
Lancaster Chapter News

Lancaster, PA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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We have a new editor for our newsletter

The following words are from Bob Wilcox (who created our newsletter in June 1994 and served as its editor through November 2009).

When I retired as newsletter editor, we were lucky to have Tom Bender take on that responsibility on top of all the other work he does for the chapter. He made it clear that he was simply filling in, however, until we could find someone else to be the full-time editor. And that "someone" appeared in July 2011, when Vince Manara volunteered to take over the position. Vince picked up without missing a beat and continued beautifully through this year's March issue, when a health problem caused him to resign.

That's when President Resh picked up the phone and asked if I might be interested in becoming editor again. And I told him that I would be pleased---and honored---to do so.

Frankly, I had come to miss writing the newsletter, and I'm going to enjoy writing it again. As always, every chapter member is encouraged to let me know of any news that will make our newsletter more readable. While we can reach some of our members through announcements at chapter meetings, the pages in our newsletter are our only regular vehicle for communicating with all our members. So please send me anything you think our members would like to know about.

Lancaster Country Club was great, as always

We had 80 members and guests at our March 7 meeting at the Lancaster Country Club. After we enjoyed an excellent meal, Dina Cerase reported that in 2012, 167 phone cards were sent

by our chapter to servicemen overseas and asked that we please see her to make donations to buy more cards.

Tom Bender introduced these new members: 1stLt John Burke, USA and his wife Kathy; Linda Neuman Brown, a returning member; and RADM Harley Nygren, NOAA.

It was announced that Vince Manara was unable to continue as our newsletter editor and that Bob Wilcox, a former editor, has agreed to resume that key position. Vince, who also serves on our board, was thanked for his fine service as editor.

Biddle Whigham introduced the speaker, Rich Bentley, Landisville Intermediate School Principal and his two sixth-grade students, Adam Haertter and Amaya Williams, to offer their perspectives on our Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet program. Biddle pointed out that, when our program started in 2000, theirs was the first school visited.

The youngsters told the group that they learned so much from our veterans last year when they were fifth-graders. Bentley then praised the program and the efforts of his teachers in having the kids prepare a list of questions, learn interviewing techniques, review the history, write summaries about their veteran, and prepare for the veterans' return visit to the school. He then roamed the room, microphone in hand, to field and then answer our members' questions.

Biddle and George Resh led the applause, and both reminded our members that we're short on volunteers to be interviewed by the kids. Biddle said that several elementary schools are to be visited in the Fall, so please call Biddle at 390-1071 and sign up.

We meet at elegant Bent Creek on June 27

The gathering will begin at 5 p.m. with a social hour. The meeting will be called to order at 6 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, George Resh. This luscious dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m.:

House Salad with tomatoes and wine vinaigrette
Herb roasted pork tenderloin – natural jus
Buttermilk mashed potatoes
Seasonal vegetable
Assorted rolls and sweet butter
Chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream
Coffee, decaf, hot and iced tea served with dinner and dessert

Our guest speaker will be a representative from the national office of MOAA. He will be speaking of their new recruiting program for MOAA chapters.

The cost of the meal will be \$31.00 per person. A cash bar will be open at 5 p.m. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Meeting Reservations, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Be sure to write the names of your guests on your check for nametag purposes. By request, a vegetarian meal will be available as a substitute for the above selections.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Tuesday, June 18th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to Tuesday, June 25th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, 581-5299.

Say hello to our new member

This time, our new member came to us as a result of his having found our web site and decided that we sounded like his kind of MOAA chapter. Please give a warm welcome to:

LTC John (Jack) E. Curtis
USA (717)
645 Willow Valley Square Apt J-411
Lancaster, PA 17602-4871
Spouse: Louise (Lou)
Joined: 3/22/13

We made news

The Intel/New Era carried comments by 27 “local leaders” on their goals for improving life in Lancaster County in the coming year. Three of the 27 were members of our chapter: They included: **Ryan Aument**, State Representative; **Joseph Pitts**, U.S. Representative; and **Craig Stedman**, Lancaster County District Attorney.

Biddle Whigham and **George Resh** were shown with Landisville Intermediate Center sixth-graders Adam Haerter, Amaya Williams, and their school principal, Rick Bentley as they attended our March 7 meeting. The full-color photo and story appeared on the cover of the Hempfield/Mountville Merchandiser.

Our members made news

Ryan Aument, State Rep., wrote an “In My Opinion” article for the Intel/New Era on the pension crisis...and how to deal with it.

Later, he was the subject of an article that told of his belief that “online learning is the future of public education in Pennsylvania.”

Gil Bixler, Chairman, Toys for Tots, Lancaster County Detachment, Marine Corps League, reported in a letter to the Intel/ New Era that the program to collect toys for needy youngsters had collected an astonishing 33,445 toys for 10,506 needy children this past Christmas, not including “the mountains of stuffed animals, books, tapes, and stocking stuffers which were also collected.” For the past 22 years, Gil has been active in this wonderful service to the community which has year after year brought Christmas joy to so many thousands of needy youngsters.

Dave Blackman, East Hempfield Township zoning officer, was reported in the Intel/New Era to have said that the Hempfield Soccer Club notified the township that the club had dropped plans to buy and develop soccer fields in East Hempfield Township.

Ken Eshleman was pictured in the Intel/New Era in an article that told of his being scheduled to talk to the Millersville Area Historical

Society on April 13 on "Health Problems and Their Treatments: Nineteenth Century Medicine in Lancaster County." Ken is a retired psychiatrist who served Lancaster General and St. Joseph hospitals for 38 years. He also served during those years as a psychiatric consultant for the Lebanon VA Medical Center.

Mark Esterbrook, CEO of the Community Action Program of Lancaster County, was pictured in the Intel/New Era and quoted in an article on how, locally, the middle class has been impacted by the poor economy.

Louis Farina, Lancaster County Judge, was reported in the Intel/New Era to be retiring from the bench this year after having served for 26 years as a judge of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas. From 2005 to 2010, he served as the court's President Judge. In his earlier military experience as an Army captain, he had acted as prosecutor or defense counsel in many criminal trials by general and special courts-martial.

Iris MacRae, for whom Carter MacRea Elementary School is named, wrote a letter to the Intel/New Era suggesting that "setting satellite police offices in public schools will answer many questions regarding the safety of schoolchildren." She then explained why.

Later, she was pictured in the Intel/New Era in an article that told of the annual contribution she makes to the Adopt a School District of Lancaster Classroom program that puts contributions directly into the hands of teachers.

Gene Moore wrote an entry cited by The Scribbler in the Intel/New Era as a "close second placer" in the Scribbler's fourth annual Liar's Contest. Gene's entry read: "Back in the 1980s, down below Quarryville, a man kept a hard-shell clam as a pet. 'Mr. Clam,' as he was known, was of pleasant disposition and of greater than average intelligence.

"He had become a ventriloquist, using a stuffed shrimp as his dummy. Mr. Clam entertained at church socials and the Solanco Fair.

"I was not that impressed with his talent, however, as I could always see his lips move."

Joe Pitts, U.S. Rep., was reported in the Intel/New Era as having: earned an A+ rating from the Venn Institute for his prioritization of international religious freedom during the 112th Congress in 2011-12...explained how the FAA could take actions that could prevent the closing of the tower at Lancaster Airport...hosted a small business "boot camp" with experts from the Small Business Administration for anyone looking to start a business, start exporting overseas, or contracting with the federal government...and supported the Sugar Reform Act. He also authored three articles for Sunday News, titled "Protecting our fiscal future," "Ensuring special care for kids" and "Energizing America with natural gas."

Al Price wrote the Intel/New Era about an Iraqi family the paper had written about. He urged "everyone to get together and get the children home to their mother with due haste."

Vance Renfroe wrote the Intel/New Era about the new Distinguished Warfare Medal that recognizes outstanding service by personnel who have a direct effect on combat operations without serving in harm's way (like the people who sit in the U.S. and conduct drone strikes in Afghanistan). He said it was wrong to rank that medal above the combat medals given for valor in the face of death, such as the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal.

(Editor's note: The next day's newspaper carried this item: "Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has canceled the creation of a new military medal for drone and cyber warriors, instead ordering military leaders to develop a special pin or device that would be attached to already existing medals or ribbons." So, apparently, if you want to get fast action on anything, you better ask Vance to write the Intel/New Era about it.)

Neal Rice was reported in the Sunday News to have opened his own practice, Rice Law Firm, focusing on wills, trusts, estate planning, estate administration, real estate and business law.

Craig Stedman, Lancaster County District Attorney, naturally makes lots of news. But it was nice to see his picture in the Sunday News Quotes of the Week, with the quote, "I think most everyone agrees that firearm ownership carries responsibility, and if you make the decision to own one, then you should know how to use it properly."

A look back on news our members made

October 2012 **Ryan Aument**, State Rep., wrote the Intel/New Era to correct an editorial that he said incorrectly stated that he had declined to debate his political opponent.

May 2012 **Dennis Benchoff**, president of The Cliosophic Society, was quoted in the Intelligencer Journal/New Era's "Scribbler" column as saying, "Our declining membership has made it impossible to sustain our activities in the way we would wish." The article said the society "concluded its 133rd year and shut down forever early this month."

December 2012 **Ed Bonekemper** was reported in the Intel/New Era to be slated to talk about his book "How Grant Won and Lee Lost the Civil War" as part of the Milanof-Schock Library's series of programs in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

May 2012 **Dr. James S. Martin** was named in the Sunday News as the first of the seven presidents Lancaster Sertoma has had during the 50 years of its existence.

May 2012 **Gene Moore** was written about in the Intel/New Era's "Scribbler" column, which said, "Eugene Moore, who lives at Homestead and was one of this year's Clio presenters, has shared this brief history of an intellectual institution (The Cliosophic Society) that flourished through parts of three centuries."

In December he was reported in the "Scribbler" column to have written this clearly heartfelt poem to the Scribbler in honor of grits, a ubiquitous Southern treat:

"How many sausages?" That fits.
"How many eggs?" As good as it gets.
But grits is singular
And even bilingual
You're wrong to ask, "Hominy grits?"

September 2012 Joe Pitts, U.S. Rep., was pictured in the Intel/New Era announcing a program that will entitle veterans to discounts on many local businesses. Later, he also wrote an article for the Intel/New Era denying that he had arranged to have a political opponent's house redistricted out of his district.

September 2012 **Max Peters** wrote the Intel/New Era, disagreeing with Gil Smart on Smart's column that discussed job training...and offering his own thoughts.

June 2012 **Charles Wolfe** was written about in a letter to the editor of the Sunday News. The writer noted that "Dr. Wolfe has always recommended gold to his patients (for bridges he prepared). He is a perfectionist and knew what was best for his practice."

A gentle 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. And remember that we have a discounted rate of \$40 for three years.

Getting to know our leadership



Bill Foreman, has been our Chaplain since he joined our Chapter in 2004 and a director of our Chapter since 2010. He was a native Lancastrian who graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1954. He then entered Lafayette College on a full football scholarship, graduating in 1958.

Feeling a strong call to the ministry, he then spent 4 years at Princeton Seminary and, after graduation, joined the Army as a second lieutenant.

This led the young chaplain to an Army career that saw him serve abroad for many years. Those overseas posts included service with a long-range artillery battalion of the I Corps, in

South Korea; the 30th Air Defense Brigade, in Okinawa; and The 101st Division in Vietnam.

Following a year of graduate school at the Union Presbyterian Seminary, in Richmond, VA, he served for 7 years on the Army Chaplain's Board. There, he traveled widely, supporting Army ministry worldwide. During his last year with the Chaplain's Board, he became its president. His long service with the Board earned him a Legion of Merit and a Meritorious Service Medal.

Retiring from the Army in 1982 as a lieutenant colonel, he was selected from 300 ministers to become a minister at the National Presbyterian Church, in Washington, DC. There, he experienced one of the thrills of his life, when, 30 minutes before he was to preach one Sunday, the Secret Service alerted him to the fact that President Reagan was to attend the service.

Next came an 8-year call to the First Presbyterian Church, of Orlando, FL, where he saw the church grow from 2,400 parishioners to 5,500 during his ministry.

After his retirement on 1999, he continued to volunteer for ministry at the National Presbyterian Church, in Washington, and the Second Presbyterian Church, in Alexandria, Virginia.

In 2004, Bill and his wife, Elaine, seeking a continuing care community care facility, came to Lancaster to live at Brethren Village. He promptly joined our Chapter, where he has been an active member.

Some nostalgia about the Flying Tigers



The P-40 that our Warren Botz flew in China

A recent e-mail reprinted a pre-WWII report that gave an insight into the early days of our Flying Tigers, who early in WWII fought the Japanese out of bases in Burma and China. We're proud to say that one of our members, Warren Botz, was a member of that amazing band of men. The e-mail said:

One shining hope has emerged from three catastrophic months of war. That is the American Volunteer Group of fighter pilots, the so-called "Flying Tigers" of Burma and southeast China who paint the jaws of a shark on their Curtiss P-40s.

The hundred or so young men of the Flying Tigers have several tremendous assets: 1) they have had up to six years of military flying, and they have an instinctive feel for what their machines will do; 2) they have been blooded in the air and 3) they are always looking for a fight. The result was bound to be something extremely painful to anybody who ran into them.

On their first meeting, they actually lost four planes to the Japs' six. On the second historic meeting, on Christmas Day, however, they mowed down 20 of the 78 Japs with loss of zero. The holocaust was on.

Outnumbered often ten to one, they have so far shot down about 300 Jap planes, killed perhaps 800 Jap airmen. They have violently wrenched from the Jap Air Force control of the skies over Burma and southeast China. They have conclusively proved what was once only a Yankee belief: that one American flier is equal to two or three Japs.

The American Volunteer Group was recruited from U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine fliers a year ago, under hush-hush circumstances to avoid offending the Japs. Its job was to help China fight. Pay was \$600 a month, with a \$500 bonus for every Jap plane shot down. The men, who had been promised no loss of rank in the U.S. Armed Forces, began arriving in the Far East last summer, registered as tourists, acrobats, artists, etc. They were trained and organized by China's crack American Air Chief, Colonel Claire Chennault.

Chiang Kai-shek, A.V.G.'s boss, told these Americans: "Each of you has proved a match for 30 or more of the enemy. I hope to celebrate with you in Tokyo."

Someone wants to save you money

The Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds offers a free program that permits veterans to obtain a discount on purchases of many kinds. Presently, discounts are offered by 138 merchants in Lancaster County in the fields of Automotive/ Motorcycle, Education, Entertainment, Financial, Funeral Homes, Health and Wellness, Home Improvement/ Services, Lodging, Personal Services, Photography, Professional Services, Real Estate, Retail Stores, Recreation, Restaurants, and Transportation.

For a list of merchants and the discount each offers, open "lancasterdeeds.com" on the Internet, then click on "Thank A Vet Discount Program." Savings range from 5% to 75%.

How does the program work? It starts with your filing a copy of your DD-214 separation form with the Recorder of Deeds office at 150 N. Queen Street in downtown Lancaster. They're open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. They will then issue you a photo ID card (the size of a standard Visa card) that you present to merchants to get your discount.

They often bring the program to other sites throughout the county to make it handy for you to use. They can tell you when they will be at such sites. Call them at 299-8238, and ask for Bonnie Bowman, Recorder of Deeds, who heads their "Saving for those who have served us" program.

If you need a DD-214, here's how to get it

The DD-214 Separation Form that records a veteran's separation from the military is one of the most important documents a vet needs. Yet, many of us, over the years, have misplaced ours.

If you need one, it's possible to replace it on the Internet, but for some of us, that's not easy. By all means the easiest way to get a copy is through the Lancaster office of our U.S. Representative (and fellow MOAA member of our chapter) Joe Pitts.

Just call his office at 393-0667 and explain that you need a copy of your DD-214. They will send you a form to be completed, signed, and returned to them. They will then contact the

National Personnel Records Center, obtain the needed DD 214, and mail it to you. It's just one more way in which Joe Pitts, himself a Vietnam veteran of 116 B-52 missions, is happy to serve vets like us.

How one youngster sees pilots

George Resh sent the following as something he thought would tickle your funny bone.

"Why I Want to be a Pilot"

Editor's Note: The following brief composition was written by Tommy Tyler, a fifth grader in Jefferson School, Beaufort, SC, and first appeared in the "South Carolina Aviation News."

When I grow up, I want to be a pilot because it's a fun job and easy to do. That's why there are so many pilots flying around these days.

Pilots don't need much school, they just have to learn to read numbers so they can read their instruments. I guess they should be able to read road maps, too, so they can find their way if they get lost.

Pilots should be brave so they won't get scared if it's foggy and they can't see, or if a wing or motor falls off, they should stay calm so they'll know what to do.

Pilots have to have good eyes to see through clouds, and they can't be afraid of thunder and lightening because they are so much closer to them than we are.

The salary pilots make is another thing I like. They make more money than they know what to do with. This is because most people think plane flying is dangerous, except pilots don't because they know how easy it is.

I hope I don't get air-sick, because I get car-sick, and if I get air-sick then I couldn't be a pilot, and then I would have to go to work.

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

Hank Hukill's last command was of the Casimir Pulaski, one of the navy's strategic deterrent nuclear subs. Looking back, Hank notes, "Altogether, I figure I spent more than six

years totally submerged during those submarine tours.”Then he was told that Rickover had selected him to be on his personal staff. He was told on Saturday and was to report to Washington on Monday. He was promoted to captain and was the navy’s senior line officer on Rickover’s staff.

He saw Rickover several times a day. And the admiral was often testy. “I suppose he must have fired me twenty times,” Hank remembers. “The first time it happened, I started clearing out my desk, preparing to leave. My immediate boss saw me, and demanded, ‘What do you think you’re doing?’ I told him the admiral had just fired me. ‘Don’t be crazy,’ he said, ‘Get your stuff back in that desk. In the morning, he won’t ever remember it happened.’ And next morning, everything was normal.”

We honor the memory of...

Jane Logdon, who died on April 5, 2013. She was the wife of George Logdon, to whom she had been married for 61 years. She graduated from Cornell University in 1951 and was very active in neighborhood and community activities. Beginning in 1958, she spent more than 50 years volunteering in support of the Lancaster Public Library’s book sales, which was founded by the Lancaster Branch of the American Association of University Women and later taken over by The Friends of the Lancaster Public Library. She received the Lancaster New Era Red Rose Award in recognition of her work. In 1990 she was named by AAUW as Woman of the Year. Besides her husband, she is survived by 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Jane had been part of our chapter since March 1996.

It’s all in the family...

Charles (Chas) Alexih, grandson of **Pete and Sally Alexih**, was the subject of an article in the Sports Section of the Intel/New Era that told of how Chas had signed a free-agent contract to play football with the Miami Dolphins. He was one of 50 other players hoping to make the roster. The article pictured him in college, playing for Pittsburgh, where as a walk-on he had later starred as a tackle with 127 tackles (29 ½ as a loss) and 18 sacks. A later article reported that he had been signed to the Dolphins practice squad.

Megan Esterbrook, daughter of **Mark and Beth Esterbrook**, was pictured in the Sports Section of the Intel/New Era in an article that told of her having won the girl’s individual title at the Lancaster-Lebanon League Golf Championships.

You heard, of course...

Of the Polish immigrant who went to the DMV to apply for a driver’s license.

First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test. The optician showed him a card with the letters C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.

“Can you read this?” the optician asked.

“Read it?” the Polish man replied, “I know the guy.”

Or, perhaps these headlines:

Actors confirmed in movie to be shot next month

Dr. Ruth talks about sex with newspaper editors

Fried chicken cooked in microwave wins trip

Grandmother of eight makes hole in one

Holsteins talk of the winter fair

Iraqi head seeks arms

Johnson teacher talks very slow

Juvenile Court to try shooting defendant

Kicking baby said to be healthy

Kids make nutritious snacks

Legal Aid advocates worry

Local high school dropouts cut in half

Man struck by lightning faces battery charge

Milk drinkers are turning to powder

Miners refuse to work after death