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# Lancaster Chapter News

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Lancaster, PA Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
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## April 25 meeting went smoothly

President Resh reverted to an old standard by opening the meeting with a joke. For those who missed the meeting, it went like this:

A young co-ed was sitting in class when the professor asked her if she knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was.

She sat there for quite a while pondering this very profound question.

Finally, she sighed and said, "I think that's the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

When we had recovered, introductions were in order. Tom Bender introduced these new members:

VADM Dan Cooper, USN

LTC John Curtis, USA

Then there were these welcome guests:

CDR John Shaeffer, introduced by John Schmucker.

MAJ Mark Simmons, introduced by Gene Moore

After the meal, Gene Moore regaled us with the story of his goal of becoming a Navy deep-sea diver...and how having successfully completed his test dive, the Navy was somehow convinced that he was well equipped to teach Chinese sailors how to operate a Benson-class destroyer that our government was giving to the Nationalist Chinese Navy.

The 85 of us who attended enjoyed another evening of warm fellowship in an all-too-rare chance to mingle with old chapter friends.

## Our members made news...

**Ryan Aument**, State Representative, was reported in the *Intell/Era* to have "introduced legislation that would funnel up to \$1 billion in revenue realized from privatizing liquor sales to the state's public schools." The article added, "If approved, the bill could boost funding for the county's 17 school districts by \$37 million over four years, beginning in 2014-15" Later, Ryan wrote the *Intell/New Era* to explain in detail the reasons for his introducing that bill.

**John Douglas**, wrote the *Sunday News* to laud a Carol Peterson column on "U.S. Needs Tough Love." He added, "Carol is undoubtedly one of the best writers in the *Sunday News*."

**Frank Fryburg** wrote the *Intell/New Era* to take issue with an editorial in the paper that had said that tax cuts by the Bush administration had "sapped the economy of funds." Frank gave the federal total income in trillions for the years in question, showing that the total income for 2005 was \$2.154 (the highest in history), followed by \$2.407 in 2006, \$2.567 in 2007, and \$2.524 in 2008.

**Roger Groce** drew praise from "The Scribbler" in the *Intell/New Era*, who said, "Every community should have a Roger Groce." He then went on to explain that Roger writes a *Mt. Gretna Newsletter* each month "that is filled with news about what's going on in the charming community nestled in the hills of southern Lebanon County." He added, "As a poetic commentary on this subject, Groce

provides a few lines written by Ann Hark, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Philadelphia writer who kept a summer cottage in Mt. Gretna's Chautauqua section:

Not for me the hiving city  
Not for me the pulsing shore  
But a little woodland corner  
This I ask and nothing more.”

**Joe Pitts**, U.S. Representative, was quoted in the *Intell/New Era* as saying of the Boston bombing, “It looks like the FBI failed in the way they handled things, and now we need to know what they learned and why they didn’t do more.” It was also reported that he had: attended a meeting with a number of business leaders to discuss how the Affordable Care Act is affecting small businesses...expressed outrage at the IRS having targeted conservative groups for probes of the taxes they paid...been the keynote speaker at the Coalition of Homeschoolers Across Lancaster County... and had pushed a bill to oversee the horse racing industry in order to prevent doping of horses. He wrote the *Intell/New Era* to say that Obamacare “is a mess” and that real reform of health law is badly needed. He also authored articles for the *Sunday News* titled, “Part time isn’t enough,” pointing out how the new health care law has made it much more expensive to create full-time jobs...and “We need more transparent government,” on the balance between keeping secrets and letting the public know what’s going on with its government.

**Dick Smith** was credited in *The Sunday News* for having submitted a wonderful “I know a story” on the fascinating life of J.P. McCaskey, for whom John Peirsol McCaskey High School is named. The story ends by noting of the great man, “He died September 19, 1937, at the young age of 97, just months away from the opening of the school that still bears his name.”

Later, Dick wrote the *Intell/New Era* to heap praise upon the 15-member Westminster Concert Bell Choir from the Westminster Choir College of Rider University (Princeton Campus) as the Bell Choir kicked off its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Tour with a performance at First Presbyterian Church, Strasburg.

**Craig Stedman**, Lancaster County District Attorney, was quoted in the *Intell/New Era* as

saying of the possibility of adopting the federal system of sentencing, “That would be monumental. It would be a massive change to our whole system.”

Craig was later quoted in a *Sunday News* story on how police are keeping tabs on the 463 registered sex offenders who live, work, or attend school in Lancaster County. Craig said, “We are committed to doing all we can to protect the public as much as possible from these offenders.”

**Bob Wilcox** wrote the *Intell/New Era* to tell of how, when he wore a visored cap with “U.S. Air Force” on it, people came forward to thank him for his service of some 70 years ago. Which led him to exclaim, “Is this a great country or what?”

#### From our president’s desk...

“For those of you who didn’t attend our 27 June membership meeting at Bent Creek Country Club and didn’t get to meet and hear from our scholarship winner, I think you should be interested in who she is.

“Our winner this year is Kaitlyn Kurisky, a senior at Lancaster Catholic High School. It turns out that her father, Paul Kurisky, is a graduate of the Naval Academy and a member of our chapter.

“Kaitlyn graduated with a grade point average of 4.33 and ranked 13th in a class of 209. She was a member of the swim team for 4 years, the tennis team for 2 years, and the track and field team for 2 years.

“She was selected to participate in Summer Seminar at the Naval Academy along with 2,300 high school juniors out of about 7,500 who applied.

“She was involved in too many school and community activities to mention and had leadership roles in many. She is another young lady who, when you read her list of activities, causes you to think, ‘When does she sleep?’ She plans to study International Affairs at Temple University in the fall and would like to have a career involving travel and foreign relations, perhaps in the government or military.”

### **A gentle, final reminder about dues**

The annual \$15 dues for this year were payable as of January 1. So, if the "Paid thru" date next to your name in this newsletter's address is not 2013, please write us a check while you're thinking of it. Make it payable to "Lancaster Chapter, MOAA" and mail it to:

MOAA Lancaster Chapter  
ATTN: Dues  
P.O. Box 5031  
Lancaster, PA 17606-5031

You might also want to take advantage of our discounted rate of \$40 for three years...which will save you the inconvenience of having to write a check and mailing it each year.

### **Our remaining 2013 meetings**

We have two future meetings this year. We'll meet at:

Eden Resort on October 24  
Millersville University on December 1

All details will be given in future newsletters, but this notice is to let you get them on your busy calendar.

### **We meet with the youngsters this fall**

As we have for many years, we'll be meeting this fall with the youngsters at elementary schools to share with them what it's like to serve in the military. The schools we'll be visiting are:

**Central Manor Elementary School**  
October 8 9:15 to 11:00 Two periods  
November 11 9:00 to 10:00  
5<sup>th</sup> graders 80 6<sup>th</sup> graders 80  
Four rooms each. 20 vets needed

**Bonfield Elementary School**  
October 9 8:15 to 10:45  
November 8 to be determined  
5<sup>th</sup> graders 82 6<sup>th</sup> graders 89  
5<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 rooms 6<sup>th</sup> grade 4 rooms  
20 vets needed

**Centerville Intermediate School**  
October 17 9:30 to 11:15 Two periods  
5<sup>th</sup> graders 75 6<sup>th</sup> graders 75  
3 rooms each. 15 vets needed

This program has brought nationwide acclaim to our chapter. And it is justifiably of great pride to us. We have a dedicated core of members who wouldn't miss a chance to be part of these visits, but we're always interesting in sharing the experience with more of our members.

It takes no preparation, and it's purely a pleasant visit with the children. They've prepared questions for us in advance...which we answer. Then they simply want to know what our experience was when we were in uniform. So you may want to bring things you think would interest them: Military hats, maps, medals, photos, etc. But that's frosting on the cake. It's you they're interested in being with. Later they invite us back to put on a program of thanks for our sharing our unique experiences with them.

Just give it a try, and you'll see what a rich experience it is for you. Just give George Resh, the program chairman, a call at 397-1906 and let him know you'd like to take part.

### **We honor Millersville Army ROTC cadet**

At the Blue Mountain Battalion's Award Ceremony on April 25, Brian Remy, our ROTC Liaison Officer, presented Cadet Benjamin E. Rento II with the Military Officers Association of America Award and Certificate. Dave Roy also attended, representing our chapter.

Cadet Rento was selected for the award by the ROTC cadre at Millersville University, where he has just completed his junior year.

This year's ceremony was the 12th time our chapter has made this presentation since the Awards Ceremony at Millersville University was established in 2002.

### **We present Millersville Army ROTC cadet with his gold bars of Second Lieutenant**

At the May 17 Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony at Millersville University, Brian Remy, our ROTC Liason Officer, presented Cadet Eric E Pagan with his gold bars.

After the commanding officer, LTC Peter Lugar, administered the Oath of Office, the bars were pinned to Lieutenant Pagan's shoulders by his fiancee, and the new lieutenant took his first

salute from First Sergeant (retired) Thomas Miller, Jr.

Others representing our Chapter at this year's commissioning ceremony were Dave Roy, John Schmucker, and Tony & Dina Cerase who were in full uniform.

The Blue Mountain Battalion to which Millersville Army ROTC cadets belong is comprised of cadets from seven local institutions of higher learning. They provide the Color Guard for home football games, run an annual blood drive, compete in the fall Ranger Challenge competition, and oversee each year's 9/11 ceremony. These activities give ROTC a noticeable presence and contribute to the positive relationship the cadets share with other students and faculty.

### **There was an unbelievable fly-over at the Air Force Academy graduation ceremony**

Keen-eyed member Ed Wickenheiser forwards the news that the president had decreed that there would not be the traditional fly-over by the Air Force demonstration team at this year's graduating class at the Air Force Academy.

Ed sends the Academy's letter that explains what happened then:

"A number of the senior generals took matters into their own hands. And so, when the speeches, the hats were all thrown into the air, and all the family hugs were all made and it became time for the fly-over, a roar of engines was detected from the West of the air strip and parade grounds there at the facility, and everyone was treated to a fly-over by the Confederate Air Force.

"Looking up they saw all kinds of vintage aircraft from B-17s B-24s, B-25s, P-38s, P-51s, and others, all flown by our hero's from prior conflicts that still see fit to stay active for services such as this. It was a wonderful experience for all who were there."

### **JROTC approved to begin next year at McCaskey East High School**

The School District of Lancaster board voted 7-2 to spend \$45,000 on a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program. The newspaper article announcing the program said

that up to 180 student cadets will be able to participate in the program, which will include a three-year aerospace science curriculum taught by two retired Air Force officers.

The Air Force will provide all teaching materials, uniforms, equipment, and other supplies for the cadets, who also will participate in leadership education and health and wellness instruction.

Cadets will be required to wear military uniforms at least once a week and will learn about military customs and courtesies and participate in parade, drill team competitions, color and honor guards and military balls.

### **Veteran extols value of JROTC program**

A Millersville University senior wrote the *Intell/New Era* to say, "I often think back to my high school years when I was enrolled in JROTC. This program, whose motto is 'To motivate young people to be better citizens' was one of the defining moments in my life.

"I was taught not only personal discipline and responsibility for myself, as well as other cadets, but the program instilled a sense of pride in being an American and thankfulness for the men and women who wear a uniform. This is a program that produces good citizens, something needed more than ever today, and teaches respect for those who serve."

### **An anecdote from the military days of one of our members...past or present**

**Eston White** fought in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy—where one-third of his battalion was wiped out on D-Day---and across Europe to the Elbe River in Germany, where Ike ordered our forces to sit tight and let the Russians catch up. By that time, Eston was a major. The German forces were wedged between our forces in the west and the Russian forces advancing from the east.

When surrender became their only option, they surely didn't want to surrender to the Russians. So one day, Eston's C.O. called him in and said, "White, I want you to go and accept the surrender of 220,000 Germans." Saluting smartly, Eston got a jeep, a white flag, and a translator, then drove through the German

forces and accepted the surrender from their commanding general.

When he got back and reported mission accomplished, his C.O. said, "I hate to tell you this, White, but Ike said no way are we going to accept the surrender of that many Germans. Half of them are going to have to go to the Russians. And that's what happened. We got to keep half of the 220,000 Germans whose surrender Eston had accepted.

### Getting to know our leadership



Paul Wedel  
Director

Paul Wedel grew up in Alexandria, VA. He enlisted in the Navy on October 10, 1944, at the tender age of 17.

First stop was to boot camp at Bainbridge, MD. Then he trained to be a hospital corpsman, so that he was then equipped to be an operating room technician at the naval hospital at Bethesda, MD. Little did he know at the time how well that intimate knowledge of how hospitals work would serve him in the years to come.

He left the Navy on July 4, 1946, then was recalled for a one-year stint in 1950-51 during the Korean War. He earned a B.S. Degree from American University in 1952 and an M.S. degree from Northwestern University in 1955.

He entered his life's work in hospital administration with Lancaster General Hospital, retiring from there on August 1, 1994 as the

hospital's C.E.O. He was at the helm during the hospital's dramatic growth in the city and in the campus on Harrisburg Pike.

He now spends much of this time with our MOAA chapter, reading, fly-fishing, and with his family.

Paul has been a member of our chapter since March 6, 2001 and has served on our Board of Directors since 2010.

### J.J. Bentman would like you to know...

That the Internet reveals that the largest star known to exist is VY Canis Majoris, which is in our Milky Way, 4,900 light years from earth.

This red Hypergiant star is 3,063,500,000 kilometers in diameter...more than 1,800 times larger than our sun.

Said another way, it's so huge that it would take 7,000,000,000,000,000 (7 quadrillion) earths to fill up one VY Canis Majoris.

Yet it's only one of the billions of stars in each of the 170 billion galaxies that make up the Universe...which leads J.J. to wonder what that says about how insignificant we are in the total scheme of things, after all.

But which, in turn, would remind many of us that in WWII days, we considered stars like Betty Grable and Rita Hayworth to be highly significant, regardless.

### We honor the memory of...

**Arthur B. Dodge**, who died April 18. It took three columns of obituary in the newspaper to recall his eventful life. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army. After training, he and the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Blue Devils) sailed for North Africa, landing in Tangier, Morocco. He campaigned through North Africa and Sicily before landing on Anzio Beach in Italy.

His element of the Division were the first American troops to enter Rome during the war, and he received a Papal audience. During the 18-month Italian campaign, he received numerous decorations, including two battlefield commissions to the rank of Captain, two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, one with clusters, and a Distinguished Service Medal. He was also

nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1948 and joined his father and brother at the Dodge Cork Company, beginning a more than 50-year career in the cork industry. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War, serving at the U.S. Army Headquarters, Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. It was there that he met and married Margaretha (Gretel) Gerbert.

After that service, he returned to Dodge Cork Company, becoming Chairman and President before retiring in 2007. Art had been a member of our Chapter since April 2000.

**Raymond H. Leonard**, who died June 3 at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon, PA. He was a veteran of WWII, who received a Purple Heart Medal, a Bronze Battle Star, and in 2010 the French Legion of Honor. He was also a member of Ephrata VFW Post 3376. His passing is particularly poignant for us, since he was our chapter's second most senior member in terms of continuous membership, having joined us on January 2, 1982.

**Vincent J. Manara, Jr.**, who died on May 10. He was the husband of Esther G. Sauer Manara, with whom he recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. His burial is to be at Arlington National Cemetery.

He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1948, and, upon graduation, was commissioned an Ensign in 1952. He studied ordnance engineering at the U.S. Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and completed a third year at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California. He was awarded his master's degree in nuclear physics in May 1959.

After many years of promotion to increasingly more responsible commands, he in 1978 assumed command as Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, USN, Newport News, Virginia, the position from which he retired as a Captain in October 1981.

Vince earned a long list of medals, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Occupation Service

Medal with Europe Clasp, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

After retirement, he joined Columbia Research Corporation, where he was Vice President for Fleet Support Programs. In 1985, he moved to Unisys Corporation as Manager of Arlington Operations for Frigate Combat Systems. He retired again in August 1993.

Vince had been a member of our Chapter since October 2005 and a Director since 2010. He will also be remembered as the editor of our Chapter newsletter from May 2011 through March 2013.

**Richard H. Weber**, who died April 29. He earned a BS at Columbia University, then in 1956 a Doctorate in Medicine from Hahnemann Medical College, Drexel University. He then completed an internship at the Misericordia Hospital in Philadelphia.

Inducted into military service from 1957-1959, he served as chief of the General Practice Clinic and Emergency Medicine at Andrews Air Force Base Hospital in Washington, D.C.

In 1959, he accepted a Residency in Family Practice at the Lancaster General Hospital, and opened his family practice office in 1960, where he was a general practitioner for more than 50 years. He was also Clinical Instructor and Preceptor at Lancaster General, Hershey Medical Center, and Temple University.

He was deeply involved in community affairs and received many honors. In 1985, he helped to form the Auscultation Brass Band with fellow physicians and delighted in performing with them in community events. Richard had been a member of our Chapter since February 2001.

**Howard B. Woodward**, who died May 21. He was a graduate of Cornell University on an ROTC scholarship. We know little of his military background other than his being an Air Force major who served during WWII. He had lived at Willow Valley Manor for the last 10 years. He lost his wife, Dorothy, in 2007, after 62 years of marriage. He is survived by 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Howard had been a member of our Chapter since May 2004.

**Kathryn E. Wright**, who died May 22. She was the widow of Howard W. Wright, Sr., who passed away in 2003 after 61 years of marriage. Upon graduating from high school in Philadelphia, she attended Strayers Business College. She worked for several accounting firms before joining the IRS as a tax examiner, retiring in 1980.

She was a past worthy matron of Wanamaker Chapter No. 432, Order of the Eastern Star and a member of Robert Fulton Chapter 446, Order of the Eastern Star in Quarryville. She is survived by a son, 2 grandsons, and 2 great grand-daughters. Kathryn had been a member of our chapter since February 1997.

### **It's all in the family...**

Nick Valentino, grandson of **Rudy Valentino**, was pictured in the Intell/New Era after making the deciding lacrosse goal in overtime for Hempfield High over Manheim High, to win for Hempfield the Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship. Rudy is pleased and proud of his grandson's accomplishment and says that's the kind of play that has earned Nick a full scholarship at Drexel University.

### **You heard, of course...**

Of the letter from a Kentucky farm kid (now at San Diego Marine Corps recruit training)

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell brother Walt and brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first, because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave, but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food.

But tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route marches," which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then, the city guys get sore feet, and we all ride back in trucks.

The country is nice, but awful flat. The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then, we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though; they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this, except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds, and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds, dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice

### **Or, perhaps...**

Of the young actor who was long on egotism but short on cash trying to talk his landlord into waiting for the rent money. "Just think," he said. "In a few years, people will pass by this apartment and say 'Williams, the famous actor, once lived there.'"

And the landlord said, "If I don't get my rent today, they'll be able to say it tomorrow."

## Chapter Picnic Opportunity

While our chapter is planning to reintroduce the annual summer picnic in 2014, we have a golden opportunity to picnic together this year, see a baseball game AND participate in a fundraiser for local homeless veterans all at the same time. The Lancaster County Commissioners partnering with the Lancaster Barnstormers have put together a picnic-baseball game combo that provides a means of generating donations to help our homeless vets.

Your chapter has been able to acquire 50 picnic area tickets for this event, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Clipper Magazine Stadium. The cost is \$28 per ticket, and this cost includes admittance to the game between the Barnstormers and the York Revolution and a picnic lunch catered by Hess Catering of Willow Street, the same caterer we used for the food at our chapter picnics in the past.

Ticket availability is very limited, so tickets can only be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. To get your tickets please make out your check in multiples of \$28 to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and send it to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Picnic/Ballgame, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Also, please write Picnic/Ballgame on the memo line of your check. Tickets will be sent to you by return mail. If you are not one of the first 50 to apply, your check will be promptly returned. We hope to see you at the game and thank you for supporting our homeless vets.

For more information or questions, contact Dennis Benchoff at 560-1260 or Tom Bender at 626-4932.