

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 – 2025
2024, 2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 5, SEP-OCT 2026 // THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Our next Chapter meeting is
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, at THE HEDGE BISTRO

2350 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY 12084

(part of the Western Turnpike Golf Course)

GUEST SPEAKER: Chapter member **Dr. GERALD STULC, CAPT USNR (Ret.)**, will discuss the **HISTORY OF MILITARY MEDICINE** 🇺🇸.

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

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



EIGHT (8) MEAL OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, priced from under \$20 to \$28

Smoked BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich & French Fries \$28.00

Slow smoked hand pulled pork, served on a brioche bun, with red onion and pickle chips.

Southwest Chicken Salad \$27.00

Lettuce, Shredded Cheddar Cheese, Pico De Gallo, Black Beans, Roasted Sweet Corn, Crispy Tortilla Strips, served with House made with Chipotle Ranch Dressing

Classic Club Sandwich & French Fries \$25.75

Turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise, toasted bread-cut into quarters

Cobb Salad \$25.75

Lettuce, Grilled Chicken, Bacon, Egg, Tomato, Olives, Blue Cheese

The Grilled Portabella Mushroom Burger (vegetarian) \$25.75

Sliced Tomato, Pesto, Provolone Cheese

All American Burger w/American Cheese & French Fries \$24.50

Grilled Chicken Sandwich with French Fries \$24.50

Juicy grilled chicken breast, lettuce, tomato, onion, and cheddar cheese

Cheese Pizza (vegetarian) \$19.75

Prices for all options include the meal price, dessert (chocolate chip cookies with French vanilla ice cream), an 18% gratuity and a \$2.00 Chapter cover charge to defray costs for the guest speaker's meal(s) and token gift of appreciation. Water, Iced Tea, and Lemonade are also included. [Adult beverages may be purchased at the bar.]

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS/MEAL SELECTIONS IS 25 SEP.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE OUR CHEDDAR UP PAGE (<https://treas-4444.mycheddarup.com>) **TO SELECT MEALS & PAY ONLINE BY THE DEADLINE.**

Continued on next page

(If you cannot pay by credit card online, you may e-mail your meal choice(s) to Al Memole at ammemole@gmail.com or call Al at: 518-641-8664, **NLT Sep 25** and pay cash or check at the door.)

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

GETTING THERE: The Hedge Bistro is located within the Western Turnpike Golf Course. The entrance is on Western Avenue, a.k.a. US Route 20. If you are approaching from the west, it is an easy right turn after passing the traffic light where the Cumberland Farms gas station is located. IF YOU ARE APPROACHING FROM THE EAST (ALBANY), IT MIGHT BE SAFER TO GO PAST THE ENTRANCE, TAKE A LEFT AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHT, TURN AROUND (maybe at Cumberland Farms), TAKE A RIGHT AT THE LIGHT (heading toward Albany), and then you can turn right at the golf course entrance. (Reason: *There is no center turn lane on that portion of the highway to enable a stress-free left turn onto the golf course.*)

Remaining Chapter Meetings For 2026

MEETING DATE & TYPE	MEETING DETAILS
November 21 , Board of Directors	<i>NYS Military Museum, Saratoga</i>
December 13 , Holiday Party / Annual Business Mtg (Sunday)	<i>TBD</i>

* Details in italics are tentative.

Chapter Member News

- **WELCOME NEW MEMBER** – FATHER MICHAEL J. NEUFELD, former US Army Captain and Chaplain, and his wife, the Reverend Dr. Ellen C. Neufeld.
- **CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY** – SEAN PICCIRILLI, COL USAF (RETIRED)

[Submitted by his justifiably proud Dad (and Board member), Pat Piccirilli]

On August 21st, after 24 years in the Air Force, Colonel Sean Piccirilli was officially retired. The ceremony was held in the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon. The room was filled to capacity with



(Above from left to right: Sean, Ian, Alix and Brendan; photo courtesy of Pat Piccirilli)

family, friends, and work companions, who became family, from his various duty stations. A former commander of Sean's, Col. (retired) Pat Sutherland, summarized the highlights of Sean's career and gave credit to his spouse and his two boys for their continued support and resilience. At the onset of the ceremony, Sean was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal. This solemn part of the ceremony was followed by stories and accolades which provided all with entertainment that rivaled anything I've experienced in a long time.

Continued on next page

Sean applied to officer training school on September 10, 2001. The events of the next day would shape his career and our lives for the next two decades. His specialty was Intelligence and I picked up some things during the ceremony that I had not known about my son's line of work as *Deputy Director for Intelligence at the National Joint Intelligence and Operations Center* (NJOIC). I was about as proud as any father could be on that day.



(Above from left to right: Yvonne Livingston (Jr.), Yvonne Livingston, Pat Piccirilli, Sean Piccirilli, Alix Piccirilli, and Brendan Piccirilli; photo courtesy of Pat Piccirilli)

Legislative Committee Report

[Submitted by Pat Piccirilli]

As we saw in President Al Memole's recent bulletin to all chapter members, MOAA President Brian T. Kelly, Lt Gen USAF (Ret.), sent a President's Message, asking members to sign up with the Legislative Action Center, if you haven't done so yet, and to contact our lawmakers before this Fiscal Year ends, especially on The Major Richard Star Act, Adding military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and Restoring TRICARE For Life coverage of GLP-1 medications.

Signing up for the Legislative Action Center involves the following:

1. Head to MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).
2. Register if you haven't already (it takes about two minutes).
3. Once you're in, send this summer's three Advocacy in Action messages to your lawmakers. If you've already sent one or two, finish the set.
4. Complete the follow through by sharing this message with your community. Tell your friends, your family, and your fellow advocates. The more of us who show up, the harder we are to ignore.

So much is at stake at this time since we're in the closing months of the 119th Congress. When this Congress ends, any bill that hasn't crossed the finish line doesn't carry over. It doesn't pause and pick back up next year. *It dies*, and whoever takes up these issues again next Congress has to start over: reintroduce the bill, rebuild cosponsor lists, work back into the queue for markup and floor time. Years of work, gone in an instant, simply because the clock ran out.

Continued on next page

Real progress is possible for our Summer AiA issues this year, *but only if the constituent pressure holds*. The legislative vehicles carrying these issues forward cannot afford to stall, and neither can we. Every message and every meeting you generate over these next few months keeps these issues moving.

What we can do in the remaining days of the 119th Congress:

Lawmakers will have only 16 legislative days between their impending return to Washington, D.C., and their departure for the midterm elections. This leaves a limited window to avert a government shutdown and accomplish other unfinished business.

The House of Representatives will be back in session Aug 31, and the Senate will join them Sep 14. With the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, passing appropriations legislation to keep the government open is the dominant issue – everything else competes for scraps of time. At this point on the calendar, bills unrelated to funding regularly stall or are attached to must-pass appropriations packages.

Both chambers will go on recess in early October for the 2026 midterm elections. Thirty-five seats in the Senate and all 435 seats in the House are up for grabs. The outcome, and the future of the many bills being considered by Congress, is uncertain.

Will there be another shutdown?

The federal government shut down from Oct. 1 to Nov. 12 last year, with the funding lapse lasting a record 43 days before a continuing resolution reopened most agencies. A second shutdown began Jan. 31 for several agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, which affected the Coast Guard. Funding was not restored for a record-breaking 76 days. While the specter of another shutdown remains, Congress failing to agree to pass a continuing resolution by Sept. 30 is unlikely. There is little appetite for a shutdown before the election, and both the House and Senate have passed competing stopgap spending bills that would keep the government open until December. MOAA expects passage of one of these bills will be the top priority for lawmakers once they return to Washington. Passing legislation to protect those in uniform from the harmful effects of a shutdown would bring a measure of certainty and enable servicemembers to better focus on their mission. Contact your legislator via the Legislative Action Center under the following bill: [The Shutdown Fairness Act](#) (S3168/H.R.7137).

[National Defense Authorization Act](#) (S.4784/H.R. 8800). Among the legislative packages for floor consideration in September is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Both the House and Senate have proposed versions of the must-pass annual NDAA, and Congress is expected to take up the bill shortly after returning. The House passed its version (H.R. 8800) in late July. Once S. 4784 passes the Senate, negotiations will begin between the chambers on a final bill. MOAA will continue monitoring the NDAA as it develops this fall and will engage with lawmakers and their staffs to keep key provisions supporting servicemembers and their families in the final bill.

The [Take Care of America's Veterans Act](#) (TCAVA) is a sweeping omnibus bill including more than 60 pieces of legislation supporting veterans, survivors, and caregivers. Provisions such as the Major Richard Star Act, the Love Lives On Act, and the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act address high-level MOAA priorities. Leaders in the House postponed a scheduled vote on TCAVA shortly before leaving Washington in July. While general support among veterans is high, there remains an active debate concerning the source of TCAVA's funding and codifying the VA's upcoming changes to disability ratings for sleep apnea and tinnitus.

We Must Act Now:

With only 16 legislative days before recess, lawmakers will be weighing many priorities. Advocacy leaders and volunteers around the country are engaged in MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action

Continued on next page

campaign in support of three priorities: the Major Richard Star Act, military spouse employment, and pharmacy parity for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries.

In summary, you can help today by:

1. 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.
2. Call your lawmakers directly via MOAA's Capitol Hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to express your support for MOAA's legislative priorities.
3. Engage with your local chapter legislative committee to strengthen grassroots efforts and coordinate legislative outreach within our districts.

PLEASE REMEMBER: 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 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.

Homeward Bound Adirondacks Retreat Center Open House

[Submitted by Ed Balaban and Lance Richardson]

We attended the dedication ceremony for the new Homeward Bound Adirondacks (HBA) retreat center in Malone on July 18. We met Chapter member **Mark Moeller, LTC USA (Ret.)**, who is Chairman of the Board of HBA. Mark worked with Lance to secure a **\$2,000 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant** which was used to help purchase a potable water pump for the Retreat center, thus fulfilling the goal of MOAA Charities to support local projects delivering direct assistance to military members, veterans, and their families.



(Photo courtesy Lance Richardson)

Veterans, community members, supporters, and local officials attended the event celebrating the organization's continued commitment to serving those who have served their country. This new facility, named the **Sgt. Carlton A. Clark Veterans Center**, serves as a hub for healing, connection, and support for veterans throughout New York's North Country and beyond. Sgt. Clark, a soldier from nearby Sharon, Vermont, for whom the facility is named, was on his second deployment with the 101st Airborne Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when he was killed by an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Baghdad in August 2006. He was 22 years old.

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(Photo courtesy Lance Richardson)

Earlier in the day, visitors toured the 105 acre property becoming familiar with the nonprofit's growing programs, and met with staff and the volunteers who provide peer mentoring, crisis outreach, case management, suicide prevention resources, and outdoor therapeutic retreats. Guests also connected with fellow veterans, learning how the organization is expanding services to meet the needs of former service members across the Adirondack region.

Mark Moeller, the HBA Board Chairperson, said *"This dedication ceremony marked an important milestone in our ongoing mission to create a welcoming space where veterans can find camaraderie, purpose, and access to critical support services. The Sgt. Carlton A. Clark Veterans Center stands as both a tribute to military service and a symbol of the community's investment in the well-being of those who have worn the nation's uniform."*

A variety of speakers acknowledged the strong partnerships that have helped make the project possible. Through donations such as MOAA's, volunteer efforts, fundraising campaigns, and local business support, HBA has continued to expand its reach while providing no-cost services designed to improve the lives of veterans and their families. Attendees were encouraged to remain involved through volunteering, sponsorships, and participation in future programs and events.

For more information about this organization, please visit <https://homewardboundadirondacks.org/>



At left: Mark Moeller addresses the attendees at the dedication ceremony for the Sgt. Carlton A. Clark Veterans Center. (Photo courtesy Lance Richardson)



At right: Mark Moeller stands by the facility's new potable water pump purchased with a \$2,000 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant. (Photo courtesy Lance Richardson)



(Photos courtesy Lance Richardson)



Chapter Picnic

Thanks to Christine Richardson, LTC USA RET, who planned and organized the event, our Chapter picnic at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland on August 2nd was a great success. A total of **20** members and guests attended. We had a wonderful time socializing. *And the food (Sliced Brisket, Pulled Pork, Mac and Cheese, Baked Beans, Slider Rolls) purchased from Mission BBQ was especially good!* We had set up some outdoor games and we intended to start some fierce competitions after dessert. However, rain started before we did, so the games never happened. We lingered a little while longer in lively conversation under the pavillon before departing. Until next year!



(Seated, from left to right: Elfie Erickson, Dave Erickson, Ed Balaban, Kathy Gates, Skip Bebernitz, Mary Lou Bebernitz; Standing, from left to right: guests Rose and Al Censullo, Myrna Smith, Mary Memole, Al Memole, Vicki Folger, Ralph Folger, Vince Memole, Lance Richardson, Christine Richardson, Chris Costigan, and Joe Peck; missing from photo: Maryna Richardson and Mary Balaban who was taking this photo, courtesy of Ed & Mary Balaban)

Our Chapter Table at the Altamont Fair

[Contributors: **Ed Balaban, Lance Richardson, and Al Memole**]

On Wednesday, August 19, our Chapter hosted an information table at the Altamont Fair for the fair's Armed Services Day celebration of veterans and active-duty service members. The event provided an opportunity for members of our Chapter to meet with veterans, active-duty military personnel, their families, and members of the local community while sharing information about MOAA and the services and benefits available to members of the military community. We even recruited a new member, *Fr. Michael J. Neufeld*, who will likely become our new Chaplain!

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For Armed Services Day, active-duty military personnel and veterans showing valid identification were offered free admission throughout the day. The fair also scheduled a Military Appreciation ceremony at 2 PM honoring veterans and active members of the armed forces. Chapter and Board of Directors member **Lance Richardson** coordinated with the fair to reserve a space for us, and arrived early to get us set up. Besides Lance, several Chapter members helped at the table throughout the day: Chapter President **Al Memole and his wife, Mary**, Chapter Secretary **Ralph Folger and his wife Vicki**, and members **Christine Richardson** and **Dave Erickson**, an Altamont resident.

Our Chapter's information table served as an informal gathering place where visitors could learn more about the MOAA mission, membership, and its continuing commitment to protecting the interests of military personnel of all ranks, their families, and the broader military community. We advertised MOAA legislative accomplishments, MOAA scholarships, member benefits, and the NY State Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) veterans memorial initiative.

For many veterans attending the fair, the day offered more than the traditional sights, sounds, and attractions of the annual agricultural fair. It was also an opportunity to come together with fellow service members and receive recognition from the community. Our Chapter's participation reflected our commitment to maintaining a strong connection with veterans and military families throughout the Capital Region.

"Events such as the Altamont Fair provide an excellent opportunity for MOAA to connect directly with veterans and members of the community," said Lance Richardson, Chapter Board member. "We are proud to be part of a day dedicated to recognizing the men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation."



Left: Chief Instigator, Lance Richardson;
Right: Ralph & Vicki Folger with Christine Richardson;
Below right: Al & Mary Memole;
Below left: Local VFW Flag Bearers at the Military Appreciation Ceremony
[Left photos: Al Memole; Right photos: Lance Richardson]



Chapter Board Meeting – August 15

(By Al Memole, Chapter President)

Our Chapter Board of Directors meeting commenced at 10:15 am on August 15 at the Scheiber's home along the shore of Lake George. Present were Al Memole (President), Ralph Folger (Secretary), and Board members Ed Balaban, Skip Bebernitz, Chris Costigan, Tony Ficara, Vince Memole, Lance Richardson, and (of course) Ed Scheiber. Absent were Kathy Gates (1VP), Pat Piccirilli, and Rocco Acquilano. *Here are some of the key points of the meeting:*

- The Chapter is financially healthy.
- The Chapter is accomplishing its mission, *but active participation is numerically low and committees are understaffed or not staffed at all. The top two committee needs are:*
 - Membership Committee Chairperson
 - Legislative Affairs Committee Chairperson
- Our Chapter website continues to withstand constant attacks.
- We will be mailing invitations to join our Chapter to prospective members who do not have or have not shared an email address.
- We confirmed the dates of remaining meetings for this year and selected dates for next year's meetings. (We will post these dates in the *next* newsletter.)
- We will seek new quotes for our liability insurance for next year before renewing it.
- We still need to replace our outdated Chapter flag and table covering.
- We will urge our members to find sponsors for 5 to 10 wreaths.
- The Board approved the Nominating Committee of Al Memole, Skip Bebernitz, and Pat Piccirilli, to identify candidates for Chapter positions. Expect an email or phone call!



Chris Costigan (right) listens as Ed Balaban discusses Chapter Public Relations efforts. [Photo by Ralph Folger]

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm, and was followed by a pot-luck picnic by the beautiful lake.

Chapter Board of Directors 2025-2027

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

BOARD MEMBERS 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

Election of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors / Committee Needs

(By Chapter President Al Memole)

REMINDER: We will hold our election at our Annual Business Meeting this year on December 13. Only regular Chapter members (those who have served in any of the uniformed services and are MOAA members) and surviving spouses of MOAA members may vote. Members must be present at the meeting to vote.

A Nominating Committee is in the process of seeking qualified candidates for these all 13 positions prior to the Board of Directors meeting in November. ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE. We really could use some new blood and new perspectives, so don't hesitate to step up if you know that you could improve our administration and operations. Your volunteering will not offend those of us currently serving. We will continue to serve and **not** leave new volunteers "stuck holding the bag."

We also need volunteers for our *Committees*, the units that drive our operations and fulfill our Chapter's mission and objectives. Committee leaders and members are not elected: everyone may volunteer to serve on one or several committees, but the Chapter President appoints the committee leaders. *Every committee needs help*, and most would benefit from new leadership.

BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IS MORE REWARDING AND ENJOYABLE WHEN YOU PARTICIPATE.

• SERVING OTHERS

- Legislative Affairs – Advocates with our federal *and state* legislators to protect earned benefits
- Community Action – Coordinates Chapter involvement in local service projects
- ROTC/JROTC Awards – Recognizes local cadets who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, and service

PURSUE YOUR INTERESTS! PUT YOUR SKILLS & EXPERIENCE TO WORK SERVING OTHERS!

• HELPING OUR CHAPTER & OUR MEMBERS

- Membership – Drafts a recruiting strategy for Board approval, coordinates Chapter recruiting efforts, welcomes new members, and maintains the membership roster
- Program – Coordinates with venues and guest speakers for general membership meetings (5 per year); plans and runs social events
- Personal Affairs – Notifies the Chapter about member accomplishments, needs, and deaths; coordinates Chapter support for members in need of help
- Surviving Spouse – Provides a support network for surviving spouses of deceased Chapter members
- Transition Assistance – Helps MOAA members moving to our Chapter's area or transitioning from active service

GET OTHER MEMBERS (RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS) TO VOLUNTEER WITH YOU AND SHARE THE DUTIES.

• GETTING OUR MESSAGE OUT TO MEMBERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Website – Designs and maintains the Chapter Website and associated Webmail accounts
- Social Media – Designs, maintains, and curates the Chapter Face Book page
- Public Affairs – Disseminates information to local media and MOAA about the Chapter and its events
- Newsletter – Produces and disseminates the Chapter newsletter to keep our members informed

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue →

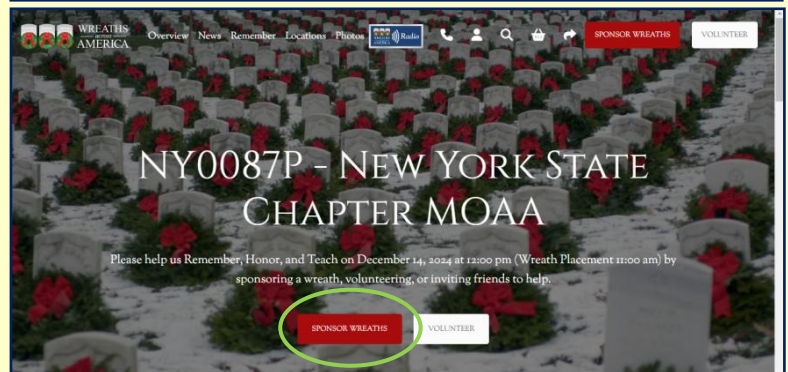
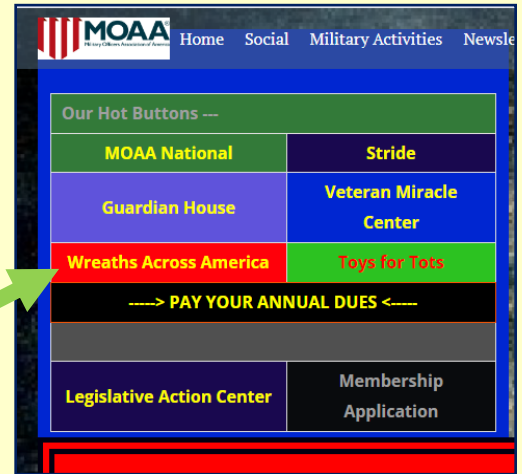
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™

Wreaths Across America™ (WAA) is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach** Americans of all ages about the sacrifices made by those who served in the Armed Forces of our nation. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

1. **SPONSOR WREATHS.** Please ask your families, friends, local organizations and businesses to sponsor wreaths *through our Chapter*. The cost to sponsor a single wreath is **\$17**. Donors may sponsor one or more wreaths by mailing a check along with the form on pg.13 of this newsletter to WAA at their Maine address, **OR, better yet, through the WAA website**. The *quickest and EASIEST* way to access the WAA website is through our own Chapter website clicking on the Wreaths Across America "Hot Button" in the upper left corner of the home page, as indicated at the right. This will open a new tab where you will "Click Here ...", to open our Chapter's WAA page with our group code **NY0087P**.

Wreaths sponsored through us are designated for placement at the *Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery*, located at 200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville, NY. For each wreath sponsored through our Chapter, WAA returns \$5 to us, *which we give back to the community by donating to other worthy local charities*.

So far this year, 7,033 wreaths have been sponsored for placement at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, which is 40.2% of the total needed. That means there are *10,467 more wreaths needed* to make sure every veteran is honored. **Our objective is to sponsor 250 or more wreaths and to get each member to get others to sponsor 5 to 10 wreaths!** So far, **14** wreaths have already been sponsored through our Chapter. It's not too early to solicit donors!



2. **LAY WREATHS ON VETERANS' GRAVES.** We encourage all of you to attend the ceremony and help place wreaths if you are able. This year's wreath laying event at Saratoga will be held on **Saturday, December 19**. Wreath placement will begin at **11:00 AM**, followed by a solemn memorial ceremony honoring the fallen and deceased veterans of each military service at the flagpole at **12:00 noon**.

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

Please make checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
Thank you for your sponsorship and for joining us
in our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach!

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NY0087P

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #		CHECK DATE		SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>	
GROUP ID(s)	NY0087P			EMAIL ADDRESS	
LOCATION ID(s)	NYGSNS			PHONE #	
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)				MAILING ADDRESS	

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

BOOK REVIEW – FIGHTING THE INVASION: The German Army at D-Day (80th Anniversary Edition)

Reviewed by: *Vincent Memole Jr., LTC, Infantry, USAR Retired*

Authors: Gunter Blumentritt, Wilhelm Keitel, Alfred Jodl, Walter Warlimont, Freiherr Von Luttwitz, et alia

Edited by: David C. Isby; 250 Pages

For many years now I have been looking for a history book on WW2 written from the point of view of the German Army. Sadly I have yet to come across an enjoyable English language history book on German Operations in WW2 most likely because.....well like they say; the winner gets to write the history. When I first found this book on line and ordered it I was very excited but after getting half way thought it I realized that even though the first half was very interesting, a large section of the book was reading the same thing over and over again. So, I put the book down for a very long period of time only finishing it while working the night shift at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

The book is primarily full of German answers based upon the questions asked by US Army Intelligence officers. A collection of Intelligence reports collected from June 1945 at the end of the War in Europe. We read interviews and statements to specific questions with high level German Army Commanders, their Chiefs of Staff or Operations Officers writing down their answers/ giving their opinion/ or recollection to specific questions in regards to the Allied invasion in Normandy, France.

One of the more interesting facts inserted by the editor was the fact that planners of Overlord had planned to use SIX beaches for the landings! BAND would be east of SWORD and used by British forces. BAND was withdrawn as a landing beach when just prior to the actually landings aerial reconnaissance discovered that the inland section behind the beach had been flooded by German forces in order to prevent glider landings or airborne forces from landing.

The book, broken down into four sections: Commands and Commanders, Organizing and Deploying Units, Invasion, Counter-Attack focuses on what these Commanders and their units did in the months prior to June 6th 1944 starting in the spring of 1943. The officers discuss how they prepared themselves and their units, what actions they took or didn't take, what obstacles they faced, how they did or did not overcome these obstacles, their thoughts or the thoughts and actions of their higher level commanders and even the actions or the in action of Hitler himself.

It becomes quickly obvious that Hitler wanted to defend everywhere. The old saying when you defend everywhere, you defend nowhere was repeated many times by senior German Army Commanders thought out the first and second parts of the book. One thing that was also repeated by the German Commanders or their Staff Officers was that they all knew by early spring 1944 that Germany was losing the war and that WHEN, NOT IF, the invasion occurred, German forces had to quickly defeat the invasion on the beaches. Failure to do so would allow the Allies to establish a beachhead, which would mean that Germany would be defeated within a year.

The reader quickly comes to the conclusion that one of the biggest issues for the German Army in Normandy was the complete chaos and ineffective command structure within of the German Army under two different Commanders, one a hero of the German people, Field Marshall Rommel, and the other; Von Rundstedt who was older and less well known but senior with a vastly different set of ideas

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than his counterpart. The final decisions were in the hands of *one man*: Hitler, who was hunkered down in Berchtesgaden and clearly had been under the care of a psychiatrist since 1942. He had not visited a front line unit in over two years, after five years of warfare, and had no understanding of the how three dimensional warfare had evolved.

As German LTG Max Pemsel, Chief of Staff of the German 7th Army, said: “By June 6th two parts of the Wehrmacht (Defense Forces) had already been defeated: the Kriegsmarine (Navy) and the Luftwaffe.” Within 11 months the once feared German Army would surrender its Capital, all but completely destroyed and surrounded by over a million Russian soldiers.

Overall this was an OK book with some surprising and interesting facts, but incredibly boring and repetitive in places.

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OTHER NEWS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER?** Please check out the Naval Support Facility Saratoga Springs Fleet & Family Readiness (FFR) Bimonthly Newsletter which highlights MWR programs, specials, classes, and upcoming events and activities: <https://www.navymwrsaratoga.com/info/newsletter>
- **SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SEPTEMBER ENCAMPMENT, SEP 19 & 20, 10AM to 4PM.** Revolutionary War soldiers return to Saratoga on the 249th anniversary of the 1777 Battles of Saratoga on the original Revolutionary War battlegrounds.
- **SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT GRANT COTTAGE,** Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, 1000 Mt. McGregor Road, Wilton, NY 12831

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- **Military Appreciation Day: September 19, 9:30 AM- 4:00 PM:** “Veterans and Active-Duty Military always receive *FREE* admission to Cottage Tours, but we are extending *ONE ADDITIONAL FREE GUEST* to each military/veteran on this day. We hope you will share this National Historic Landmark with a friend or family member and enjoy a day filled with history.”
- **Historical Encounters Tours: September 26 & 27, 9:30AM-4:00 PM:** Take this unique opportunity to experience Mount McGregor as it was in the Victorian Era! Meet characters from the past who will immerse you in their world as they bring to life the history of the mountain.
- **The Friends of Grant Cottage are [raising money](#) to cover the auction costs associated with the acquisition of the historic United States flag that draped the casket of Ulysses S. Grant at the cottage on Mt. McGregor in 1885.** “We are excited to bring this priceless and meaningful artifact to the historic site to be displayed for the public. Be a part of preserving this incredible piece of history”. To watch a brief local news feature about the flag returning to Saratoga County, please [click here](#).

November 16th 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 newsletter@cdnymoaa.org.



(Photo by Al Memole)