

# The Quadrant

September 2014



## Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

### In this Issue...

- Greetings from President Whalen
- Phoenixville HS JROTC
- Sept Membership Mtg
- Army Heritage Center
- Guest speakers line-up
- Army Heritage Center
- Will Conley's Legislative Corner
- News from the Chapter
- Chapter Pictorial

### 2014 Calendar

- |       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| 9/20  | Membership Mtg |
| 10/14 | Officers Call  |
| 10/20 | Directors Mtg  |
| 12/5  | Membership Mtg |

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

### From the President

I trust that all our chapter members had a wonderful and enjoyable summer. Besides miscellaneous ball games, beer festivals and graduation parties... I had the opportunity back in July to join with the PA Council in welcoming the state's newest MOAA Chapter. This will be located in bucolic State College and will begin with a healthy roster of about 50 members. We owe this new chapter in large measure to the efforts of the Council's former president, The State College Chapter will draw membership from a surprising number of military retirees in the area, many of whom once attended the ROTC programs at Penn

State. We join the other PA chapters in welcoming this exciting new affiliate.

As for our own chapter, our exceptional board of directors remains dedicated to the 3 R's—Recruitment, Revitalization, an Recommitment. We have held two very constructive meetings this year devoted to keeping Valley Forge growing. If any of our rank and file have further suggestions for helping this effort, kindly get in touch with us at your earliest convenience. This is truly an all-hands initiative.

Finally, my summer escapades were a welcome distraction from the troubling news that

emanated from a rather troubling world. Between Russians behaving poorly, ISIS acting savagely, and Chinese pilots flying precariously, the world has entered the most dangerous period since the end of the Cold War. Those of us at VFC are no strangers to global crises. But I find myself taking these recent crises very seriously. For all our members who have sons or daughters in the military, I pray for their safety and their steadfastness as they serve higher ideals in a very complex and dangerous world. And I sincerely hope that our Nation recognizes just how much is hanging on their patriotism and their devotion. - JFW

### Phoenixville HS debuts new JROTC unit

Great news for VFC! The Phoenixville Area School District voted unanimously this summer to begin an Air Force ROTC unit at their high school. This was in large measure thanks to the efforts of the District's Superintendent Alan Fegley, who is a big

proponent of military education in schools. Fegley had worked two years to get the program instated but had been thwarted by the 2013-2014 Sequestration.

According to the Pottstown *Mercury*, Fegley stated that "This is an outstanding lead-

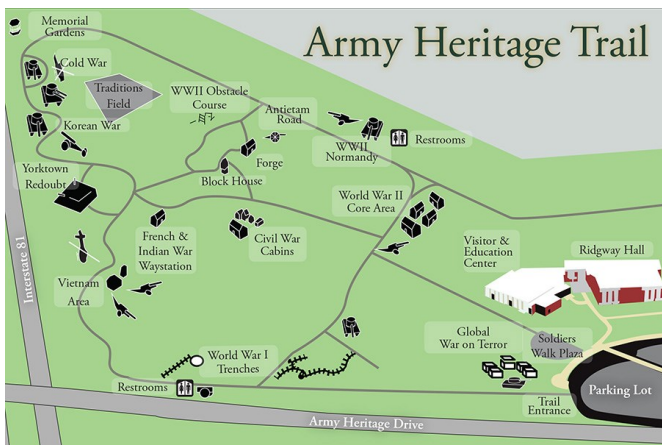
ership program. I believe it will benefit a group of students that need additional structure."

The new unit will be included in the Chapter's Liberty Bell Scholarship Program and the MOAA Medal Presentation. Volunteers welcome!









Opposing Page: Pictures from the June Membership Meeting, McKenzies Brew House in Devon POA. The guest presenter was Anthony Melita, former Valley Forge park ranger and an expert on the War of Independence

This Page: Army Heritage Trail Map, Carlisle, PA; Honor Flight Philadelphia; Honor Flight Participant; MOAA Medal Recipient Midshipman Wallace from Villanova University; Camaraderie Breakfast Summer 2014 .



## September Membership Meeting at PCC

The Chapter will once again convene for our quarterly Membership Meeting on September 20, 2014 at **Phoenixville Country Club** in Phoenixville, PA. A reception will be held at noon followed by lunch at a quarter to one. Following lunch, we will listen to the trials and tribulations of **Daravann Yi**, who escaped Cambodia from the Khmer Rouge and who later became an American citizen (see below). Details for this event and a signup sheet are provided on the back cover. Kindly RSVP by September 17th.,



Phoenixville Country Club is located at 355 Country Club Road in Phoenixville, PA. From Route 202 South, exit at West Swedesford Road and head towards Great Valley. Make a right on to Valley Hill Road and

proceed to Country Club Road. Make a right and drive all the way into the parking lot.

From 202 North, take the exit for 401 West and then make a right on to Phoenixville Pike. Turn right on to Morehall Road and then an immediate left on to Yellow Springs Road. Follow Yellow Springs to Diamond Rock Road. Continue to Country Club Road.

Special thanks go out to our indomitable **Josi Barnes** for all the efforts she puts in to making our membership meetings run so smoothly. Thanks, Josi.

## Great speakers entertain Chapter meetings

*“Everyone was surprised to learn that it wasn’t really snowy that first long winter in Valley Forge.”*

At a time when computer projectors and PowerPoint presentations seem to dominate all sorts of gatherings, it is heartening to listen to a speaker who can still do it off the cuff. **Anthony Melita** is just that kind of speaker. At our June Membership Meeting, he delivered an engaging and enlightening presentation about Valley Forge’s role in the Revo-

lutionary War—using a musket as his only prop. He also impressed the Chapter with many surprising anecdotes about America’s first war. Everyone was surprised to learn that it wasn’t really snowy that first long winter in VG! Let’s all hope it stays that way this coming winter...

Lew Neuman has lined up an equally engaging speaker for

this month’s luncheon in Phoenixville. **Daravann Yi** will speak of his experience as a refugee and a survivor of the infamous “Killing Fields” of Cambodia under the reign of the dictator Pol Pot. His is an inspirational story of an immigrant who overcame terrible odds to escape tyranny and to make a new life on America’s shores. We can’t wait!

## News from around the Chapter

Our best wishes go out to **Don Stout** and his family as Don continues his treatment plan. For years, Don has been our Scholarship Chair and has been active in selecting winners for our Liberty Bell program. We all hope and pray for his recovery.

The Chapter is very pleased to welcome **Robert Keane**, **Alfred Santoro**, and **Barbara Roumaya** to our fold.

Thanks as always to **John Murphy** and our entire membership committee for their wonderful efforts in bringing in new members.

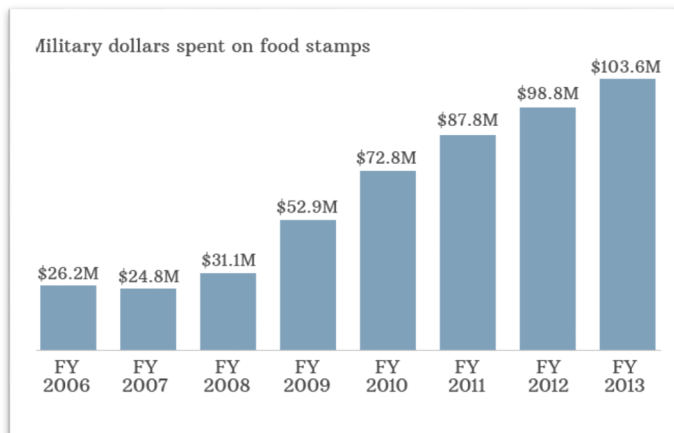
At our monthly breakfast in July, members were regaled by **C.T. Alexander** as he told of his travels to the iconic beaches of Normandy. As part of a tour group, C.T. attended the ceremony commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

Never has the word “solemn” been used more appropriately.

Activities Chair **Dick Doherty** promises wonderful entertainment and a few surprises this Christmas as part of our December Holiday Gala. He is also convening an Officers Call on Tuesday, October 14th at 1800. The venue is **McKenzie’s Brew House** in Devon, PA. Call 610-403-4700 for information and directions.

**Benefits:** Not much change to report since our last newsletter. Recapping: The House rejected all the proposed cuts by the administration in the FY 2015 Defense Authorization Bill while the Senate 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. MOAA is working with members of the Senate to strike down the proposed cuts. Members are encouraged to communicate their opposition to these cuts to their legislators.

**Food Assistance:** While the debate over pay and benefits goes on, the charitable organization **Feeding America** released the following shocker:



“620,000 households that seek food assistance from the Feeding America network agency each year include at least one member who is currently serving in the US Military. This represents 1 in 4 households with a member currently serving in the US Military receiving food assistance.”

This report was discussed on recent PBS and NBC news programs. In addition, PBS ran a segment on Fort Hood sol-

diers and family members frequenting a food bank in nearby Killeen, Texas.

According to MOAA, the Pentagon has questioned the validity of the Feeding America report. Yet a CNN report claims that in 2013, \$103.6 million worth of food stamps were redeemed at military commissaries.

**COLA:** The CPI dipped slightly in July, the first drop in 6 months.

*“A CNN report claims that in 2013, \$103.6 million worth of food stamps were redeemed at military commissaries.”*

## Retiree Appreciation Day At Army Heritage Center

The Army Heritage and Education Center comprises a unique public museum, archives, and educational campus dedicated to honoring Soldiers and their families; preserving their memories; and educating future generations about their service and sacrifice. Located in Carlisle, PA the Center has evolved from a research-focused historical archive into an impressive 56-acre educational complex.

On Saturday, October 11th the USAHEC will host a Retiree Appreciation Day to enable guests to visit the Center and

to immerse themselves in Army history. Free of charge, retirees can explore the Soldier Experience Gallery or take



a stroll along the Army Heritage Trail.

In addition, the Foundation that supports USAHEC is inaugurat-

ing a Soldiers Walk Commemorative Brick and Paver Program. With a purchase of a commemorative brick and paver, donors will be honoring veterans while assisting the Foundation to promote and develop the work of the Center. Engraved pavers are available in 2' by 2' and can be purchased for \$1000. Bricks range in price from \$100 to \$150 with 3 lines of engraving and a logo. To find out more about the Center and the Soldiers walk, call 717-258-1102 or visit their website at [armyheritage.org](http://armyheritage.org).

*“The Center has evolved from an historical archive into an impressive 56-acre educational complex.”*





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

Military Officers Association of  
America  
Valley Forge Chapter  
P.O. Box 254  
Valley Forge, PA 19481

Phone: 610-420-0633

President

Jack Whalen

whalenjohnf@yahoo.com

Secretary

Bill McManis

610-696-4919

Facebook:

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

## September Membership Meeting Reservation Form

### RESERVATION FORM

Phoenixville Country Club 610-933-3727

**SATURDAY, September 20, 2014**

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

Buffet Dining

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Reservations

\$ 24/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, Sept 17th.**

**Cancellations must be received by Sep 19th.**

### Menu

**Mixed Spring Greens**

**Chicken Francaise**

**Baked Flounder Filet**

**Fresh Vegetables and Chef's Choice Starch**

**Seasonal Fresh Fruit Cup**

**Coffee and Tea Service**