

The Quadrant

November 2014



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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- MOH Grove Contributions
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2014 Calendar

- | | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 11/1 | Camaraderie Bkfst |
| 11/1 | Don Stout Memorial |
| 12/6 | Membership Mtg |
| 12/13 | Camaraderie Bkfst |

Camaraderie Breakfasts are held at the Lion's Share Diner in Exton, PA. **Please note the change to December's breakfast date.**

From the President

Last month, our Chapter sadly said goodbye to two of our best and brightest—**Don Stout and George Henson**. To say that these cherished colleagues will be missed is a vast understatement. We are all saddened and greatly diminished by their loss.

For years, [Don Stout](#) served as Chair of our Liberty Bell Scholarship Committee and was active in that capacity until he was diagnosed with cancer last spring. I had the great personal privilege of working alongside Don and interviewing a number of candidates with him. One memorable session was at the University of Pennsylvania in

2012. The ROTC Commanding Officer there had nominated a young Marine Corps staff sergeant who had recently returned from combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following the interview, Don looked at me thoughtfully and said, "You have no idea the hell that young boy has seen." It was a poignant reminder that Don had also been a Marine officer who completed a combat tour in Vietnam.

[George Henson](#) ranks among the most respected and beloved presidents this Chapter has ever had. I will remember him best for his warm personality and his witty sense of humor. I owe him a personal

debt of gratitude for the advice he lent as my son matriculated into the Naval Academy. Annapolis played a huge role in George's life. Several years ago, on the eve of the Army-Navy game, I went over to his house to pick up the checks for our scholarship winners. George was busy making preparations with friends for the pregame tailgate. With a youthful gleam in his eye, he said, "This day never gets old. I feel like an 18 year old plebe every time I go."

Godspeed to you, Don and George. You were officers, gentlemen, and patriots.
- JFW

Medal of Honor Grove Contributions top \$650

The Valley Forge Chapter was left an important legacy by the late Don Stout. Last year, our dearly departed colleague spearheaded a drive to purchase memorial plaques at the **Medal of Honor Grove** in Phoenixville, PA. By the time all was said and done, Chapter members contributed \$650 to buy 26

plaques at this unique war memorial. Past President Frank Brown is to be commended for picking this initiative up after Don's untimely death.

[Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove](#) is a nonprofit organization that maintains the grounds and organizes the installment of memorials.

The Valley Forge Chapter is one of several veterans and volunteer groups in the Delaware Valley that has lent a helping hand. Chapter members will be at the Grove on November 15, 2014 to personally hand over our contribution. For more information, please call **Frank Brown** at 610-687-6448.

December Holiday Bash at Glenhardie CC !

Chorale aficionados and wine lovers take note! The Chapter will hold its annual December Membership Meeting at **Glenhardie Country Club** on Saturday, December 6th. Diners will be regaled with a selection of holiday musical classics by the talented **Phantoms** from [Phoenixville High School](#). This choral group was booked by our own Lew Neuman and is dedicated to the art of a capella singing.

Following dinner, our Chapter will host its first-ever **wine auction**. A number of bottles

have been donated by our notoriously vineyard-savvy board of directors. All proceeds from the auction will go



The "Phantoms"

to the Chapter's general fund. Anyone interested in donating bottles for this event should contact our Events Chair **Dick Doherty** at 610-323-3888 or

email him at cosdoherty@verizon.net.

A signup sheet for dinner is enclosed on the back of this newsletter.

Directions: Driving South on Route 202 from King of Prussia, exit at Swedesford Road. Turn left at the light and continue straight until you reach the third stoplight. Make a right on to Old Eagle School Road and continue down the hill and straight into the parking lot. [The Clubhouse](#) is down on the right from the lot.

Some interesting facts about Veterans Day

"Americans suffered the heaviest casualties on the war's final day."

- The day originally commemorated the Armistice that ended the First World War
- That war officially ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month
- Of all the warring powers, Americans suffered the heaviest casualties on the war's final day
- An unknown soldier of the

- First World War was laid to rest in a tomb in Arlington on November 11, 1921 in the tomb that bears his name
- Veterans Day was originally conceived by a World War I vet named Raymond Weeks
- Weeks was awarded the Presidential Citizenship Medal from Ronald Reagan in 1982
- There are approximately 24

- million American veterans alive today
- 35% of living veterans served their country during the Vietnam War
- 8.6% of veterans are women
- Over the course of a lifetime, veterans will out-earn those who do not serve
- Veterans Day is not to be spelled with an apostrophe!

News from around the Chapter

True to our chapter until the very end, **Don Stout** asked in [his obituary](#) that donations be made to the Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers. What an outstanding heart that man had!

For so many years, our own **John C. T. Alexander** was known as the "Voice of Franklin Field." The University of Pennsylvania recently honored him with an [Award of Merit](#),

given to recognize outstanding service to the University community by alumni. The announcer's booth has never been the same without you, C.T.

Frank Audino wants everyone to know that Pennsylvania has [six veterans' homes](#) located in Erie, Pittsburgh, Holidaysburg, Spring City, Philadelphia and Scranton. There are 1,554 authorized beds

providing care in Nursing, Dementia, Personal Care and Domiciliary. More information in our February newsletter.

Congratulations to **Mark Bergamo** on founding his new business venture [Spiral Wing Aviation](#) at Chester County Airport. Mark is a veteran Army helicopter pilot who is qualified to fly 15 rotary wing aircraft. We wish him the best of luck in the new endeavor.

MOAA Lobbyist Rating

[The Hill](#), the largest circulation newspaper on Capitol Hill, has once again listed MOAA among the top lobbying organizations in the Capitol. It is good to know that the organization we belong to and support is recognized for being the best at its primary role.

Benefits

Sometime after the November elections, the 2015 Defense Authorization Bill will be brought to the Senate floor for debate. Proposed cuts to military benefits that had been made by the Administration had been totally rejected by the House. But the Senate Armed Services Committee supported TRICARE pharmacy copayment increases, reductions to the basic allowance for housing, and a cap on the annual pay raise of 1%. Amendments to eliminate these reductions have been introduced. The President has

announced that he will use his authority under law to cap the pay raise at 1%. Stay tuned for the final outcome.

COLA

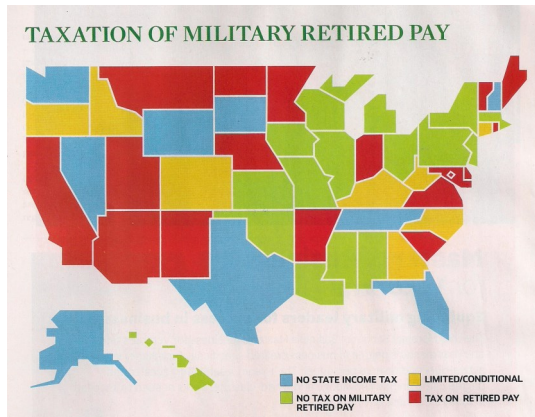
The cost of living allowance (COLA) for 2015 covering military retirement pay, SBP

MOAA's annual report that shows the position of senators and representatives on a number of key issues important to MOAA members. The November issue also features the State Report Card for military families, veterans, and retirees. Interesting and informative

reading.

The Department of Defense State Liaison Office

The Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) works to educate State Policymakers about the challenges and issues faced by service members and their families. Each year it puts out a list of key quality of life issues that will be



annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits will be 1.7% effective December 1. The increase will appear in December 31st paychecks.

State Report Card

[The October issue](#) of the **Military Officer** contains

addressed on the state level the following year. MOAA works with the DSLO in this effort. If you are interested in the top 10 issues and where each state stands on these issues, go to [usa4families.org](#)".

"The President has announced that he will use his authority under law to cap the pay raise at 1%."

2015 Liberty Bell Competition Begins

Under a new format began last year, the Chapter will once again host the **Annual Liberty Bell Scholarship Competition**. Begun in 1975, the Competition pits the finest cadets from our supported high school and collegiate ROTC programs. After initial screening and interviews, finalists will be selected from the 5 schools and 4 colleges supported by our chapter. The winner of both the secondary and collegiate competitions will be presented their awards at our March Membership Meeting.

"It was an honor to be recog-



nized by the Military Officers Association" notes 1st Lieuten-

ant **Grazia Constanza** USAF, graduate of St. Joseph's University and winner of 2011 Collegiate Liberty Bell. "But it was even a greater honor to address such a distinguished body of former officers. It is a memory I will cherish for the rest of my career."

The Liberty Bell begins with an annual appeal for donations. The Chapter also accepts donations from members throughout the year. Members attending the December luncheon can use the form on the back of this newsletter.

"It was even a greater honor to address such a distinguished body of former officers."



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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December 6th Membership Meeting Reservation Form

RESERVATION FORM

Glenhardie Country Club 610-687-2110

SATURDAY, December 6, 2014

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

Buffet Dining

Main Course Choice: Chicken{c} or Salmon{s}

Member name: _____ c s

Spouse name: _____ c s

Guest(s) names: _____ c s

Total Reservations

\$ 32.40/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: Josi Barnes 610-648-0951 Lew Neumann 610-640-0878

Important : Submit reservations by Weds, December 3rd. Cancellations must be received by Dec 4th.

Menu

Rolls and Butter

Chicken Marsala

Honey Baked Salmon

Fresh Vegetables and Chef's Choice Starch

Chocolate Mousse

Coffee and Tea Service