



# THE EAGLE



## THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

[www.pa-coc.org](http://www.pa-coc.org)

*STILL SERVING*



### NEWS AND VIEWS July 2015

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and the heat. However is it pretty cool at the state capitol since the governor vetoed the entire state budget after the legislature passed a balanced budget without increasing taxes. No movement on negotiations to date but the governor is touring the state to drum up support for his plan.

The quarterly July 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in Carlisle was well attended with ten chapters and sixteen members present including one on the conference call. We welcomed COL Barry Wright USA Ret., Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. MOAA's schedules visits to all chapters and councils every three years. We also welcomed Norm Lathbury and Frank Gatto from the Central PA Chapter in State College plus John Piotrowski and wife

Carol from the Erie area working to revitalize the Oliver Hazard Perry Chapter. They hope to have an organizing meeting of the members interested in restarting the chapter in the near future.

August brings the congressional recess and your US congressmen will be back in the local district. There are issues remaining that must be negotiated on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for pay and benefits when congress returns and we have the opportunity to contact them with our views. Let's take advantage of it.

Respectfully,

Bob Gray

Visit the Council web site:  
[www.pa-coc.org](http://www.pa-coc.org) .

## COUNCIL 2015 MEETING DATES

Council meetings will be held at the Carlisle Country Club in Carlisle, near Carlisle Barracks, south of Harrisburg off I-81 on Saturdays at 11:00 AM. Legislative meetings will start at 10:00 AM for spring through fall meetings.

**January 17, April 25, July 25, and October 24.**

All MOAA members are welcome to attend any Council meeting.

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## PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

**Bob Gray, Legislative Chairman**

### Payday Lending

There has been no movement on a new payday lending bill being introduced at the capitol but we are still observant and listening for intelligence to be prepared for the next sneak attack. The Coalition showed up on the legislator's door step only a few days after the co-sponsorship memo was released with a one page fact sheet opposing payday lending. MOAA PA Council of Chapters presented its own one page release on the second day of the attack on payday lending, delivering it to every senate office. The team was able to talk to a few senator's in the hallways and A bill could be introduced in the fall session as it was two years ago. The preemptive strike by the PA Stop Payday Loans in PA coalition, of which MOAA is a partner, let the payday lenders know that we are watching. In June a co-sponsorship memo was released by Senator Yudichack describing proposed legislation that looked like another attempt to bring payday lending to the halls of the capitol. The co-sponsorship memorandum was spotted by a leader of the Stop Payday Lending in PA Coalition alerted all of its members, including MOAA.

### Bills of Interest

#### **HB 601 Veterans Lottery Ticket**

Rep Barrar introduced his bill for the veteran lottery ticket. HB 601 for Veterans Day Care

funding. There is opposition from the Committee on Aging and Adult services because it would cut into lottery money for existing programs for the elderly. The bill was assigned to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee.

**Status:** This bill is not moving. A joint committee hearing is still in the works with the budget taking priority now. PA veterans age 65 and older are now 68 percent of the state's 900,000 veterans.

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2015&slnd=0&body=h&type=b&bn=601>

**HB 131** An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependants and civilian personnel assigned to a active duty station in Pennsylvania. (1 July 2015 VA law requires states to only charge In-state tuition rates to veterans attending state sponsored schools. Rep. Steven Barrar. Passed the House Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Status: The bill was passed by the Senate on June 25<sup>th</sup> and signed by the Governor on June 29<sup>th</sup>, now Act 11.

**HB 157** Requires state agencies to allow returning veterans that held a state issued license to be able to renew that license as though they has not been away. It also requires state agencies to look at military training and experience to meet license requirements. Rep. Doyle Heffley. Passed the House Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and was in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. The bill was passed in the Senate June 30<sup>th</sup> and sent to the governor. **Status:** Signed by the governor July 10th, now Act 23.

**SB 42** Senator Lisa Baker - Amends the Transportation statue for issuing a driver's license to a veteran to include a penalty for making a false statement they are a veteran on the driver's license application. 18 Consolidated Statues **Section 4902 Perjury provisions -- applicable Section 4902(b) Statements "under penalty".--A person commits a misdemeanor of the third degree if he makes a written false statement which he**

does not believe to be true, on or pursuant to a form bearing notice, authorized by law, to the effect that false statements made therein are punishable. **4902 (d) Penalty.**--In addition to any other penalty that may be imposed, a person convicted under this section shall be sentenced to pay a fine of at least \$1,000.

**Status:** Signed by the governor on July 10<sup>th</sup>, now Act 32. Takes effect in 60 days, on September 7th.

**SB 23** Senator Greenleaf Provides special license plate for veterans that served in all three wars WWII, Korea & Vietnam. The bill was assigned to the Transportation Committee Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Status:** The bill is still in committee.

**SB 284** Senator Baker - A bill amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for a special **motorcycle plate for veterans** and also an **Honoring Our Veterans motorcycle plate** for anyone applying. **Status:** Signed by the governor July 8<sup>th</sup>, now Act 17. Takes effect in 90 days, on October 8th.

**SB 285** Senator Baker also introduced this bill to direct the fee from the motorcycle license plate to go to the Veterans Trust Fund to assist other veterans. **Status:** Signed by the Governor July 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Federal Bills of Interest

Several important veterans' bills have been introduced in the 114th Congress. Click on the bill numbers to send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message in support. Updated on July 30.

**H.R. 333 and S. 271: Full concurrent receipt.** MOAA's ultimate concurrent receipt bills. These bills authorize full concurrent receipt for retirees with a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent, including Chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

**Status:** Both bills are still in committee.

**H.R. 303: Concurrent receipt.** This bill authorizes full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees with regular or Guard/Reserve retirements, regardless of disability rating. **Status:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, Armed Services Subcommittee hearing held.

**H.R. 969 and S. 681: Blue water Navy veterans.** This bill authorizes potential veterans' benefits to Navy veterans who served onboard ships in the territorial waters of Vietnam, facing possible exposure to Agent Orange. HR 969 March 6 referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Status: No movement. S. 681 Committee on Veterans Affairs hearing held May 13th. Status: No movement.

**H.R. 216: Develop a long-term veteran's strategy.** This bill requires the Secretary of the VA to establish a Chief Strategy Office to advise the Secretary on long-range VA planning. Referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs on March 25th. Status: (no movement)

**S. 172: Access to appropriate immunizations.** This bill establishes quality measures and metrics to ensure veterans receive immunizations at appropriate times as set forth by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Veterans Affairs committee hearing held June 3rd. Status: No movement.

**S. 210: Military spouse job continuity.** This bill provides a \$500 tax credit to military spouses who must pursue new licensing or certification in a different state due to their servicemember's military ordered relocation. January 21<sup>st</sup> referred to

Senate Finance Committee Status: No movement.

- See more at:

[http://www.moaa.org/Main\\_Menu/Take\\_Action/Top\\_Issues/Retired\\_Still\\_Working/Benefits/Bills\\_of\\_Interest.html#sthash.vzQrTBXV.dpuf](http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Retired_Still_Working/Benefits/Bills_of_Interest.html#sthash.vzQrTBXV.dpuf)

## **H.R.1384 Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act**

Introduced in House (03/16/2015) Honors as a veteran any person who is entitled to retired pay for nonregular (reserve) service or who, but for age, would be so entitled. It provides that such person shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of such recognition. March 16<sup>th</sup> assigned to House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. Status: Forwarded to full Veterans Affairs Committee on 7/09/2015.

Click on the link:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/2013/02/07/reserve-retirees-may-soon-get-veteran-status.html>

## **MOAA President Presents New Chapter Charter**

State College, PA June 2015 Bob Gray

Pennsylvania's newest chapter, the Central PA Chapter in State College, received its charter from VADM Norb Ryan Jr. at a picnic meeting in June. The chapter submitted its request for a charter in September 2014 and it was approved by the MOAA Board of Directors in October. VADM Ryan has always made it a point to present the charter to new chapters and he was glad to make it back to Pennsylvania again to make the presentation.



**VADM Ryan presents the Central PA Chapter Charter to chapter president Vin Tedesco.**



**VADM Ryan visits with chapter members**



**There was a good turnout for the Charter presentation and the BBQ was great.**

## **Affordable Care Act Requires Verification of Essential Coverage**

DFAS Retiree Newsletter July 2015

### **IRS Form 1095-B (for military retirees and annuitants):**

This form provides information you will need to report on your income tax return that you, your spouse and individuals you claim as dependents had qualifying health coverage (referred to as "minimum essential coverage") for some or all months during the year. Individuals who do not have minimum essential coverage and do not qualify for an exemption may be liable for the individual shared responsibility payment.

**Military Retirees, Annuitants and Former Spouses -**

The July 2015 Retiree Newsletter is ready for your review. It contains important information about reporting for the Affordable Care Act, auditing your account, updating your email



addresses, and protecting your account from fraud.

To access the newsletter, please click on the link below. You will find a list of topics for the newsletter, and you will also have easy access to previous newsletters after you click the link. The links to the newsletter were consolidated into one link for your convenience.

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html>

If you would like to contact us, please visit AskDFAS (<https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askRA.jsp>).

## MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs Visits PA Council of Chapters

Carlisle, PA July 25<sup>th</sup> by Bob Gray

MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, COL Barry Wright USA Ret. attended the July 25<sup>th</sup> council meeting as part of MOAA national's schedule to visit all councils and chapters in the country once every three years.



Barry spoke to the chapter leaders attending to explaining his main directive is to build new chapters and satellites while retaining the members in existing chapters. The reason is simple, the backbone of MOAA's great legislative efforts in Washington derive from its local chapters. That great access to congress is because chapter members from their district have contacted them and let them know they are concerned about military and veterans issues.

While sending MOAA Take Action email messages is one way of contacting your congressmen, one easy way to contact them or their staff is at their local district office. You may walk in, schedule an appointment or call the local office. They do keep a log of what issues are brought to the local office and in Washington. They compare the number of contacts on an issue at both locations to determine if it is an important issue.



Barry stressed the importance of recruiting new members and especially retaining members in the chapters. He reminded chapters to report new members to the Council and Chapter Affairs office in order to get credit for the Chapter recruiting incentives. There is an electronic form on the chapter recruiting page that you can enter the information of up to five members. Then you just sent it electronically. Barry reminded everyone to looking at starting a new chapter or satellites of your existing chapters. There may be a group interested in meeting but do not want to travel to your meetings or start a new chapter. They can meet as a satellite of your chapter and would pay dues to your chapter. The Policy and Procedure Guide, which is on the MOAA web site, contains information on satellite chapters.

Barry Wright also presented awards to the PA Council for the Eagle newsletter winning for the Best Legislative Coverage in a Council print newsletter and first runner up again for a Council print newsletter in the Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards.

Special recognition was given to the Lancaster Chapter recognizing its 40 years of service to MOAA and the community.



Lancaster Chapter President Dennis Benchoff accepts the chapter recognition award.

## Penn State-West Point Game Seats for Service Members

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA July 22, 2015

Active duty, Guard and Reserve military, veterans, and fallen and Gold Star families are now able to apply online for free donated tickets to the Penn State-West Point game on Saturday, Oct. 3 as part of the Seats for Service members program.

In its fourth year, the program honors the commitment and sacrifices of veterans, families and loved ones by providing tickets at no cost to active and retired Service members, as well as a complimentary pregame tailgate at Bryce Jordan Center. Penn State supporters, alumni, and business donations have graciously made this possible.

### Ticket Applications Now Being Accepted

Military members and veterans, their families and loved ones can visit this site to complete the application <http://bit.ly/PSUSeatsforService> to sign up for free tickets on a first-come, first-served basis to the Oct. 3 game. All active duty, Guard and Reserve military, veterans, and fallen and Gold Star families are eligible to redeem one complimentary ticket

for themselves and three additional complimentary seats for immediate family members. Additionally, all qualifying individuals are eligible to purchase up to five additional tickets for a discounted rate of just \$35 per person. All sign-ups are simply requests until confirmed via email by Penn State Athletics.

More than 5,000 Seats for Service members have been purchased by members of the community and businesses to date. Supporters can still purchase Seats for Service members by visiting, <http://bit.ly/S4STickets> or calling 1-800-NITTANY, Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets for the Seats for Service members program are \$35. Penn State hosted 5,500 military members for the Temple game last season.

For more information about the Seats for Service members program or to purchase tickets, call 1-800-NITTANY. *Military members can apply online for free tickets to Oct. 3 Army game; Fans can still purchase Seats for Service members*

<http://www.gopsusports.com/sports/m-footbl/spec-rel/072215aaa.html>

The Nittany Lions open the 2015 campaign on the road against Temple at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Saturday, September 5 at 3:30 p.m.



# Council President Speaks at PA Marine Corps League Convention

State College, PA June 26 2015 Bob Gray



Photo by Joe Pokojni, MCL Photographer Dept. of PA

Council President Bob Gray was invited to speak to the Department of PA Marine Corps League during their state convention in State College June 26<sup>th</sup>. They devote one morning listening to invited leaders from other organizations, veteran support groups, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, county veterans' service officers and local politicians to speak about what they do to support the military and veterans. President Gray briefly described MOAA's goals of supporting the active military, veterans, survivors and their families. He mentioned the value of visiting legislators and their staff to state our position on veterans' issues and let them know if we support proposed legislation. Many legislators have no military background and value our input. Gray also mentioned the importance of working together with other organizations to achieve legislative goals and for the good of veterans and their families.

# Commissary and Exchange locations in and around Pennsylvania

Compiled by Bob Gray

The Exchanges are now using the internet and brand name merchandise to give customers what they want and increase sales through on line purchases, no matter where they live. See below how many military exchanges and commissaries are in and around Pennsylvania.

**Commissary web site:**

<http://www.commissaries.com>

**Army/Air Force Exchange web site:**

[www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com)

Tobyhanna Army Depot (Northeastern PA)

Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn, NY)

Picatinny Arsenal (Northern NJ)

McGuire Air Force Base (NJ east of Philadelphia)

Aberdeen Proving Grounds (North East Maryland)

Fort Detrick (Frederick, MD on RT-15)

Carlisle Barracks (S. Central PA RT-11 & I-81)

Pittsburgh (Next to the International Airport)

**Navy Exchange web site:**

[www.mynavyexchange.com](http://www.mynavyexchange.com)

Mechanicsburg Naval Support Activity (near Harrisburg)

Philadelphia Main Navy Exchange

**Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) web site:**

<http://www.mymcx.com>

Marine Corps Base Henderson Hall, Arlington, VA

<http://www.mymcx.com/index.cfm/locations/henderson-hall/>

**Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) web site:**

<http://shopcgx.com/>

USCG Sector Delaware Bay, Philadelphia (CGXpress location)

US Coast Guard Training Center Cape May Cape May, NJ

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## ***GLORIOUS INSULTS***

*"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." - Abraham Lincoln*



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### **PA COUNCIL OFFICERS 2014-2015 Term**

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PA MOAA chapters have 1,894 members and another 10,591 MOAA national members live in PA and are not in chapters. That means our total PA membership is 12,485 and climbing. Thank you for staying involved!

*The Eagle* is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America. Its content does not reflect the official position of the DoD, any branch of the US Armed Forces, NOAA, USPHS, nor MOAA National. Please send articles and audio-visual submissions to the Editor, Bob Gray, at [pacocnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pacocnewsletter@gmail.com).