
Lancaster Chapter News

Lancaster, PA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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Our next meeting is December 6

The Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier Hall at Millersville University will again be the setting for our annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 6. The luncheon will begin with a social hour at 1 p.m., followed by the meal at 2 p.m. The menu will consist of the following:

Mescaline Salad with Strawberries and Oranges
Orange Honey Dressing

Choice of the following entrees:

Chicken Chesapeake
Herb Risotto
Roasted Vegetable Medley
or
Five Cheese Ravioli with Spinach

Dessert: White Cake w/Raspberry Mousse Layer

Assorted Crusty Dinner Rolls with butter

Red and white wine is included with the luncheon as well as coffee and iced tea

The cost of the meal will be \$29.00 per person. 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 name tag purposes. Also please indicate your choice of entrée when sending your check. The deadline for receipt of all checks is Monday, November 30. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to November 30th at 581-5299. This is also the meeting at which we bring small, gift-wrapped presents for hospitalized veterans. We'll later deliver them in time for Christmas. Many of these veterans

have no family, no visitors. So our gifts are something very special for them. The hospital suggests paperbacks, games, envelopes, and stamps, etc. But avoid anything alcoholic or sharp. Attach a note describing the contents of your gift and gender of the recipient. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham.

August 29 picnic was fresh change of pace

The ambiance of the Waltz Vineyards was really special, with a splendid view of the surrounding countryside. The food was particularly good, and three different kinds of wine were served with the meal. One of them, the Baron Red, impressed Tom Bender so much that he promptly bought a case.

We welcomed new members Jose & Coral Perez and Warren & Helen Heidelbaugh. Also prospective members David & Cathy Overbagh. Joann McOmber brought her daughter Ann as a guest. John Burke was elected to be a director in the vacancy created by Brian Remmey's resignation from the Board of Directors.

From our President's desk

I am pleased to report that donations to the Commander Gerald E. McOmber Memorial Scholarship Fund have totaled \$1,350 to date. Your board approved an additional contribution of \$150 from our budgeted memorials for deceased member budget category to make the 2016 scholarship an even \$1,500. Joann McOmber will make the first presentation next spring following the selection of our awardee. I want to thank all those members who made contributions, and encourage anyone else who

would like to honor Jerry's memory in this manner to participate as well.

Members have volunteered to fill all of our vacant program leadership positions with George Resh our current past president agreeing to chair our important Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet program. Many thanks, George!

However, for personal reasons, Dave Roy another past president, will have to resign his position as membership co-chair. We thank Dave for his many years of service to our chapter in this critical position. Should any member desire to fill this position beginning in January, please contact George Knapp at 581-1221 or me at 560-1260. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

We will be gathering at Gordinier Hall on the Millersville University campus for our annual Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 6th. In addition to an opportunity to win a beautiful hand-made quilt, we'll be installing the 2016 team of officers and directors, and please don't forget to bring a wrapped gift or two for our hospitalized veterans at the Lebanon VA Medical Center.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone for your support and assistance as I complete my tenure as your chapter president. It's been a great two years. I owe a special thanks to my officers and directors. I hope you will give Tony Cerase and his leadership team the same support or more that you have given me. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Dennis

Quilt to be raffled at our December meeting

The Chapter will be raffling a Red-White-Blue quilt (pictured below) by selling tickets at the December meeting. The price of the tickets will be: \$5.00 for 1 and \$20.00 for 5. This will be in lieu of the 50-50 raffle. The winner will be drawn at the December meeting and need not be present at the drawing to win. The quilt has been donated to the chapter to benefit the Scholarship/ROTC Award programs. It is a personal quilt size, 63" x 85", designed by Jenny Doan, pieced by Dina Cerase and quilted by Kim Loar. Dina and Kim are both members of the Lancaster Quilts of Valor, and although the

donated quilt cannot be called a Quilt of Valor because those are donated to wounded soldiers, this quilt has been made with our national colors of red, white & blue to honor our service members. Since so many of our members have sons and daughters that also belong to the military or have dutifully served, the quilt also has the color representation of our 5 services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Those wanting to participate and purchase tickets although not attending the December meeting can contact Dina Cerase at 299-7177. Please make your check to: Lancaster Chapter MOAA.



It's a pity that we don't print in color. This is the quilt, and in color it's spectacular.

Say hello to our new members

ENS William T. Kelley
USMS 717-560-9424
409 Rhoda Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601-3669
Spouse: Deceased
Joined: September 10, 2015
Sponsor: Dina Cerase

LTJG David F. Overbagh
USN. 717-568-8272
340 English Ivy Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
Spouse: Catherine
Joined: September 21, 2015
Sponsor: Vincent Mizeras

1st Lt Robert J. Palisay
USMC. 917-501-6551
424 Coote Drive
Avondale, PA 19311
Spouse: Rosemary
Joined: October 10, 2015
Sponsor: Nat'l MOAA and Dave Roy

LTC Shirley A. Spirk
USA-Ret. 717-584-6804
121 Waypoint Drive
Lancaster, PA 17603-5676
Spouse: None
Joined: August 26, 2015
Sponsor: National MOAA and Dick Smith

CAPT Norman F. Stein
USN-Ret. 703-464-2694
612 Willow Valley Lakes Drive
Willow Street, PA 17584-9647
Spouse: Evelyn
Joined: October 3, 2015
Sponsor: Bob Wilcox

Change in dates for 2016 meetings

Membership Meetings

March 3	11:00 a.m.	Lancaster CC
April 28	5:00 p.m.	Meadia Heights GC
June 23	5:00 p.m.	Bent Creek CC
August 27	11:00 a.m.	Location TBD
September 17	11:30 a.m.	Heritage Hotel
December 4	1:00 p.m.	MU Gordinier Hall

Board meetings

February 17	2:00 p.m.
April 13	2:00 p.m.
June 8	2:00 p.m.
August 10	2:00 p.m.
September 7	2:00 p.m.
November 16	2:00 p.m.

All Board meetings are at General Hospital
Campus on Harrisburg Pike Chapter members
are welcome to attend.

Our members made news

Ryan Aument, state senator, wrote an article for *LNP* on the state budget impasse. He explained why he had voted “to advance a no-frills stopgap budget that would appropriate one-third of the funding in all of the line items included in the budget sent to Gov. Wolf.” He added, “This would remedy the immediate problems and keep necessary services operating.”

Ed Bonekemper was featured in a major picture/story in the Sunday News that told of his “setting (the) record straight about the Civil War” in his new book, “The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South fought the Civil War and Why the North Won.” The article noted that the book examines seven important myths that are widely believed about that war. It reported that Ed had spent two years in writing this latest book, pointing out that he had written five earlier books, that he had taught U.S. Military history for seven years at Muhlenberg College, and that he speaks regularly at Civil War events around the country.

Laura Dogger, one of our newest members, was recently reported in *Central Penn Business Journal* as having received the 2015 Central Penn Business Journal’s “Forty under 40 Award” for commitment to business growth, professional excellence and community service.

Howard Knisely, Lancaster County Judge, was reported in *LNP* to have said, “He is a clear and present danger to society” as he sentenced a man to 27-1/2 to 75 years in prison. This came after the man was convicted of attempted murder, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, theft of a firearm, fleeing police, and reckless endangerment.

Joe Pitts, U.S. Rep., was quoted in *LNP* as saying after the Pope’s address to Congress, “I hope that my colleagues and I will go forth now inspired by his message to protect life at every stage, defend the family, and create opportunity for those in need.”

Richard Smith wrote a beautiful story for *LNP* about Old Leacock Presbyterian Church, a church rich in history and which celebrated its 275th anniversary on September 13.

Craig Stedman, District Attorney, was reported in *LNP* to have declined to press charges against either of two men allegedly involved in a road rage shooting. He said he had determined that charges could not be upheld in court, beyond a reasonable doubt.

In connection with bomb or shooting threats by high school students, Craig was quoted in *LNP* as saying, “Regardless of whether the actors believe such threats are pranks, they are taken

very seriously by law enforcement, as they should be.”

When *LNP* announced that the killer of a woman and her 16-year-old daughter and child faced the death penalty, Craig was quoted as calling the crime a “premeditated assassination.”

We took part in Community Days

When the Community Days celebration was held at Lancaster Airport in August, we were there. We manned a table at the main entrance to the tarmac and had a chance to talk to a lot of prospective member of our Chapter. Our members who took part were: Dennis Benchoff, Tony and Dina Cerase, Jim Cunningham and George Resh.

Our Chapter president speaks at POW/MIA Recognition Day event



The remembrance event on September 18 was conducted by local AmVets Post 19, and our president, LTG Dennis Benchoff, was the keynote speaker. He provided a short history on treatment of POWs throughout our country’s history. He also spoke about those Americans listed as missing in action and the advances we’ve made in genetic testing to all but eliminate the potential for any additional remains that might be categorized as “unknown.”

Cadets from the McCaskey High School AFJROTC unit posted the Colors and conducted the Flag Folding Ceremony, as the symbolic meaning of the 13 folds

of the flag were read by AmVets Post 19 Commander, Randy Axe.

Our chapter member, Joe Pitts writes

In his October 9 letter to constituents, Congressman Joe Pitts included these important words:

“On Monday evening I had the privilege of meeting with young people who are interested in attending our Armed Services academies. There are few things as inspiring, or that fill you with as much hope for our country, as meeting these highly intelligent, disciplined, motivated, and selfless young people. These are promising young adults who are willing to sacrifice to help their country. If their peers are anything like them, then the future of our country is in good hands. I remember my military service very well, and it shaped me into a better man. I am grateful to all of our service members, those who are serving now, veterans who have already served, and those, like these impressive young people, who desire to serve in the future.”

Hank Stouffer’s thrill of a lifetime

It started when the daughter of our long-time member, Hank Stouffer, called him to say that she was arranging a very special Fathers Day gift for him, but that he’d have to come to Ohio to get it. He, of course, agreed, and his son and son-in-law picked him up to take him to something he says he’ll never forget.

It was the “71st Anniversary of D-Day” re-enactment of the D-Day invasion of Europe. The re-enactment took place August 21-22 in Conneaut, OH and was the largest amphibious D-Day re-enactment in the country. More than 1,700 re-enactors took part, before a crowd of some 30,000 people. Conneaut was the chosen site, since it greatly mirrors the topography of the actual WWII sites on the Normandy coast. Hank and his daughter joined some 150 veterans of WWII and the Korean War as special guests, with front row seats for the spectacle. And what a show it was. There were allied and German

troops and cannon, exploding shells and mines, flame throwers, LSTs landing troops, and P-51s, B-25s, and B-17s flying overhead.

Not surprisingly, our forces won, but Hank says the whole scene was so shockingly authentic and so spectacular that it virtually brought tears to his eyes.

As part of the ceremony, representatives of the French Embassy in Washington presented five attending veterans with the French Legion of Honor (Legion d'Honneur).

Hank says the re-enactment takes place annually, and he highly recommends attending it. He has details for those who may want to go. Just give him a call at 393-8361.

Dina Cerase is our new Liaison Officer with the Millersville University Army ROTC unit.

She has some big shoes to fill in view of the excellent work done by Brian Remmey in his six years as our ROTC Liaison Officer. But the press from Brian's professional work has made it necessary for him to resign as ROTC Liaison Officer as well as from our Board of Directors. Knowing how Dina works, we expect a similar level of dedication from her as she takes on the important responsibility with the Millersville University ROTC detachment.

Board offers better benefit for new members

For several years, we have offered new members a free membership for the calendar year in which they join our chapter. That was a real incentive for those who joined early in the year, but it offered little to those who joined late in the year. The Board has now improved that incentive by offering those who join our chapter during the last quarter of the year a free year of membership for the following year, as well.

It's all in the family

Dr. V. Michael Bove, son of **Victor and Alice Bove**, recently was honored at the 10th International Symposium on Display Holography in St. Petersburg, Russia. There, he was awarded the Yuri N. Denisyuk Medal "for development in new digital holographic technologies." Michael is currently head of the Object-Based Media Group at the Media Lab of the MIT and has an eye-popping resumé of

inventions, patents, articles authored, and distinguished activities in his field.

In the spotlight: Chaplain Grover G. Devault... and an anecdote of his service

In the course of 22 years as an army chaplain, LTC Grover G. DeVault brought his religious message to people in some mighty unusual places.

One of the earliest was an assignment he volunteered for. The army had developed a portable nuclear power package, and they wanted to try it out in a remote location. So they decided to build a special base far above the Arctic Circle. The base, which was called Camp Century, was designed to be buried within the ancient Greenland icecap 138 miles east of the American airfield at Thule.

Grover was to spend two 9-month tours in Greenland, the first at a camp near Thule while Camp Century was being built, the second at Camp Century itself after it had been completed. There, everything was beneath the snow and ice. The weather was so severe, with almost daily winds of 100 miles an hour, that the men had to have an astonishing amount of some very special Arctic gear, including long underwear, wool ski socks, trouser liners and trousers, wool shirts, felt boots and inflatable rubber boots, field jacket, fur parka, leather gloves, trigger mittens, Arctic mittens, thick cap, and sun glasses.

The nuclear power pack worked like a charm, driving a steam turbine plant that every hour produced more than 1,500 kilowatts of electricity and 1,000,000 BTUs of heat. A diesel generator to have produced as much power and heat would have required 850,000 gallons of fuel oil a year.

Grover and a Catholic chaplain once hopped into a plane and were flown to a top secret base we had established at the North Pole. Each held a service for the 25 or so scientists who manned the base and were starved for a truly religious experience. So Grover became one of two chaplains to ever conduct a service at the North Pole.