



MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

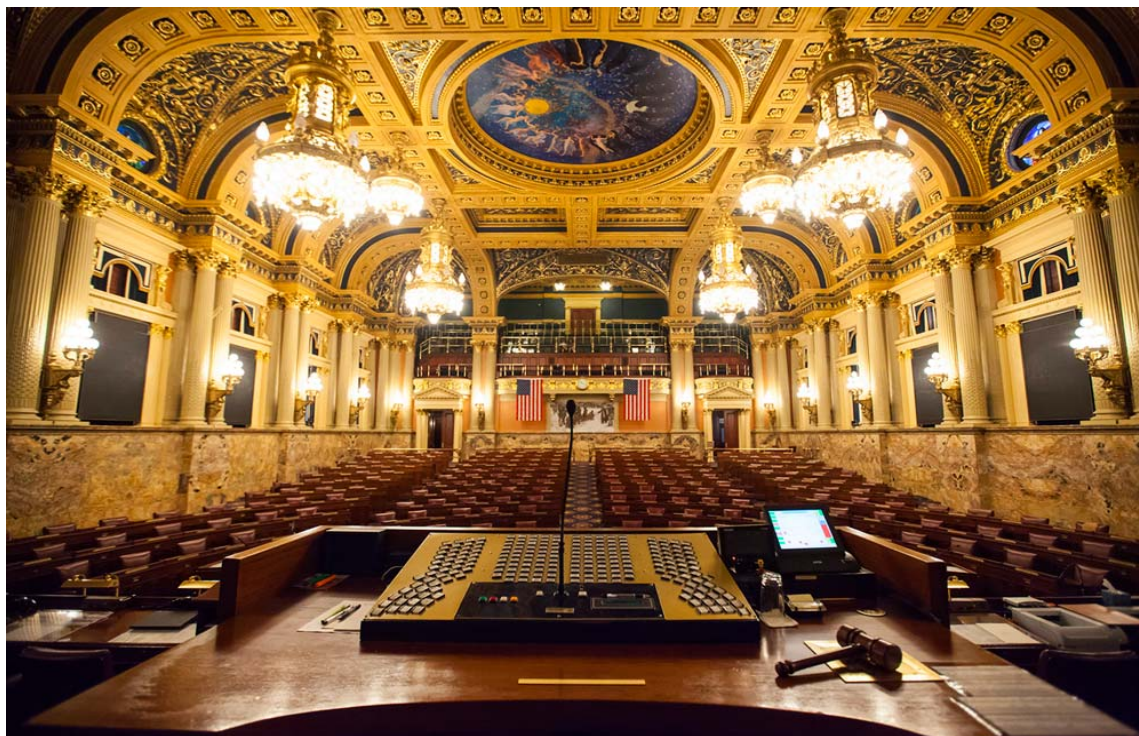
KEYSTONER

Keystone Capital Chapter

“One Powerful Voice”

JANUARY 2015

The Holiday dinner meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY NIGHT JANUARY 7th, 2015** at the Park Inn Hotel on the Carlisle Pike. Dinner will be served at 7 PM and the social hour will begin at 6 PM. Bring your friends, neighbors and prospective members for an enjoyable evening. Live music will be provided by pianist Billy Wray during and after dinner. The Terrace Ballroom also has a dance floor if you are moved. The dinner invite is at the last page of this newsletter. RSVP by January 2nd.



Pennsylvania House of Representatives Chamber, Harrisburg (photo Patriot News staff)

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General Assembly Starts New Session

January 06th is the beginning of the new legislative session and legislators will be sworn in to office in Harrisburg. The committee chairs and co-chairs positions will be announced and we will know the names heading the Veterans Affairs Committees. Legislation has started to be introduced in the General Assembly. You can research legislation filed by doing a search using the key word Veteran. Go to the General Assembly web site, <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>, and at the top click on Legislation. Then scroll down the left side to find legislation By Topic. Click it and then at the top of the page is the alphabet, click on V. This brings up all the legislative topics starting with V. Click on Veterans and it will show all veterans legislation introduced in the last session. Once the legislature is back in session the list will be updated.

Secrets of the Capitol

In looking for a photo for the newsletter I came across a web site posted by the Patriot News/Penn Live capitol reporter on secrets of the capitol. It shows photos of seldom seen views of capitol rooms and locations that you do not see on the Capitol tour. The photos include the governor's and the lieutenant governor's offices and the state Supreme Court chambers on the fifth floor of the capitol. It is a very interesting photo tour with good information. www.pennlive.com/projects/2014/capitol-secrets (click on link)



Pianist / Vocalist Billy Wray has been playing since age 9 and has been working as a soloist and with groups in the area for over 30 years. If you have any favorites just let him know, he keeps his music on an I Pad now so he can find it if you ask for it. You can go to his web site to listen to his music and look at his song list.

<http://billywray.jimdo.com>

December Board Meeting

The meeting convened December 8th 2014 at the Park Inn Hotel at 1:00 PM with President Bob Gray, First Vice President Keith Beebe, and Secretary/Treasurer Fred Lovelace in attendance. Board member Gordon Macdonald is in Florida and Shirley Brokenshire was excused as the meeting was held a day earlier than she planned. The treasurer's report was given and accepted with a balance of \$2,128.85. The balance increase was from deposit of dues for 2015. President Bob Gray made the motion to send a \$150.00 donation to Wreaths Across America to sponsor 10 wreaths to be placed at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in December 2015. The 50/50 monies are used toward funding this expense with the balance taken from the general fund. This marks the four year that the chapter has sponsored wreaths at Fort Indiantown Gap to remember the fallen.

Due to the unexpected death of D'Arcy Wangonhurst and out of respect for her the board cancelled the December dinner meeting on the 11th. After meeting with the hotel staff the dinner was rescheduled for Wednesday January 7th with the Social at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM with the same menu and entertainment. President Bob Gray suggested inviting Captain Rathbun, commander of Mechanicsburg Naval Supply Center. He enjoyed his first visit and is a geographical bachelor. It was also suggested that the new commander of the Defense Distribution Command at New Cumberland be invited to speak at the March meeting. There will not be another meeting held in January so the swearing in of the officers will be done before dinner as it is a quick ceremony. Past President Joe Gottwald will be asked to conduct the ceremony. The next meeting will be in March.

Active recruiting of new members by all members is needed as we go into the new year. New board members are needed to help advise and assist the officers in guiding the chapter forward.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Point of Contact (POC)

For information or if you need help for the Survivor Benefits Program (SBP) please call 1-800-321-1080

If anyone knows of an ill or recuperating chapter member please contact Jan Beebe at 717-761-5335. She will send a card from the Chapter.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal Legislation

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY

December 10, 2014

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), MOAA Director of Government Relations

Last week we [reported on the FY 2015 defense bill](#) and the results were mixed. When you look closer, the results could be considered good, bad, and potentially ugly.

The good: When the Pentagon submitted its defense budget proposal last March, it contained recommendations to “slow the growth” of pay and benefits to the military community. Specifically, the Pentagon wanted to:

- Cap the active duty pay raise at 1 percent (vs. a 1.8 percent raise established in law)
- Increase out-of pocket housing costs by 5 percent over 3 years
- Reduce purchasing power at the commissary by 66 percent
- Radically overhaul the TRICARE benefit by consolidating TRICARE Prime, Standard, and Extra, increasing pharmacy fees, and implementing a means-tested TRICARE for Life (TFL) enrollment fee

Fortunately, Congress either rejected or significantly curtailed the Pentagon’s proposals. The final compromise blocked the consolidation of TRICARE systems and means-testing TFL enrollment fees while limiting the impact of the commissary, housing allowance, and pharmacy fee proposals to one year modifications.

The bad: 2015 marks a second year of pay caps below private sector wage growth. The last two pay raises are tied for the lowest raises in 50 years. With four additional years of pay caps included in the president’s 2014 budget submission, this isn’t a statistical anomaly, it’s the emergence of a disturbing trend. Even though Congress limited changes in commissary funding, housing allowances, and pharmacy copays to one year, this could easily be perceived as support for chipping away at these benefits.

The ugly: In two obscured sections of a joint explanatory statement of the defense bill, House and Senate Armed Services Committee members stated that they have not yet rejected DoD plans to further erode housing allowances or

increase TRICARE pharmacy fees, and will again “commit to consider” these proposals next year.

But if sequestration returns, an even uglier scenario will be on the horizon. The joint statement goes on to say that if sequestration returns, “DoD will need to make painful cuts and achieve substantial savings across its entire budget in order to avoid an unacceptable reduction in readiness.”

Unacceptable readiness can be the result of a variety of shortfalls in either inadequate training or equipment. But we must not lose sight that the erosion of pay and benefits in the past lead to poor recruiting and retention, resulting in unacceptable readiness issues. It appears we are heading down that path again.

The bottom line: To ensure we don’t go from good, to bad, to ugly, MOAA’s mission in 2015 will be to remind Congress that erosions to pay and benefits led to significant readiness problems in the past.

- See more at:

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Article_MB.aspx?id=15502&css=print&css=print#sthash.zWcWTQON.dpuf

SPENDING BILL INCLUDES MAJOR WIN

December 12, 2014 MOAA Legislative Update

In a bit of high tension on Thursday night, the House of Representatives narrowly avoided derailing a \$1 trillion funding measure to keep the government open. With only hours before the government was set to shut down, Congressional leaders cleared a major hurdle before finalizing the agreement.

Part continuing resolution (CR) and part omnibus appropriation bill, the funding measure has been dubbed a “cromnibus” by Washington insiders.

The CR will keep the government running for a few days while Congress finishes an omnibus appropriations package funding 11 out of 12 federal agencies until October 1, 2015.

In a major win, the omnibus proposal includes two year advanced appropriations for VA benefit programs through FY 2016. These accounts include VA compensation and pensions, readjustment benefits such as the GI bill, and insurance and indemnities for survivors.

This comes in addition to advance funding for VA health care, which MOAA helped secure in FY 2010.

The VA advanced appropriation effort was championed by Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), who worked closely with MOAA and other service groups on the measure. The provision will ensure veterans and survivors benefit checks would continue in the event of a future government shutdown, and allow important VA research programs to continue unhindered by annual budget negotiations.

With House passage late Thursday, the bill is expected to clear the Senate in the next few days.

The measure includes \$554 billion for DoD, slightly less than what President Obama originally requested.

In another win for the military community the deal protects the commissary benefit. It restores \$90 out of the \$100 million in commissary funding originally cut by the defense authorization bill. This will help commissaries maintain adequate staff levels and operating hours.

Failure to pass a funding measure would have resulted in another short term CR, or worse, a government shutdown. CRs significantly reduce the ability of the services to provide necessary training, and place considerable stress and uncertainty on the active duty force.

On the budget deal, MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) praised the inclusion of VA advanced appropriations, "We applaud Congress and especially Senator Mikulski for looking out for the best interests of our nation's veterans. VA advanced appropriations will ensure veterans' health care and compensation programs are not held hostage by future partisan budget debates." - See more at:

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Retired_Still_Working/Veterans_Issues/Spending_Bill_Includes_Major_Win.html#sthash.9r3IU9lq.dpuf



**Pay your 2015 Dues Now
KEYSTONE CAPITAL CHAPTER**

Join Today! FREE for 2015 (New members only)

Regular officer dues \$18, Auxiliary(Widow) \$12

Full Name: _____

Please print clearly PAY your 2015 Dues Now

Grade: _____

Service: _____

Check your status: ☐ **Retired Officer** ☐ **Regular Active Duty**
 ☐ **Former Officer** ☐ **Currently Serving National Guard**
 ☐ **Currently Serving Reserves**

 ☐ **Widow (er)* of an officer (Auxiliary Member)**

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ **Birth date:** _____

Spouse's Name _____ **Spouse's Birth date:** _____

☐ **I am a member of MOAA National** ☐ **I am not a member of MOAA National**

MOAA# (if known): _____

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

***Fill in your own name, address, etc. and show deceased spouse's rank and service.**

Mail to: Fred Lovelace, 216 Maple Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

The Navy's new spy drone swims like a tuna



The Ghost Swimmer vehicle developed by the Chief of Naval Operations Rapid Innovation Cell project Silent NEMO undergoes testing during a demonstration at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Fort Story.

By Meghann Myers, Staff Writer 11:06 a.m. EST December 19, 2014 *Navy Times*

It's a tuna. It's a shark! No, it's the Navy's latest underwater drone.

As unmanned technology develops, the Navy is looking at ways to keep sailors out of harm's way by sending in remotely operated vehicles, rather than small boats or divers to assess situations.

The Silent NEMO project, from the chief of naval operations' Rapid Innovation Cell, test swam one of these unmanned underwater vehicles off Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia, on December 11, according to a Navy release.

What you should know about the "GhostSwimmer."

1. It's tuna-sized. Though it's been billed as a "robot shark" by some media outlets, the GhostSwimmer is actually modeled off of a tuna. At 5-feet-long and 100 pounds, it can dive up to 300 feet.

2. Swims like a fish. The GhostSwimmer uses biomimicry to make its movements as realistic as possible to save energy and conceal itself.

To develop Ghost Swimmer, the Navy teamed up Boston Engineering, a product development company.

"It swims just like a fish does by oscillating its tail fin back and forth," said Michael Rufo, the director of Boston Engineering's Advanced Systems Group, in the Dec. 12 release.

"The unit is a combination of unmanned systems engineering and unique propulsion and control capabilities," he said.

3. A one-fish recon team. During the recent tests at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story, the GhostSwimmer gathered data on tides, currents, wakes and weather conditions -- the sort of oceanographic information commonly gathered by meteorologists and submariners for use in finding -- or concealing -- subs. There's potential for more advanced tasks in the future as well.

"GhostSwimmer will allow the Navy to have success during more types of missions while keeping divers and sailors safe," Rufo said.

4. It's versatile A long-lasting battery allows GhostSwimmer to operate for hours underwater via remote control, but a 500-foot tether gives sailors the option to control it from a laptop.

The tether can transmit information in real time, but if it's operating remotely, it has to surface periodically to download data.

5. The CO is an O-3 Marine Capt. Jerome Lademan is Silent NEMO's project lead. An infantry officer, he's one of several junior officers assigned to CRIC and tasked with developing in-house technology that will benefit the Navy.

"Our mantra is 'You have permission to be creative.' We want our people to go out there and dream big dreams and put them into action," said Capt. Jim Loper, head of concepts and innovation at the Navy Warfare Development Command, CRIC's parent command. "We want to see projects like this replicated throughout the fleet. The fusion of the deckplate brainpower with support of the most senior leadership in the Navy is going to keep us moving forward throughout the 21st century."



MOAA KEYSTONE CAPITAL CHAPTER

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7th

Holiday Dinner

**Park Inn Hotel – Terrace Ballroom, main floor
Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg**

SOCIAL – 6 PM (Blarney's Bar & Ballroom) DINNER – 7 PM

**Entertainment – pianist / vocalist Billy Wray
Music after dinner for listening and dancing**

**Menu: Garden salad, Roast Turkey with mashed potatoes and pan gravy,
vegetable and dessert. \$33.00**

Includes coffee, ice tea and water (you may end up taking some home)

- - CASH BAR - -

Event Invitation

January 7th Park Inn Hotel 06 PM Social Dinner 7 PM

Enter number & total price: #: __ \$_____

Make check out to: Keystone Capital Chapter

**Names of Members and Guests attending:
(Friends and neighbors that support our Troops are Welcome.)**

****Please Reply NLT Friday, January 2nd to Host:**

**Jan Beebe
108 April Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011**

Call if you have questions: 717-761-5335