saratoga</i>
December 13, luncheon - Holiday Party / Annual Business Mtg (Sunday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i>

* Details in italics are tentative.

Wreaths Across America™ Update

(Article and photos by Al Memole)

Placement of wreaths at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery took place on December 13, 2025. We don't have the final count yet of wreaths sponsored through our Chapter, but it was over 150 by the beginning of December and might be around 203. My wife Mary and I participated. As always, the cemetery was mobbed with volunteers of all ages. We



made it there about 30 minutes before wreath-laying to be

sure we would get a parking spot. The organizers did a superb job directing traffic. Traffic slowed on Duell Road but never jammed up as happened in previous years. Boxes of wreaths were stacked and ready at each section of the cemetery. Those who had loved ones interred in a section were allowed to place their wreaths first. Mary got to place a wreath on her father's grave where her mother is also buried (see photo at left). We also honored several other veterans, mostly WWII and Korean War vets, by saying their names out loud after reverently placing a wreath. We must never forget them.



Legislative Affairs Report

(Condensed from MOAA's Advocacy web pages)

If you are not regularly checking MOAA's [Advocacy pages](#) or using the [Legislative Action Center](#), please do so now. Or, 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, or ask to schedule a follow-up call when they are available. **Advocacy is our core mission.** Here is a synopsis of key legislation to track:

SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS ACT (S. 3168)

The Act would allow the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying service members during any future funding lapse. The bill specifically notes the protection of National Guard and Reserve members, who would be compensated for both active service and inactive duty training. *HOWEVER*, it does not include protections for USPHS and NOAA officers. USPHS and NOAA officers, including some officers who were serving alongside others in uniform, missed checks last year. MOAA believes in protecting the service-earned compensation for all in uniform, and will continue outreach efforts with lawmakers to add such protections before the legislation reaches a vote.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Shutdown Fairness Act](#)

The optimum solution is a timely appropriations process, but don't hold your breath. The Senate could move on a funding bill that includes money for the Department of Commerce which would allow NOAA Commissioned Corps members and retirees to receive their pay moving forward while the vast majority of those in uniform received no such guarantee. The Shutdown Fairness

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Act – with adjustments to cover all who serve – would prevent service members from becoming pawns in future budget negotiations. Ask your lawmakers to support this legislation.

MILITARY CARE ACT

This bipartisan bill would require the Defense Health Agency to establish a digital system that allows beneficiaries to report and track access to care problems. This would give military families a more effective option for reporting access problems, increase transparency to beneficiary challenges, and lead to greater accountability and oversight of the MHS. Staffing shortages at military treatment facilities (MTF) and a surge of patient complaints have impeded timely care to patients at all times.

TAKE ACTION: [Address MTF Access Problems with the Military CARE Act](#)

DUTY STATUS REFORM ACT (H.R. 6976), introduced Jan 8

The bill is cosponsored by Reps. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and Ted Lieu (D-Calif.). It has the support of the National Guard Association of the United States, Reserve Organization of America, and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. This legislation would reduce duty statuses from 30 to *four*:

1. Contingency duty. Active service in which the member is involved in contingency operations such as military action or operations; responding to a national emergency or natural disaster; or similar missions, including post-deployment activities.
2. Training and support: Active service that does *not* involve a contingency operation. This may include required training, administrative assignments, support to reserve units, and members reported missing.
3. Reserve component: Partial-day duty dedicated to readiness training and support to prepare individuals and units to be ready for future use and mobilization. This includes training periods, flight training, administrative activities, and support activities such as funeral honors support.
4. Remote assignments: Online learning and individually assigned duties that are completed virtually.

MOAA has advocated for years that the confusing and numerous duty classifications have negatively impacted service members' abilities to count time for benefits like the Post-9/11 GI Bill and for family access to military health care. The bill would promote equal delivery of benefits for Guard and Reserve service members to include health care and housing allowance.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Duty Status Reform](#)

HERE'S A WIN TO CELEBRATE: The President signed the MOAA-backed FAIRNESS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACT into law on Dec. 12. The bipartisan legislation passed the House last spring, and cleared the Senate unanimously in November. This new law will protect VA insurance programs for service members and veterans from inflation, allowing for regular adjustments of the maximum coverage amount. The law requires the VA secretary to report to House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees on cost-of-living (COLA) increases and inflation rates every five years in relation to the maximum coverage allowed under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs. It links the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the current maximum of \$500,000 as a benchmark.

TOTAL FORCE + “People Outrank Everything” Conference Recap

(Submitted by: Col. (Ret.) Myles B. Caggins III, MOAA National Board Member 2022-2028)

Last year, our CEO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) BK Kelly set out a bold plan to maintain MOAA’s financial viability and raise our organization’s status as an innovative organization leader for military and veteran quality of life issues. BK’s vision was realized during the inaugural TotalForce+ Conference held at the Gaylord National Harbor near Washington, D.C. on October 28–29.

As a Board member, I assure you that BK and the staff presented clear, data-driven goals for TF+ and we supported the concept unanimously. I attended the conference and follow-on Board meeting.

The first-ever TotalForce+ conference fulfilled its pledge to bring together leaders from the military, government, nonprofits, and private industry with one shared goal: addressing the human side of national defense. Despite the federal shutdown, thousands of attendees showed up and engaged with high energy, underscoring widespread demand for new solutions and collaboration.

Key results:

- 2,727 total registrants (108 percent of goal) and 1,404 onsite participants.
- 97% of attendees rated their experience as “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”
- 86% percent of exhibitors said they would return in 2027.
- The TotalForce+ microsite drew 48K users and 79K page views, and TikTok clips of the Senior Enlisted Leader panel each reached more than 27K organic views. All exceed our previous MOAA benchmarks in these areas.

As I walked the exhibitor floors, conversations were vibrant. Attendees represented all military services as well as our NOAA and U.S. Public Health Service. Many veterans, family members, and Federal government employees also spent a day or two at TF+. Keynote speakers and panelists included: Department of War political appointees, senior enlisted leaders from most services, corporate executives, authors, and, experts on Artificial Intelligence, healthcare, and financial management.



(Photo above courtesy of MOAA)

The TF+ Conference was largely underwritten by corporate partners. The support from AMBA, USAA, Salesforce, and Optum Serve set the pace with more than \$1 million in collective sponsorship. Overall, 2025 TF+ revenues were lower than projected; however, the 2027 plan will include evidence to attract additional corporate sponsors, also some TF+ contracts are being canceled or re-scoped based on lessons learned this year. The government shutdown adversely impacted conference attendance.

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The conference also produced measurable brand impact for MOAA, positioning us as a convener of solutions for the Total Force community. Our social channels saw a significant uptick in reach and engagement across all platforms, reinforcing the visibility of both the MOAA and TotalForce+ brands.

The MOAA Board voted to fully-support the next TF+ scheduled for February 1-3, 2027 at the National Harbor, Maryland. I encourage members of the NYS Capital District Chapter to consider attending TF+. The Gaylord Hotel and conference center is family-friendly and close to Washington, DC.

Visit the TotalForce+ site [here](#).

NY GWOT EXHIBIT

MOAA NEWSLETTER – from MG Joe Taluto

(Submitted by: MG USA (Ret.) Joe Taluto, 12 January 2026)

Greetings MOAA members! I am MG(R) Joe Taluto a proud lifetime member of MOAA. **I have been working with your Council President Norma Weissend on a very important project recognizing and honoring New York Global War on Terror (GWOT) Veterans and their families!** I was on the ground in NYC for two months after the horrific attack on our Nation, commanding our military forces during the 9/11 recovery. Four years later, I found myself Commanding the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq. I have seen, first hand, the selfless service and sacrifice our military members and their families have endured over a twenty-year period.



Since my retirement I have volunteered much of my time to Veteran causes. Recently I was asked to serve on a non-profit board called “The Friends of the New York State Military Museum.” I was pleased to accept as “The Friends” support the preservation and interpretation of NY Military history. In addition to being a board member, I was appointed to be Chairman of our newest committee, The New York GWOT Veteran Recognition and Honor Committee. Please visit our website to understand the entire scoop of our campaign (<https://friendsnysmm.com>). As a 44-year full time New York Army National Guard veteran and former Adjutant General of New York, I am totally dedicated to seeing the accomplishment of these 5 major committee initiatives:

1. A first class GWOT exhibit at the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga NY
2. A fitting memorial to those that served in the GWOT, in close proximity to the Museum
3. A mobile GWOT exhibit to be transported to special events and ceremonies
4. A traveling oral history program to capture the legacy and service of our NY GWOT veterans
5. A traveling lecture series available for special events and conferences to educate all on the GWOT.

For us to accomplish these initiatives, we will have to raise funds. We are working hard to reach out to veteran support organizations, community organizations, private corporations, and to you, the

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individual donor, to raise those funds. **Donations can be made online at “The Friends” website** (<https://friendsnysmm.com/pages/strategic-priorities-global-war-on-terror-exhibit>).

GWOT lasted 20 years, the longest war in US history. September 2026 marks the 25th Anniversary of the 9/11 attack. It’s time to recognize and honor our New York GWOT Veterans and to preserve their legacy.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → STRIDE Wounded Warrior Snowfest

STRIDE Adaptive Sports helps to rehabilitate disabled veterans of the armed forces wounded or injured in the line of duty, as well as veterans who suffer from PTSD. STRIDE uses an integrated program of adaptive sports and recreation activities that teach them how to overcome their limitations and give them renewed confidence. The annual Wounded Warrior Snowfest serves as the main event to introduce veterans, which STRIDE has been doing for over two decades. STRIDE hosts up to 15 disabled veterans for a weekend of “skiing, riding and adaptive activities” with their families at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, Hancock, MA. The event begins on Friday night before they head to Jiminy Peak, with a dinner for the veterans and their families. The Snowfest used to take place in March, but over the past three years they held it in December. The 2025 Snowfest was held on December 12-14. *Our Chapter contributed \$100 for the event, which was recognized in STRIDE’s January 2026 Newsletter.*

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **January – May 2026, THE WEST POINT BAND WINTER CONCERT SERIES.** The first two shows are scheduled for New Paltz (Jan 31) and Beacon (Feb 6). For details, you can access the Band’s webpage at <https://band.westpoint.edu/>, or through our website’s [Military Activities page](#).
- Also on our website’s Military Activities page is a link to the **Saratoga Springs Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) Newsletter**. Check out the variety of outdoor and indoor activities available.
- The Jan/Feb issue of the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency newsletter featured a couple items that might interest you:
 - Rensselaer County veterans can get a **discounted membership with the HOTWORX fitness center** in the Market32 Plaza, North Greenbush. The center uses innovative sessions featuring patented infrared technology for faster recovery. Call the VSA at 518-270-2760 for information about the discount.
 - **Attention all women veterans!** The NYS Department of Veterans’ Services and the NYS Women Veterans Advisory Committee are encouraging all New York state women veterans to preserve your story by registering your service with the **MILITARY WOMEN’S MEMORIAL**, a *national* memorial and education center to honor the service of women in the US armed services. You can register online at <http://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory>.

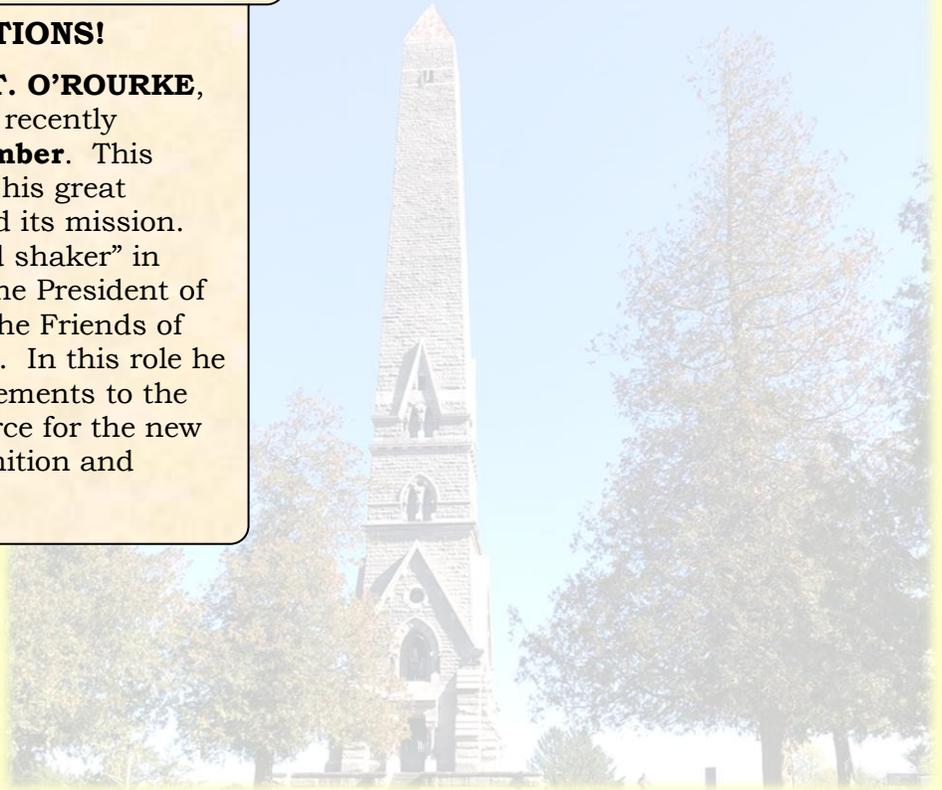
- **25 April, RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (RAD) at WEST POINT.** [Lila Quintiliani the Financial Planning person from MOAA will be the Guest Speaker.](#) Typically the RAD's start with the speaker at 0800 in Eisenhower Hall, followed by opportunities to talk with representatives from various organizations also in Ike Hall. (The Mid-Hudson Chapter is always well-represented there.) There is also a bus trip to the Plain (Parade Field), a Pass in Review, lunch for a nominal fee in the Cadet Dining Hall with eight retirees and two cadets at each table, and bus transport back to Eisenhower Hall.
- **Brig Gen Gary Charlton**, who attended our NYS Council of Chapters Convention in Saratoga Springs in September was **promoted to Major General and named the new Commander of the NY Air National Guard.** MG Shields, TAG of NYS, officiated the assumption of command ceremony. (The outgoing NY Air National Guard Commander, Major General Mike Bank, could not be there due to a family obligation.)

(At left, from left to right, NYS CoC President, Norma Weissend, Maj Gen Gary Charlton, and NYS CoC VP, Timothy Vaughn; photo courtesy of Tim Vaughn)



CONGRATULATIONS!

Chapter member **MARK T. O'ROURKE**, former US Army Captain, recently became a MOAA **Life Member**. This investment demonstrates his great commitment to MOAA and its mission. Mark is also a "mover and shaker" in Saratoga County. He is the President of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the NYS Military Museum. In this role he is a key leader for improvements to the museum and a driving force for the new NY GWOT Veteran Recognition and Honor project.



March 23rd is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, stories, trip reports, or reviews of books/movies/food/drink** for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2025-2027

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT
President	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET
1 st Vice President	Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET
2 nd Vice President	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET
Treasurer	<i>(Acting) Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET</i>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2025-2027

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, LT USNR RET	Lance Richardson, MAJ USA RET

* Immediate Past-President

** Former President

CHAPTER COMMITTEES (in alphabetical order)

- LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (ADVOCACY): *Skip Bebernitz (Ch.), Chris Costigan, Kathy Gates, Pat Piccirilli*
- MEMBERSHIP: *Christine Richardson (Ch.)*
- NEWSLETTER: *Al Memole (Editor)*
- PERSONAL AFFAIRS: *vacant*
- PROGRAM: *Skip Bebernitz (Ch.), Chris Costigan*
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS: *Ed Balaban (Ch.)*
- ROTC/JROTC AWARDS: *Al Memole (Ch.)*
- SOCIAL MEDIA: *vacant*
- SURVIVING SPOUSE: *vacant*
- TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: *Skip Bebernitz (Ch.)*
- WEBSITE: *Ralph Folger (Webmaster)*

NOTE: The Chapter President is automatically considered to be a member of every active committee.

APPOINTED DUTIES

- CHAPLAIN: *vacant*
- HISTORIAN: *vacant*

CHAPTER MEMBERS HOLDING NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS POSITIONS

Vincent A. Memole, Jr., LTC USAR RET - Eastern Region Vice President

Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA RET - Council Advisory Committee

Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET - Council Social Media Manager