

The Quadrant

June 2014



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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2014 Calendar

6/21	Membership Mtg
7/21	Directors Mtg
9/13	Membership Mtg
10/20	Directors Mtg
12/5	Membership Mtg

Camaraderie Breakfasts are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month in 2014.

July's breakfast will be held on July 12 following the holiday weekend.

From the President

A dozen years ago, while on my final tour of duty in The Great State of Maine, a certain O-6 sauntered into my office with an MOAA membership application in hand. "Jack," he said, "I can't force anyone in my wardroom to join this group. But I can make your life hell if you don't."

At the time, I had no idea what MOAA even stood for—or why that Captain thought it was so worthwhile. I also could have never imagined that a local chapter would someday honor me with the presidency. But now, I do know a lot more about the 3rd largest VSO in the nation (and the most influential). And I also know why it attracts so many out-

standing serving and former officers to its ranks.

We are what keeps MOAA so formidable. Unity and camaraderie are our most important mission. Each of us has fond memories of what it was like to serve alongside so many outstanding officers. We rekindle those memories—and create new ones—each time we meet and dine with one another.

Next, we serve as "boots on the ground" for the legislative agenda set forth by National. We recognize that MOAA lobbyists have a sterling reputation for efficacy on Capitol

Hill. Our mission here is to keep our members informed and engaged with vital issues related to veterans' health and welfare. We want

"support the troops" to mean more than just a slogan.

Last, we remain committed to the future of the Officer Corps.

That is why we reward our local ROTC cadets with scholarships paid through our own annual appeal. We know that those officer candidates will one day shoulder the heavy burden of leadership. As we once did.

I thank you for your trust. And I fully commit myself to continuing the mission of this outstanding organization and chapter. -JFW



Educational Assistance Programs

Do you have a child applying to colleges? Have you gone into shock over the cost of higher education? MOAA can help! The Educational Foundation provides four different grant programs that are available tailored to children of serving or former

veterans. They include the American Patriot Scholarship, Dedicated Scholar Program, Senior Grants, and the General John Paul Ratay Educational Fund Grant. Not all require MOAA membership. The Foundation also provides interest-free loans for up to

\$5,500 per year of enrollment. These programs are funded by donations and legacies provided by MOAA members. To apply, visit www.moaa.org/loans or call 800-234-6622 to speak to an educational counselor.





Oposing Page, from lower left clockwise; Installation and swearing-in of new officers; Chapter members dining at March Membership Meeting; Past President R. Franklin Brown; the Indomitable Dick Doherty; ROTC Liberty Bell Winner Cadet Randall Roos.

This Page: Chapter Members cleaning up the Medal of Honor Grove; Awardees and Guests table, March Membership Meeting; formal presentation of Liberty Bell to Master Sergeant Kelly, Reading High School; JROTC Liberty Bell Winner Cadet Margaret Mejia.

June Membership Meeting



Earlier this Spring, about 20 chapter members met for an informal Beef and Beer Night at **McKenzie Brew House** and Restaurant in Devon, PA. The last time so many of our brethren sat at a long table, we had drill instructors yelling at us! The food turned out to be quite tasty, the beer outstand-

ing, the service admirable, and the company beyond comparison.

So...in a change from our normal venues, our indomitable program director suggested that we hold our June Mem-

bership Meeting there. The Meeting will take place on June 21st at 12 Noon. A set buffet will be offered, and we will be seated in their large and quite comfortable dining room.

Following lunch, the Chapter will be addressed by a former Valley Forge park ranger, who

will enlighten all of us on the history of our namesake.

McKenzie Brew House is located at 324 West Swedesford Road, Berwyn PA 19312.

From 202 South, take the 252 North/Valley Forge Exit on to East Swedesford Road. Turn left on to Valley Forge Road (252), then right on to West Swedesford Road. Contact number is 610-407-4300.

Members planning to attend are kindly asked to use the signup form on the back of this newsletter and RSVP no later than June 18th.

“We know that those officer candidates will one day shoulder the heavy burden of leadership. As we once did.” -JFW

Liberty Bell Scholarship Winners

At the March Membership Meeting, the Chapter had the privilege of awarding the Liberty Bell and a check for \$1500 to **Cadet Randall Roos** of Widener University Army ROTC. Cadet Roos hails from Washington D.C. and is the son of Captain Andrew Roos, Medical Corps, US Navy. He majors in Political Science at Villanova University with a 3.7

GPA, and a concentration in National Security Studies. Along with a prestigious internship at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Cadet Roos has also taught basic English to Chinese students as part of the NGO *Cross Cultural Solutions*. Following his commissioning, Cadet Roos will branch as an Army Infantry Officer.

At the same luncheon, former

Chapter President Frank Brown was pleased to honor **Cadet Margaret Mejia** of Reading High School with the JROTC Liberty Bell and a scholarship worth \$1000. Cadet Mejia just relinquished the position of Battalion Commander of Reading's Marine Corps unit. Following graduation, she will attend Alvernia University in the Fall of 2014.

Preserving the Medal of Honor Grove

Nestled in the wooded hills above the Schuylkill River, the **Medal of Honor Grove** offers something for everyone. Stroll the 4 mile roadway and view all 52 acres or sit on a bench at the 29th Infantry Division Pavilion and reflect on the beauty and peace of this very special place. The Grove is a living memorial and a perfect classroom for learning the true meaning of sacrifice.

Visitors can research a recipient of their choice from among the many memorialized. You will learn the true mean of the word “hero.” You will also understand the mission of the Friends of the MOH Grove and their commitment to maintaining and improving this memorial for posterity.

The Grove is open to the public 7 days a week from dawn till dusk. Volunteers are always

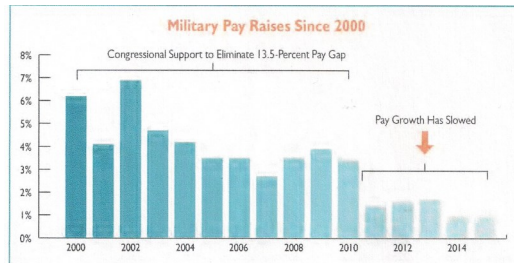


welcome, as are students seeking an opportunity for community involvement. To learn more the website at <http://www.friendsmohgrove.org> or email contact@friendmohgrove.org

Benefits: MOAA's efforts to sustain military benefits and reject disproportionate TRI-CARE fees are having some success. The current House version of the FY 2015 defense authorization bill that was passed on May 22 rejected administration proposals to cap military pay, consolidate TRI-CARE options, increase health care fees, increase out-of-pocket housing costs for currently serving families, and significantly reduce savings at the commissary. On the same day, however, the Senate Armed Services Committee, while rejecting cuts to commissaries and a consolidation of TRICARE, included an active duty pay cap below private sector pay growth for the second consecutive year, increased out-of-pocket housing costs for military families, and increased pharmacy co-pays for prescriptions filled outside of military treatment facilities. The authorization bill will come up for consideration by the full Senate later in the summer.

Individual Chapter members are encouraged to let our senators know of your support for MOAA's position.

To counter claims by the Administration and the Military Services that military personnel pay and benefits are hurting the service's ability to accomplish their mission, MOAA has pre-



pared several articles countering these claims. You can read these articles by going to www.moaa.org and typing "personnel costs" in the search window in the upper right hand corner of the home page.

Weekly Legislative Update: If you are not already receiving MOAA's weekly Legislative update, strongly recommend that you sign up for it by going to www.moaa.org and clicking

on "newsletter" in the upper right hand corner of the home page

Pay Day Lending: (From the State Council of Chapters President) Another Pay Day lending bill will be introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate in June. The sponsorship letter was sent to the senators but the actual bill has not been introduced yet for review. They are going for 90 day loans this time and possibly lower interest rates but the fees may make up the difference. We will keep you on the progress of this bill which can adversely impact veterans.

Veterans Designation on PA Driver's License:

According to State Senator John Rafferty, veterans will be able to have the word "Veteran" printed on their PA driver's license beginning in June 2014. Veterans can ask to have this added when they renew their regular license. No extra cost is involved.

"Individual chapter members are encouraged to let our senators know of your support for MOAA's position."

Honor Flight

Our very own **Lew Newmann** has brought the Board's attention to Honor Flight, a network that allows veterans to fly to Washington, D.C to visit and to reflect on their respective war memorials. Priority is given to the oldest veterans, particularly those who served in World War II. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, about 640 veterans from that epic conflict die every day. The time to honor their sacrifice is rapidly running out.

Honor Flight began as a modest initiative by a retired Air

Force physician. It expanded rapidly in 2008 when Southwest Airlines began donating thousands of free tickets. Through the end of 2012, over 98,000 veterans were transported to see their memorials.

Today, through a national network, Honor Flight guardians coordinates the travel and accommodations of all qualifying veterans. To donate to honor flight or to learn more about becoming a volunteer, visit www.honorflight.org.



"The time to honor their sacrifice is rapidly running out."



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

With more than 380,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community.

Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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MOAA/486628661367355](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Forge-Chapter-of-MOAA/486628661367355)

June Membership Meeting Reservation Form

RESERVATION FORM

McKenzie Brew House and Restaurant 610-687-2110

SATURDAY, June 21, 2014

Reception -- 12:00 NOON. --- Lunch -- 12:45 p.m.

Buffet Dining

Member name: _____

Spouse name: _____

Guest(s) names: _____

Total Reservations

\$ 23/pp \$ _____

ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Dues (2014 Dues now due \$15) \$ _____

Chapter operations \$ _____

Check total \$ _____

Please return this form and make checks payable to:

Valley Forge Chapter, MOAA

P.O. Box 254

Valley Forge, PA 19481

Contacts: Jack Whalen 610-420-0633

Josi Barnes 610-648-0951

Important : Submit reservations by Weds, June 18th.

Cancellations must be received by June 20th.

Menu

Assortment of Salads

Petite Beef Sandwiches

Chicken Marsala

Fresh Tilapia

Humus Platter

Assortment of Deserts