

---

---

# Lancaster Chapter News

---

---

Lancaster, PA Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

Editor: Bob Wilcox, 211 Willow Valley Square, Lancaster 17602, 464-2575, bob.wilcox1@verizon.net  
Chapter web site: www.moaalancasterchapt.org

Volume 20, Number 5  
September 1, 2013

## Reflections on our Bent Creek meeting

If the old saying "Food makes the man" is correct, we were in great shape at our July meeting, because the meal was outstanding. Dick Smith placed copies of the Millersville Advertiser on every table with the picture/story of a May "Night of Patriotic Poetry and Song" at Eshleman Elementary School during which ten of our members were honored for their military service.

President George Resh got us off on the right foot by telling about the teenager on a recent TV quiz show who was asked by the host, "What types of underwear do most old men wear, shorts or briefs?" She thought a minute and said, "Depends."

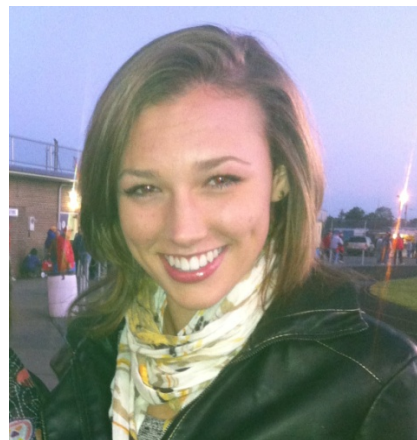
Dennis Benchoff read a message of thanks from COL Val Keaveny, Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, for our pre-paid phone cards that we had sent to be distributed to his troops.

George Knapp introduced his guests, Paul and Georgia Henneman, who we hope will be added to our list of members.

Dennis introduced new members Kenneth and Debbie Smith. Ken was a Navy flier who later flew for American Airlines and North American Airlines. He had the distinction of flying the first 250 Marines out of Iraq in 2010 while flying a Boeing 767 for North American Airlines.

He then introduced Charles and Melody Locke, Steve Morgan, and Bruce Haigh, all of whom are members of national MOAA and were told of our meeting by national MOAA.

Dennis told of a wonderful opportunity that had been known about too late to have been included in our July newsletter. The Lancaster Barnstormers had invited our members to a picnic-baseball game combo on August 25. Tickets were \$28 apiece and treated us to a picnic lunch and a baseball game between the Barnstormers and the York Revolution. Proceeds were to go to help homeless veterans. Those of us who get our newsletter electronically were e-mailed a special notice.



*Kaitlyn Kuriskey, supremely talented winner of our \$1,200 scholarship*

George Resh introduced our scholarship winner Kaitlyn Kuriskey, her sister Emily, and her parents Paul and Jennifer, who are our chapter members. George read some highlights from Kaitlyn's astonishing array of accomplishments and presented her with our \$1,200 scholarship check. Kaitlyn then spoke briefly, thanking us for our scholarship and expressing her hopes for the future.

We were delighted to have as our speaker Colonel Barry Wright, Chairman, Council and

Chapter Affairs, MOAA. His unscripted remarks were received well. He spoke earnestly of the importance of our membership's taking an active role in the conduct of the affairs of our chapter...and in support of national MOAA and its programs to benefit its members.

He then made a surprise award of the MOAA Medal to your editor. Not for writing the newsletter, of course, but for having supported our Chapter and national MOAA enthusiastically over the years. My well-known sense of modesty prevents my saying more. Luckily, Tom Bender was there, camera in hand.



*Bob Wilcox reacts to unexpectedly being awarded the MOAA medal*

George wound up the meeting by encouraging us all to participate in our Adopt-Kid programs for the fall.

The warm atmosphere gave us an all-too-rare but wonderful chance to meet and visit with other chapter members.

#### **We next meet at the Eden Resort**

We return to the Eden Resort as the site for our October 24 dinner meeting. The guest speaker will be Chasz Parker, President of Water Street Ministries, who will speak about the work of the ministries with Lancaster County veterans in need.

The gathering begins at 5 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. Then at 6 p.m. after opening remarks by our president, George Resh, this

tempting dinner will be served:

Tossed Garden Salad  
Choice of Sliced Roast Sirloin of Beef with  
Bordelaise Cream Sauce

Or

Baked Salmon with Basil Cream Sauce  
Chef's Potato and Vegetable  
Freshly Baked Breads and Rolls  
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Tea  
Triple Chocolate Cake

The cost of the meal will be \$27.00 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. **Please include your choice of entrée from the two provided above.** By request, a vegetarian meal will be available as a substitute for the above selections.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Friday, October 18th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to Tuesday, October 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, 581-5299.

#### **Say hello to our new member**

LCDR Kenneth A. (Stump) Smith,  
USN (717) 475-5354  
1319 Hillcrest Road  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
Spouse: Deborah (Deb)  
Joined: 6/27/13

#### **We made news...**

The Pennysaver ran a full color picture of Kaitlyn Kurisky, with a lengthy article telling of her having been awarded our \$1,200 scholarship.

#### **Our members made news...**

**Ryan Aument**, State Rep., wrote an article for the Sunday News, pointing out that spending alone is not the solution to improving the quality of our education system. He then offered four other key actions needed "to restore the greatness of our education system."

**Jerry Beck**, was pictured in the Sunday News in an article about his being named deputy adjutant general for veterans affairs in the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In that post, he will serve as the Corbett administration's principal advisor on veterans issues and will direct the department's Office for Veterans Affairs, based at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The article recounted how Jerry had enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a private in 1977. He deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2002, then to Kosovo as commanding general of the Multi-National Brigade, where he led 3,500 soldiers from six countries. He retired as the deputy adjutant general, Army for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 2011. Since then, he has been deputy garrison commander for Fort Indiantown Gap. Many of us will remember well the outstanding talk he gave as speaker at our Chapter's meeting of October 10, 2010.

**Dennis Benchoff** wrote the Intell/New Era to "applaud the state Senate's passage of a comprehensive transportation funding solution that included a first-ever dedicated investment in active transportation (walking and biking)." He also noted that obesity bars one out of four 17-24 year-olds from enlisting in the military and that "data from the American Heart Association show that for every \$1 spent on building safe bike/pedestrian transportation routes, \$3 in reduced health care costs can result."

**Ed Bonekemper** wrote the Sunday News to comment on the dissatisfaction the Lancaster Public Library has with its share of county funding...and to suggest what he sees as a better way to share such funding. Speaking as a member of the Quarryville Library Board, he suggested that funds be based on the number of items circulated by the library rather than the population of the area served. He noted that "LPL had a 2012 circulation of 826,597 items, which represents only 20.86% of the total countywide circulation." Yet it "is apparently receiving 28% of the county's funding."

**Roger Groce** was quoted in an article by The Scribbler in the Intell/New Era. The Scribbler reminisced about the origin of the traditional parasol parade as it first occurred three decades ago in Mt. Gretna. He noted that the late Ralph Hogentogler led the parade with a red umbrella, adding, "He did with enthusiasm, with a pumping type of action (with the umbrella)"

recalls Roger Groce, compiler of the Mount Gretna Newsletter. "It was an integral part of the Mount Gretna tradition."

**Bob LeMin** was quoted on the front page of the sports section of the Sunday News about the start of the polo season. Speaking of his attraction to the sport, Bob said, "It's a great way to spend the day, and I've learned a lot about the sport." As the article noted, his son Bob "served as announcer for the game, which has come to be known as a sport of kings." We're not sure of that, but we do know that it's evidently the sport of the LeMins.

**Josh Parsons**, Lancaster County Clerk of Courts, earned a headlined story on the front page of the Intell/New Era for collecting "nearly \$8.5 million in outstanding fines, costs and restitution levied against convicted criminals in his first full year on the job." This was "about \$942,000 more than had been collected in each of the preceding four years."

**Max Peters** wrote the Intell/New Era to respond to a previous writer who had disagreed with a column by Thomas Sowell on climate change. Max pointed out that the causes of climate change are not determined by consensus, "because consensus is not science." Max then explained how slight changes in the sun's magnetic activity have "a huge effect on the Earth." He said that "the experts have identified six specific solar cycles" that have greatly affected minimum and maximum temperatures on the earth "many times during the past 10,000 years."

**Roger Peterson** was named in the Intell/New Era as one of six physicians honored by the Lancaster City and County Medical Society for their 50 years in medicine. Roger is a diagnostic radiologist.

**Joe Pitts**, U. S. Representative, wrote an article for the Sunday News titled, "In search of common ground on Medicare," in which he said, "If you remove the budget gimmicks, the long-term shortfall for Medicare may run more than \$100 trillion." As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, he should know. He further said that his biggest goal for this year is a permanent replacement for "something that is known as Sustainable Growth Rate or SGR." He said, "Doctors made it clear to members of Congress that, should the cuts go forward, many would be forced to stop seeing

Medicare patients.” A later article in the Intell/New Era said, “But a real solution is finally on the way, thanks to bipartisan effort led by Rep Joe Pitts.” Joe was also reported to have joined with Congressman Pat Meehan in opposing a measure that would have ended the National Security Agency’s ability to monitor phone records, saying the program is important, but requires oversight. He also wrote a Sunday News article that pointed out that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac together got a government bailout that was “more than the next three bailout recipients combined.”

The Intell/New Era reported that Joe receives a salary of \$174,000 and a pension of \$90,867. A later article in the Sunday News explored the same subject, in more detail.

**Al Price** wrote the Intell/New Era to comment on recent pictures of toddlers close to lawn mowers. He said that such acts can result in “severe cuts, amputations, burns from the hot engines, and eye injuries from flying debris.” He added that, in 2010, 17,000 children in the U.S. were injured by lawn mowers. After decades as a pediatrician, Al is all too aware of the dangers.

**Dick Smith** was written about by The Scribbler in the Intel/New Era who said, “Richard Leaman Smith reacts to the Scribbler’s July 2 item on the outdated expression ‘knee high by the Fourth of July.’ The Gordonville writer says a fellow following a service at Old Leacock Presbyterian Church in Intercourse several years ago told him something like, ‘If on Memorial Day, the corn is as high as a horse’s thigh, it will be as high as an elephant’s eye on the Fourth of July.’”

**Ken Smith** was the subject of a feature article in Senior News that told of his having flown the first 250 Marines home from Iraq. It also told of his years as a Navy pilot, then as a captain for American Airlines.

**Craig Stedman**, District Attorney, was pictured on the front page of the Intell/New Era in an article that told of Craig’s decision to close the case in which a Lancaster policeman shot and killed a homeless man who pulled a knife on him. Craig said that a thorough investigation had shown clearly that it was a case of self- defense. He was quoted as saying of another case, “Anyone who kidnaps a 5year-old, threatens to kill her and then sexually assaults her...that’s a monster.” He was reported to have ruled that a man was justified when he shot one of four men

when he was confronted by them in his home. He was also reported to have commented on a prisoner’s attempt to escape from Lancaster County Prison, saying, “This was a legitimate, substantial step to a very real attempt to escape the prison.”

**Ernest Wood** was named in the Intell/New Era as one of six physicians honored by the Lancaster City and County Medical Society for their 50 years in medicine. He was the chairman of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Lancaster General Hospital.

### In October, we vote for officers and directors

Our Nominating Committee of George Knapp and Jack Sapper has nominated the following 2014 officers and directors to be voted on at our October 24 meeting at Eden Resort:

President	Dennis Benchoff
Vice President	Tony Cerase
Corresponding Secretary:	Jim Cunningham
Recording Secretary	John Schmucker
Treasurer	Gary Snyder
Director 3 years	Dan Horting
Director 3 years	Dan Cooper
Director 2 years	Bob Bomberger
Director 2 years	Paul Wedel
Director 1 year	Dina Cerase
Director 1 year	George Knapp

As always, nominations may also be made from the floor. Please make a special effort to attend this important meeting and cast your vote.

### Our members scored in the Senior Games

A record 900 participants registered for the Lancaster Senior Games held June 10-14. Dick Smith sends news of our winners:

**Tom Bender**---18-hole golf, MEN, with a 74, placing 3rd (ages 75-79)

**Alice Bove**---Bicep Curl, WOMEN, with 55 lbs., placing 1st (ages 80-84)

**Victor Bove**---Bocce, MEN, placing 2nd (ages 85-89)

**Hank Kadel**---9-Hole Golf, MEN 2<sup>nd</sup>. Table Tennis, MEN 1st. Swimming, 25-Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 90+) 1st. 50-yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages90+) 1st. 100-Yard

Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 90+ 1st. Backstroke MEN ages (90+) 1st.

**Gene Moore**---Bench Press, MEN, placing 1st with 150 lbs (ages 80-84) and Softball Throw MEN, placing 1st with 89'6" (ages 80-84)

**Craig Stearn**---Frisbee Golf MEN, with a 13, placing 3rd (ages 80-84) and Hotshot Basketball MEN, with 8 for a 1st place (ages 80-84)

**Rudy Valentino**---Golf, Longest Drive MEN, with 115 yds. for 2nd place (ages 80-84).

There was a unique experience when two sets of father-son combinations competed. And the two fathers were our Chapter members: **Wayne Conrad** and his son Wayne...and **Dave Huber** and his son Mark. Here's how they did:

**Warren Conrad**---25-Yard Breaststroke MEN (ages 85-89) 1st.

Wayne Conrad---25-yard Breaststroke MEN (ages 55-59) 1st. 25-Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 60-64) 1st. 50-Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 60-64) 2nd. 100-yard Freestyle Swim MEN (Ages 60-64) 2nd, 100-Yard Freestyle Relay 1st.

**Dave Huber**---25-Yard Breaststroke MEN (ages 85-89) 1st. 25-Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 85-89) 1st.

Mark Huber---50 Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 55-59) 1<sup>st</sup>. 100-Yard Freestyle Swim MEN (ages 55-59) 1st.

If we missed anyone, let us know. Also, the newspaper listed winners only. If any of you were there competing, let us know; we'd like to list you in the next Newsletter.

#### **Tom Bender produces Chapter folder**

Tom has created a nifty picture/folder that tells "What We Do." It briefly describes our Adopt-a-Kid program, parade support, ROTC support, high school scholarship award, speakers bureau, and chapter meetings. It would be great for your use in telling prospects about us.

#### **The Internet gets it right**

The Internet sometimes carries many worthless items, but occasionally it gets things exactly

right. Sharp-eyed John Schmucker forwarded this sobering but meaningful gem that he had plucked from the Internet.

I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
and then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform;  
so young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil;  
how many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE !

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
and felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
that Taps had meant 'Amen,'  
when a flag had draped a coffin  
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons, and husbands  
with interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
at the bottom of the sea,  
of unmarked graves in Arlington .  
NO FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

Enjoy Your Freedom  
and God Bless Our Troops.

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our servicemen. Of all the gifts you could give a U.S. Soldier, prayer is the very best one.

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



*The USS Forrestal ablaze in the day's most disastrous carrier fire since WWII*

**Gary Kirchner** was aboard the *USS Forrestal* aircraft carrier in the Tonkin Gulf off Vietnam in 1967. As the huge ship's surgeon, he was in the sick bay some 40 feet below the flight deck, treating a sailor's broken hand, when he heard an urgent message over the ship's public address system, "Fire. Fire. Fire on the flight deck aft!!!"

Incredibly, a Zuni missile from one of the F-4 Phantom aircraft on the flight deck had been accidentally launched. It shot across the flight deck and through an A-4 Skyhawk jet, with the Zuni's rocket engine igniting the A-4's fuel. Next to it was the A-4 Skyhawk of LCDR (now Arizona Senator) John McCain. It similarly burst into flames, and a wave of burning fuel rapidly spread beneath still more aircraft with their full fuel tanks and 1,000-pound bombs.

The resulting explosions blasted holes in the reinforced steel flight deck, burning to death many of the men below. The ship had suffered the equivalent of five direct hits of 1,000-pound bombs on the flight deck.

The maimed and dying began pouring into Gary's sick bay. He had to decide which ones had a chance to live, stabilize them, and get them aboard helicopters to be flown to shore or to other ships. At least 40 corpsmen helped him stop the bleeding and administered morphine to ease the pain of the wounded. The feverish work to save lives continued, but the official Navy count of those who died that day was 134 crewmen and another 300 injured. And about 50 of the ship's some 90 aircraft were gone, either burned or, in some cases, just pushed over

the side to clear the deck and avoid further explosions.

The ship was able to limp back into Subic Bay for temporary repairs, then to Norfolk, where permanent repairs were made. Gary says he often thinks back to---and values---his Navy experience, but adds, "I'm glad I didn't lose my life in the process."

#### **Dick Smith credits Chicago Bears owner for writing story for Sunday News**

Our May newsletter told of Dick's having submitted a story on J.P. McCaskey to the Sunday News. Dick also wants it known that the story he submitted was written by Patrick McCaskey who, with his family, owns the Chicago Bears football team. Dick has for many years been corresponding with Patrick's mother, Virginia Halas McCaskey.

#### **We honor the memory of...**

**Ruth L. Brons**, who died May 28. She was the wife of John C. (Jack) Brons. She and Jack would have celebrated 54 years of marriage on June 13. She was the mother of 3 children and the grandmother of 14. She was a woman of great faith and was a daily communicant at St Joseph's of Lancaster. She was an excellent cook, hostess, teacher and adviser. Ruth had been part of our Chapter since her husband, Jack, joined our chapter in April 2010.

**Harriet C. Conner**, who died June 26. She was the wife of Roy Conner, who passed away on April 11, 2007. A native of Berwick, she graduated from Bloomsburg School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Public School Nursing from Millersville University. She was a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church and the Town Club of Lancaster. She is survived by 3 daughters, 5 grandsons, and 2 great-granddaughters. Harriet had been part of our Chapter since January 1996.

**G. Gary Kirchner**, who died August 2. His story appears earlier in this newsletter. He was a long---and colorful---member, who for many years regularly sent an e-mail to friends, filled with thoughts on a wide variety of subjects. His last was a reminiscence of his voyage to Rio as a young naval officer. He was an F&M grad who then graduated with a Doctor of Medicine from

Hahnemann University and served his internship at Lancaster General Hospital. He then had a four-year residency in surgery at the Mayo Clinic. He served as a Navy surgeon during the Vietnam War. He was Chairman of the L.G.H Department of Surgery from 1986-1989 and retired from surgical practice in 1998. He was very active in the community throughout the years. He's survived by his wife Betsy, 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and a brother, David. Gary had been a member of our Chapter since March 1999.

**Austin M. Lee**, who died June 4. He grew up in Philadelphia, graduated from the Staunton Military Academy in 1936, The College of William and Mary in 1940, and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1943 and was admitted to the bar.

He then volunteered for the Navy and served for three years in the American and Pacific Theaters as an Aerial Navigator. He was discharged in 1947 as a Lieutenant.

He then practiced law for more than 60 years in Philadelphia and Jenkintown, PA. He served as a State Representative from 1956 to 1964 and was Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee from 1963-1964. In 1978, he served as Executive Assistant to the Republican Floor Leader and in 1979 was Executive Assistant to the Speaker of the House. In 1980, he became Executive Director of the House Bipartisan Management Committee and served until 1989. In 1991, He was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission and served until 2001. Austin had been a member of our chapter since February 2006.

**Ronald T. Smith**, who died July 25. He was a resident of Brethren Village, having moved there from Georgia in 2011. We know little of his military background other than his being a retired Lt. Colonel in the Air Force. He is survived by his wife Virginia, 2 sons and 2 step-daughters. Ron had been a member of our Chapter since December 2011.

**Robert H. Welk**, who died July 18. He and his wife June celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 9. He was a lifelong resident of Lancaster and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1951 with an engineering degree. He entered the Army Air Corps in February 1943 and became an instructor pilot on B-17 Flying Fortresses. He left the service in

1945, but remained in the Air Force Reserve for 26 years, retiring as a Major.

He worked for 20 years as an engineer at Hamilton Watch, then in 1974 founded Fastening Products of Lancaster, where he was president and owner. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, 2 sons, and 5 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Robin, who died in 1991.

Bob was active in our Chapter, always saw the positive side of things, and had a great sense of humor. He was the fourth most senior member of our MOAA Chapter in terms of continuous membership, having joined on February 5, 1982. He served as our president in 1985 and 1986. And he brought many people into our chapter...including your newsletter editor.

#### **Our Chapter urgently needs...**

1. A Membership Chairman.
2. A Meetings Program Chairman
3. A Parade Chairman

All are part of the pieces that, together, form a vibrant, dynamic chapter. So we need you. You wouldn't have to invent the wheel, since each area has hands who have previous experience in the assignment. And you will never have enjoyed the Chapter as much as you would when being active in it. Call President Resh at 397-1906 and ask him to tell you more.

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

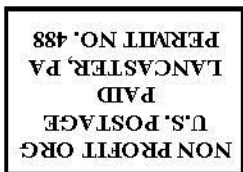
2ndLt Curtis R. Bolinger, son of **Todd and Mary Bolinger**, received a bachelor of science degree in oceanography from the United States Naval Academy, was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps, and reported to Quantico, Va. for Marine Corps officer training. After completion of The Basic School in January 2014, he will report to flight school in Florida for pilot training.

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

of the guy facing a South American firing squad. The captain in charge carefully places a blindfold over his eyes. Then he offers him his final cigarette. "No, thanks," the guy says. "I've been trying to quit."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



MOAA Lancaster Chapter

