

# 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.*



NEVER STOP SERVING. ®



Visit us at [cdnymoaa.org](http://cdnymoaa.org)



5-Star Chapter – 2024

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

## VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2, MAR-APR 2026 // THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

### • CHAPTER HAPPENINGS:

- Our next Chapter meeting SUNDAY, Apr 19, at Norrine's Restaurant, p. 2
- Our last Chapter meeting, Feb 7, p. 3
- JROTC Award Presentation, p. 3
- Remaining Chapter meetings for 2026, p. 4
- **Legislative Affairs Report**, pp. 4-6
- 2026 Chapter Due\$, pp. 7
- A Trip Down Memory Lane – 10 Years Ago, p. 7
- Thank-you Letters Received, pp. 8-9

### • HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY – VETERANS & COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION, p. 9

### • NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATE, p. 10

### • NY GWOT EXHIBIT, p. 10

### • BOOK REPORT – The British Are Coming, p. 11

### • OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST, pp. 12-13

### • CHAPTER OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, and COMMITTEES, p. 14



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192

[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)

100392



## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Our next Chapter meeting is  
**SUNDAY, Apr 19, 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: MR. JASON GOMAN, STRATTON VA MEDICAL CENTER**, will discuss the needs of our local VA medical center and opportunities for volunteers to help.

**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, APR 10<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:pres@cdnymoaa.org) or [ammemole@gmail.com](mailto: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 – Feb 7

We were honored at our last meeting to have as guest speaker, *Richard Goldenberg*, COL NYARNG RET, who gave a complete and compelling slide presentation on the Four Chaplains. If you don't know about this inspiring event in US military history, here is the gist: In February 1942, a German U-Boat sunk an American troopship heading to Greenland. Aboard were two Protestant ministers, a Jewish Rabbi, and a Catholic priest, who had become friends. As the ship was going down, the four chaplains



Above: Chapter President Al Memole thanks guest speaker Colonel Rich Goldenberg. (Photos by Mary Memole)

calmed panicking troops, helped them find life jackets, and finally gave their own to troops who needed them. Troops in life boats last saw the four on the stern of the sinking ship, holding hands, praying and singing hymns in English, Hebrew, and Latin. They were decorated for their selfless service, as was a heroic Coast Guardsman who rescued troops from the ocean. A part of history we should never forget.

In contrast to the dramatic and inspiring presentation, the atmosphere at Norrine's was light and jovial. Members and guests were conversing, laughing, and enjoying one another's company. The food was great, as usual. Other guests joined us to hear COL Goldenberg's presentation: *Alan Gutman*, CDR USN RET, a physician assistant and MOAA Life Member who is active in the Southern Tier Chapter. Alan is in the process of selling his home in Ellicott to live year-round in the Capital District. We hope to see him regularly at future meetings. Our Chapter Secretary and Webmaster, Ralph Folger, brought his aunt and uncle, *Carol and George Cox*. They made sure that Ralph behaved himself. **And we welcomed a new Chapter member, Myra Smith**, Surviving Spouse of the late MOAA Life Member Robert Smith, CDR USNR RET. Myra is also a friend of the Memole's.

## JROTC Award Presentation



On 12 March, Chapter Board of Directors member *Vincent Memole*, LTC USA RET, attended the Junior ROTC awards ceremony at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) of Albany. Vince presented the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate to **Cadet JACOB BOWDEN**, a high school junior, for excellence in academics, high moral character, demonstrated loyalty to his unit, school, and country, and exceptional potential for military leadership.

The photo at left (courtesy of Vincent Memole) shows Cadet Bowden and LTC Memole posing after presentation of the MOAA award. Vince is about 5'10" tall. Any guess as to Cadet Bowden's height? We wish Cadet Bowden success in his upcoming senior year and throughout his life. Thanks also to *Herbert S. Reeves*, SFC USA RET, JROTC Army Instructor, for coordinating the ceremony.

## Remaining Chapter Meetings For 2026

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING DETAILS *
April 19, luncheon (Sunday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i> Guest speaker: <b>Jason Goman, Stratton VA Med Ctr</b> Topic: <b>Volunteer Opportunities at the VA</b>
April 25, Board of Directors	NYS Military Museum, Saratoga
June 6, luncheon (Saturday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i> Guest speaker: <b>Pat Chaisson, LTC USA RET</b> Topic: <b>D-Day</b>
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	NYS Military Museum, Saratoga
December 13, luncheon - Holiday Party / Annual Business Mtg (Sunday)	<i>Norrine's Restaurant, Waterford</i>

\* Details in italics are tentative.

## Legislative Affairs Report

(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli)

This year, *Norma Weissend, Tim Vaughan, and Matt Sprenger* will represent New York State during the **2026 ADVOCACY IN ACTION (AIA)**. On April 15, these leaders and others from among MOAA's 350,000 members – representing a community of more than 22 million current, former, and retired uniformed services personnel – will bring these important issues to Capitol Hill as a part of MOAA's signature annual advocacy campaign, Advocacy in Action (AIA). This year, *our* efforts will center on four initiatives designed to uphold our nation's commitments to our service members, veterans, their families, and survivors – and we need your support. As MOAA advocates prepare to bring these priorities to Capitol Hill in April, lawmakers are listening closely to the voices they hear back home. They want to know these issues don't just matter in Washington – they matter in their districts and states, to the constituents they represent.

As you can see the word "*our*" is italicized. We are the *force multiplier* in terms of advocacy. Our chapter's legislative team of *Skip Bebernitz, Chris Costigan, Kathy Gates and Pat Piccirilli* will plan to meet locally with our Congressional representatives (Congressman Tonko and Congresswoman Stefanik), as well as making contact with several downstate congressional offices outside of our chapter catchment area. Our Senators are being visited by the Mid-Hudson MOAA chapter legislative team.

Continued on next page

Before you read the information below on the issues, we would like to thank all of you who have sent a message via the MOAA Take Action Message center. *We implore everyone to utilize the Take Action Message website.* It already includes a message and you have the option of editing that message if you wish to personalize it. In addition, every message counts towards our chapter's rating in terms of excellence awards. If anyone in our chapter has a personal relationship with the congressional representative/staff member a personal visit, in addition to our legislative team, is a plus. Under each issue is a link which takes you to the Take Action Message center for that issue. **Please visit and send your message as soon as you can but certainly before April 15th.**

### **Major Richard Star Act**

Combat-injured service members who are medically retired before reaching 20 years of service lose some or all of their earned retirement pay because it is offset by VA disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102 | S. 1032) would correct this long-standing injustice for these wounded warriors. *Nearly 54,000 combat-injured veterans are affected by this policy.* The legislation has broad bipartisan support in both chambers, but passage has been blocked by procedural issues in recent years. Correcting this injustice reinforces a simple principle: Retirement earned through service and compensation earned through sacrifice are not the same, and both should be honored. To make your voice heard on this issue, please click the link <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/121141/>

### **Shutdown Fairness Act**

Recent funding lapses have left approximately 41,000 Coast Guard service members performing their duties without certainty of timely pay. This is the third shutdown within the last year, and during these funding gaps, active duty service members, retirees, and their families are forced to grapple with the stress and hardships of missed paychecks. The Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168) would provide a permanent fix, ensuring members of the armed forces continue to receive pay and benefits during funding lapses while Congress resolves broader appropriations matters. Those who serve should not be asked to operate under the threat of financial uncertainty, especially when readiness and retention are already under pressure. This act will also enable reservists to continue performing drill functions, maintaining readiness, during future government shutdowns. To contact your representative and senators, please click the link <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/142300/>.

### **Guard VA Benefits Act**

Unaccredited companies are charging veterans thousands of dollars to assist with VA disability claims, a service which is legally available for free through accredited representatives. Weak enforcement mechanisms have allowed bad actors to exploit veterans navigating the VA claims process. The Guard VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732) would restore penalties for unauthorized fees and strengthen oversight. Veterans should never have to surrender a portion of their earned benefits to unregulated for-profit intermediaries. Please click this link to urge your representative and senators to support this bill: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/154789/>

### **Military Care Act**

Military families frequently encounter appointment shortages, referral delays, and other barriers to access at military treatment facilities (MTFs) – often with no clear, standardized way to elevate or track access-to-care concerns. The Military Care Act (H.R. 6796) would establish a centralized digital platform allowing TRICARE beneficiaries to report access-to-care problems, route concerns to the appropriate patient advocate, and provide the Defense Health Agency and Congress with

aggregated data to address widespread challenges. Please click this link to contact your representative and senators: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/151857/>.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

Help MOAA, our Council, and our Chapter as our members prepare to bring these priorities to Capitol Hill in April. Let our lawmakers hear from us, their constituents back home. They need to know these issues don't just matter in Washington – they matter to the people in their districts and states. That's why this year's Advocacy in Action effort includes a focused digital campaign designed to generate a strong, coordinated wave of messages in the coming weeks. *When our in-person advocates walk into congressional offices, they should be reinforcing what lawmakers have already heard from you, their constituents.* Your support can make the difference between a bill gaining traction or being lost among competing congressional priorities.

In summary, you can help today by:

- Signing up for MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to send prepared messages to your elected officials and receive priority alerts when it is time to act.
- Calling your lawmakers directly via MOAA's Capitol Hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to express your support for MOAA's legislative priorities, if you are not comfortable with doing things online.
- Engaging with your local chapter legislative committee to strengthen grassroots efforts and coordinate legislative outreach within our districts. Any questions please email Skip Bebernitz at [skip94a@gmail.com](mailto:skip94a@gmail.com). When our members walk into congressional offices, they carry the collective voice of our nationwide community. Your work will help ensure Congress keeps faith with those who serve to protect our nation.

**MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS**

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members on these hosted cruises and land tours.**

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES from The Official Travel Agency of MOAA**



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**



**For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online**

## Chapter Due\$ for 2026

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, 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.

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*

Our Chapter depends on annual dues to cover administrative and operational expenses such as liability insurance, website domain fees, our PO Box, and postage. Fees also enable us to provide modest financial support to local organizations that help veterans and families, or educate the public about US and NY military history.

## A Trip Down Memory Lane – 10 Years Ago

*(Submitted by the Editor, Al Memole)*

The photos below appeared in the March 2016 issue of our Chapter Newsletter (Vol. 7, Iss. 2). They were taken by *Ottmar Klaas* for STRIDE Adaptive Sports at the Welcome Banquet for the Wounded Warrior Snowfest. Up until Covid, the Welcome Banquet was a huge community-wide event to raise funds for the Snowfest. Every year, Past Chapter President Marty Leukhardt, RADM USN RET, since deceased, sponsored an entire table (\$1,000). Our Chapter also contributed \$400 and tickets bought by attendees. Beginning in 2022, the Welcome Banquets have been smaller, private events for the warriors and their families.



*Upper Left: Ralph & Vicki Folger, Skip & Mary Lou Bebernitz, Mary & Al Memole, Milena, & Marty Leukhardt;  
Lower Left: Dana Berntson & son, Chris Costigan, Rocco Acquilano, friends of then NY Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin (right); Adjacent: bagpipers welcome a wounded warrior honoree  
Photos courtesy of Ottmar Klaas*

## Thank-you Letters Received

Toward the end of 2025 our Chapter contributed funds from our chapter treasury to various organizations serving veterans and our community. We budgeted for these funds at the beginning of 2025; we approved the expenditures at the Board meeting last November after confirming the balance in our checking account. We received thank-you letters from the recipients; the last two are copied below so you can see the impact our chapter is having.



STRIDE Adaptive Sports  
4482 NY Highway 150, West Sand Lake, NY 12196  
518-598-1279 ♦ [www.stride.org](http://www.stride.org)



January 9, 2026

MOAA NYS Capital District  
c/o Patrick Piccirilli, LTC, USAR (Ret)  
PO Box 373  
Waterford, NY 12188-0373

Dear STRIDE Wounded Warrior Supporter,

Thank you for supporting **STRIDE's 21st Annual Wounded Warrior Snowfest**. Your donation of **\$100.00** helped to fund a successful weekend for of skiing and snowboarding and equally important bonding with other Veterans and their families.

STRIDE's approach to helping veterans heal has been successful because it recognizes they have long-term needs that **cannot** be met with one-time events. They need our year-round support, and we need yours to continue providing it to them.

STRIDE offers a wide range of adaptive programs designed to support and empower Wounded Warfighters and their families. Through STRIDE's SCORE Camp, Wounded Warfighters have the opportunity to camp alongside their families in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Thank you for your assistance in helping STRIDE honor those who have given so much to our Country.

With gratitude,

*Christine Golden*

Development Director  
[cgolden@stride.org](mailto:cgolden@stride.org)



Supporting • Helping • Caring CDWV.ORG

Capital District Women Veterans, Inc.  
93 Southbury Road  
Clifton Park NY 12065  
[www.cdww.org](http://www.cdww.org)

Feb 26, 2026

Dear New York Capital District Chapter, Inc., Militar Officers association of America,

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$100.00 to the Capital District Women Veterans (CDWV) "Christopher House", the first supportive housing of its kind in the Capital District. Your kind generosity provides the Capital District Women Veterans' "Christopher House" the ability to continue serving and helping women veterans and their children who are suffering from homelessness and despair.

We are truly fortunate to have your confidence in our mission and appreciate your financial support. Through your partnership, with this donation we will meet our goal of providing our homeless or chronically homeless women Veterans and children with both a safe and secure as well as a home-like community residence. Your donation uplifts these women's efforts toward becoming self-sufficient with dignity and respect.

With Extreme Gratitude,

Christine Rem, COL(R), RN, DNS  
Executive Director

## HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → VETERANS & COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION (VCHC)

The **Veterans & Community Housing Coalition (VCHC)** of Saratoga County operates three main facilities to help veterans in need: the **Guardian House** for homeless female veterans, the **Vet House** for homeless male veterans, and the **Foreverly House** for homeless female veterans *with dependent children*. The VCHC also runs a Veterans Food Pantry. Their area of coverage spans seven counties: *Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie and Schenectady*. They provide transitional housing, temporary financial assistance, help to obtain/maintain permanent housing, peer support programs, and help to secure VA benefits, health care, employment, and other public aid. The VCHC seeks and accepts donations from the local community to support their veterans. For more information about the VCHC, please visit their updated website at <https://vchcnny.org/>, and to volunteer or donate to the VCHC, go directly to this webpage: <https://vchcnny.org/ways-to-support/>.

## NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION – UPDATE

*(Submitted by Chapter President Al Memole)*

The New York State Council of Chapters held its Mid-Year Meeting via Zoom on March 21. The voting members, who include the elected Council officers and all of the chapter presidents, voted to select the venue for this year's convention. The "winner" is ...

### **HOTEL SARANAC in Saranac Lake, NY**

The vote was nearly unanimous, with only one contrary vote. I thank the 13 chapter members who sent me their preferences. As promised, I voted for our chapter's top choice. Among the three "semi-final" options that Council offered, our collective preferences were: 1- Hotel Saranac, 2- Riveredge, Alexandria Bay, and 3- Bear Mountain Lodge.

The next step is for Council to finalize the arrangements with the venue, including pricing and dates, arrange for one or more optional tours, and draw up the agenda. Council will determine how much of the costs they can cover from their Convention funds so they can finalize the costs for attendees. This should be completed sometime in May. I hope to have the details available in the next issue of our newsletter.

## NY GWOT EXHIBIT

This is a reminder that the New York GWOT Veteran Recognition and Honor Committee is working hard to reach out to veteran service organizations, community organizations, private corporations, and to individual donors, to raise funds for the following initiatives to properly recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices of New York Global War on Terror (GWOT) Veterans and their families. These initiatives include:

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.

**“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.”**  
*Joseph Taluto, MG USA (Ret.)*

**Accomplishing these initiatives requires substantial funding. Donations can be made online at the Friends of the New York State Military Museum website (<https://friendsnysmm.com/pages/strategic-priorities-global-war-on-terror-exhibit>).**

## BOOK REVIEW –The British Are Coming

AUTHOR: Rick Atkinson; 564 Pages

REVIEWED BY: Vincent A. Memole Jr., LTC (Infantry) USAR Retired

Volume one of Rick Atkinson's Revolution Trilogy was a fantastic book covering the first two years of The American Revolution (1775-1777) in a historic novel format. [*Historical novel: a literature that blends fictional characters, dialogue and/or plots with authentic meticulously researched historical settings and events.*] Atkinson weaves his story together from both sides of the struggle starting in chapter one in Boston from March 6th to April 17th 1775. He does, however, first set the stage in a nice prologue starting in June 1773 in England.

From Boston, in March 1775, six weeks prior to “the shot heard around the world”, the author tells his story until we get to the to the last chapter in book one ending with Washington's victory at Princeton in January 1777. Along the way we travel from Lexington and Concord and later The Battle of Bunker (Breeds) Hill up into Canada and Quebec, then south to The Battle of Charleston. He then returns north to the US Navy's first “large-scale” engagement with an opposing Navy during the Battle of Valcour Island on October 11th 1776 under the Command of Brigadier General Benedict Arnold. It was a brutal battle resulting in a defeat for the young untested Continental Navy, but a “victory” of some small sorts as the battle stopped the British fleet from moving into the upper Hudson River and possible onto Albany.

The author then spends a good amount of time and multiple chapters covering the battles in and around New York City. He starts with the initial landing of British forces on Long Island and the eventual battles and the later withdrawal back into New York. He spends a good section of the book on the preparation for the defense of New York and later the battles in New York and Westchester Country, and ultimately Washington's plan of a secret withdrawal across the river into New Jersey.

His final chapters cover the retreat in late November 1776 where many thought Washington's Army was beaten and “the fight for Liberty” finished, until Washington decided he needed to strike one more time before the enlistments of most his Army would end in the New Year. So he planned to attack the Hessian Garrison on Christmas...crossing the Delaware, then, later make a follow-on attack at Princeton.

I highly recommend this easy to read and very enjoyable book if you want to lose yourself in a great story with detailed historical information. I cannot wait to start reading books two and three!

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** 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 [ammemole@gmail.com](mailto:ammemole@gmail.com).

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Now to May 2026, THE WEST POINT BAND WINTER CONCERT SERIES.** For details, you can access the Band's webpage at <https://band.westpoint.edu/> , or through our website's [Military Activities page](#).
- **25 April, RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (RAD) at WEST POINT.** [Lila Quintiliani the Financial Planning person from MOAA will be the Guest Speaker](#)

**52nd Annual Retiree Appreciation Day**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

<b>0700– 0930</b>	<b>Reception and Registration at Eisenhower Hall</b>
<b>0730-1100</b>	<b>County Fair (Ike Crest Hall)</b>
<b>0800 –0810</b>	<b>Music performed by the “Hellcats” United States Military Academy Band</b>
<b>0810– 0815</b>	<b>National Anthem</b>
<b>0815 – 0825</b>	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
<b>0825 – 0845</b>	<b>Address by Lila Quintiliani, Military Officers Association</b>
<b>0845– 1040</b>	<b>Visit with Post and Civilian Agencies</b>
<b>0845– 0915</b>	<b>Walk/Shuttle Bus to Reviewing Stands on The Plain*</b>
<b>0920 –0930</b>	<b>Cadet Drill Team Performance on The Plain*</b>
<b>0930-1000</b>	<b>Cadet Review/ Retirement Honoree Ceremony *</b>
<b>1000-1020</b>	<b>Cadet Parachute Club Demonstration on The Plain*</b>
<b>1040 – 1100</b>	<b>Walk/Shuttle Bus to USMA Cadet Mess</b>
<b>1100 – 1200</b>	<b>Luncheon USMA Cadet Mess</b>
<b>1200 – 1215</b>	<b>Shuttle Bus Service to designated parking areas</b>

**\* Inclement Weather Schedule: These events will be cancelled if weather is inclement. The Retirement Honoree Ceremony will be moved to the Riverside Café in Eisenhower Hall and begin at 0920\***

- Members of any Veterans Service Organization located in Rensselaer County may nominate a Rensselaer County student for one of three \$2,000 scholarships offered by the Chandler Young Veteran's Association. See the flyer on the following page for details.

Continued on next page

**Attention  
Rensselaer County Veterans**

If you are currently a member of a Veterans Service Organization located in Rensselaer County, then you are eligible to sponsor an applicant for the

**Peter Goebel, Col, USA, Ret  
Memorial Scholarship**

Offered by  
**Chandler Young Veterans Association**

We will be awarding three, \$2,000.00 scholarships to support students who are Rensselaer County residents and enrolled in Academic or Vocational programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

By helping these students achieve their academic or vocational goals to become contributing members of our communities, we can maintain Peter Goebel's legacy of service.

Please contact the CYVA Scholarship Committee for further information:

[cylvapgscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:cylvapgscholarship@gmail.com)

Kathleen Lill: 518-378-5186

Scholarship Applications will be available starting January 1st, 2026.

**Submission Deadline: May 16, 2026**

Applications will be available by request at: [cylvapgscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:cylvapgscholarship@gmail.com).

You can also pick up a copy by stopping by at Chandler Young Veteran's Association, 7 Lyon's Lake Road, Nassau, NY 12123. We are open most evenings. *Please use rear entrance.*

**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 OFFICERS FOR 2025-2027

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>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)*

**We know that you are very busy, but please consider filling a vacancy or joining a committee. Every committee needs help, and many hands make work light! You'll get more out of your chapter membership by giving just a little of your time, even to do just one thing. Follow your interests and share your skills for the common good.**

*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