



# Stack Arms



Vol. 38 No. 1 FEB/MAR 2015

Military Officers Association

Willow Grove Chapter

MOAA – WG Website:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/moaawg/>

## COMING EVENTS

### March Luncheon

Thursday, March 19, 2015

1200-1500 Hours  
Vereinigung Erzgebirge Club  
• 130 Davisville Road  
• Warminster, PA 18974-5599

See Page 5 for Menu  
and Reservation Form



### Board Meetings

1000, Monday, Mar. 9, 2015

56<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat  
• Team Conference Room

• 5600 Itami Avenue  
Horsham Air Guard Station

### Questions Concerning Events?

Call Dave Manuel @  
215-540-9809

## *Message from the President*



Our Gala at the William Penn Inn on 5 December was an outstanding event. Attendance was very good and everyone had a terrific time. The weather was threatening but the rain held out. I wish to thank Capt. Gordon Bell for the great job of organizing the Gala. Captain Bell always agonizes about every detail of this event and it shows in the final product. Major Bill Luckenbill, Past President and his wife Sharon did an excellent job with the wine raffle getting a little extra help from my wife Kathy.

There were at least twenty five winner's bottles of wine or liquors including Irish Cream. Col. Bill Cole again sold many additional raffle tickets at the front door and wrote checks for the winners at an astounding rate. This certainly helped fund the event.

Our guest was Joe Brooks, CEO of the Liberty Chapter of the USO. Mr. Brooks came directly from the hospital where he had a finger re-stitched from a previous surgery. Mr. Brooks reported that the need to support the troops continues at an ever increasing rate in spite of some draw down of troops in South East Asia. The Chapter provided a \$500.00 donation to the Liberty USO through Joe Brooks. In addition Col. Larry Rubini contributed his \$500.00 raffle winnings donating it to the USO. Three additional raffle winners donated their winnings to the USO as well, for a Grand Total of \$1,300 for our troops!! The new slate of officers were elected and installed.

(Cont. on page 2)



**CHAPTER OFFICERS  
DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES**

**PRESIDENT & Corresponding  
Secretary, Webmaster**  
MAJ Gary Portnoy, USAF-Ret.  
215-249-1305

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
VACANT

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
CAPT Gordon L Bell, USCG-Ret.

**IMMED PAST PRESIDENT &  
Recording Secretary**  
MAJ William Luckenbill, USA-  
Ret

**TREASURER**  
COL William C. Cole, USA-Ret.  
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MAJ Thomas Sadowski, USAF-R

**CHAPLAIN**  
(Vacant)

**DIRECTORS  
PROGRAMS & LUNCHEONS  
BY-LAWS, Charity & Grants**  
LCOL David Manuel, USMC- Ret  
215-540-9809

**DATA BASE MAINTENANCE**  
1 LT (R) Frank Gorman, AUS  
215-674-1418

**CDR Peter Thomson, USN-Ret.**  
Financial Auditing &  
Membership

In addition to my position as president, your leadership includes: Capt. Gordon Bell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Maj. Bill Luckenbill, Secretary; and Col. Bill Cole, Treasurer. We also have LTC Dave Manual, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Frank Gorman, Maj. Tom Sadowski, and Cdr. Peter Thomson serving in various positions on the board. We are still looking for someone to fill the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Our board meetings take place on the second Monday of the Month, 1000 hours at the 56<sup>th</sup> Striker Brigade HQ on Horsham Air National Guard Station. Any member is welcome to attend. Refer to our web site for specific dates. It is a pleasure to serve the members of MOAA-WG as your president.

On Saturday 17 January 2015 we held our first event of the New Year at Ann's Choice retirement community in Warminster. A special thanks to 1Lt. Frank Gorman for organizing the event. We had a great buffet breakfast followed by a presentation by Al Serota detailing the VA sponsored National Veteran's Wheelchair Games held in Philadelphia last summer. It was amazing to see our disabled veterans giving their all in competition. <http://wheelchairgames.org/> Join us 19 March 2015 for lunch back at the VE Club where our speaker will be Jim McComb. Jim wrote a

book about all the Bucks County residents that were lost in Vietnam. His presentation is very moving. <http://memoirsfromnam.blogspot.com/2014/06/more-than-names-on-wall-by-james-mccomb.html>

**Maj. Gary M. Portnoy,  
USAFR, Ret.**

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER  
MEETINGS and LUNCHEONS  
FOR 2015**

19 March –Thursday – 1200-  
VE Club, 130 Davisville Rd.  
Warminster, PA 18974-5599  
James McComb - Author of  
"More Than Names on a Wall"

21 May --Thursday -1200  
VE Club,130 Davisville Rd.  
Warminster, PA 18974-5599  
Bill Hyndman - Military Historian

**SCHEDULE OF BOARD  
MEETINGS FOR 2014**

**1000, Monday, Mar. 9, 2015**

**1000, Monday, Apr. 13, 2015**

**1000-Monday May 11, 2015**

**1000-Monday, June 8, 2015**

**In Memoriam**

**COL Alan Worthington  
USA-Ret**

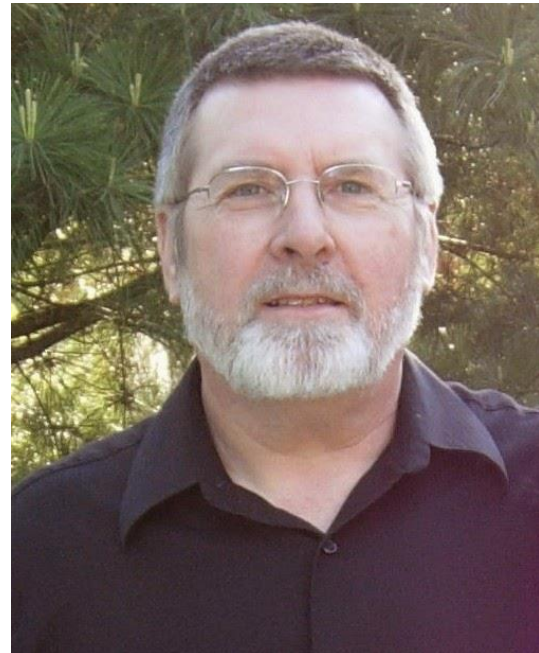
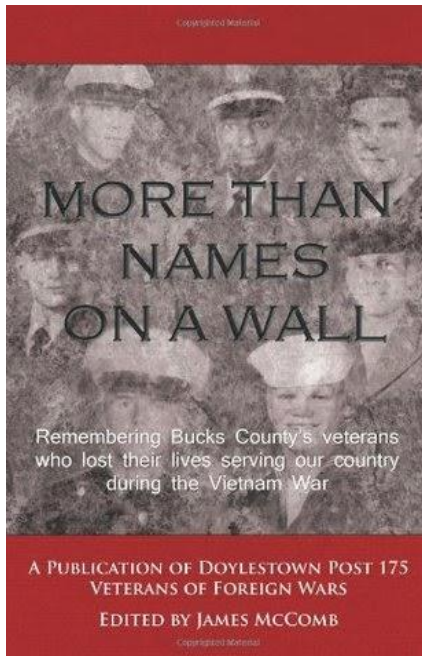
**LCDR Eugene Kelly, USN-Ret**

**LTC John Seibert, USA-Ret**

## **“MORE THAN NAMES ON A WALL” – MOAA-WG SPEAKER ON 19 MARCH 2015 JAMES McCOMB –DOYLESTOWN, VFW**

Jim McComb is a native of Philadelphia, but has been a Bucks County resident for over fifteen years.

He is a former US Marine and a past Commander of VFW Post 175. He is a member of the Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 210 and the American Legion Post 210.



### **The Story Behind The Book:**

Each December on what is usually a cold Saturday night in Doylestown PA at the south end of the courthouse, people gather from as far away as Easton, PA -- not to occupy or protest, but to honor.

Family, friends, and residents gather as they have for the past 21+ years to honor, remember, and reflect on those whose names are on the Bucks County Vietnam War Veterans Memorial – “The Wall”.

The idea to erect a tree and decorate it with ornaments bearing the names of the fallen was the idea of Neil and Sherry Wolfe. Neil was a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran who wanted to honor those who could never again celebrate Christmas with their families.

The ceremony includes decorating the tree with the ornaments that are handed to each attendee as the names are recited. This continues until all the names have been placed on the tree. The Vietnam Veterans who have passed since the construction of the wall are honored, as well. The ceremony ends with a prayer and the singing of “Silent Night”.

**James McComb**



## HOLIDAY GALA WM PENN INN – DECEMBER 5, 2014



### ***GALA LOTTERY LUCKY WINNERS ARE!***

The Willow Grove MOAA Holiday Gala was held on December 5, 2014 at the beautiful Wm. Penn Inn. The music was playing. The meal was great, as was the congeniality. Our guest speaker, Joe Brooks, CEO & President of the Liberty Airport USO gave us a most informative briefing of the tremendous operation that he and his staff provide all of the military personnel and their families coming and going at the Philadelphia Airport. But most important of all was that we gave away our Lottery Winnings. So here are the 20 Lucky Winners of \$3,000! (\$800 of the winnings donated back to the USO)

|                 |                            |                   |                         |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Dick Geist      | \$500                      | Estelle Neidhardt | \$100                   |
| Larry Rubini    | \$500 (donated to the USO) | Harry Miller      | \$100                   |
| Richard Doherty | \$200                      | Mary Bradley      | \$100                   |
| Sylvia Beesburg | \$200                      | Delores Metz      | \$100                   |
| John Payton     | \$100 (donated to the USO) | Weldon Harris     | \$100                   |
| Gordon Bell     | \$100                      | Ralph Maiolino    | \$100                   |
| Pam Cusanno     | \$100                      | William Devlin    | \$100                   |
| Bill Cole       | \$100 (donated to the USO) | Gary Portnoy      | \$100 (don. to the USO) |
| Diane Orr       | \$100                      | Lillian Goetz     | \$100                   |
| Saul La Kier    | \$100                      | Harry Nagel       | \$100                   |

## 2015 DUES NOTICE FORM

### MOAA WILLOW GROVE CHAPTER ● 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**These annual dues support your local chapter and are separate from National MOAA Life Memberships**

As in the past, we are offering a special incentive for those who renew their membership before **30 April 2015**. If you send a check for **\$35 (\$30 for a surviving spouse)**, we will send you **THREE (3) \$10 TICKETS** for our 2015 AWARDS DRAWING of \$3000 and your membership will be practically **FREE!**

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Check our MOAA Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/moaawg/>

**\$35 (\$30 for Surviving Spouses) for 3 AWARDS TICKETS and ALMOST FREE MEMBERSHIP.**

Additional Donation to our Military Charity Assistance Funds: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**\$15 (\$10 for surviving spouses) for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ONLY.**

Additional Donation to our Military Charity Assistance Funds: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Please mail this form, with your check **PAYABLE TO: MOAA-WG**

**MAIL TO: COL William Cole, USA-Ret.**

**40 Douglass Road**

**Lansdale, PA 19446-1449**

Please pay your dues promptly.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK RESPONSE!!!**

Scan with your smart  
phone QR Code Scanner  
for our web site.

### **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE BY: MAJ Thomas Sadowski, USAF-R**

In 2015 Congress will face proposals to overhaul military pay and compensation while sequestration threatens to cut billions out of the FY 2016 defense budget. Below is an estimated timeline of major events in 2015.

*February:* The congressionally mandated MCRMC will release its report detailing proposals to overhaul military pay, retirement, and other forms of compensation. The president announced he will submit his budget proposal on time to Congress, despite the fact that the MCRMC report will be released at the same time. It's unclear whether the president's budget request will include MCRMC recommendations given the narrow timeframe. However, the proposal is likely to at least include a third consecutive year of military pay raise caps, dramatic TRICARE fee increases, and other controversial measures.

*Mid-March:* Six weeks after the president delivers his budget to Congress, congressional committees are required to submit their "views and estimates" of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Budget Committees.

*May-June:* The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will begin work on the FY 2016 defense bill.

*June-July:* Full House and Senate pass their respective versions of the defense bill.

*July-October:* House and Senate negotiators resolve differences between their versions,

*October 1:* Across-the-board sequestration cuts return, slashing the defense budget by approximately \$50 billion in FY 2016.

*October-December:* Final defense bill passed by House and Senate and becomes law.

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
WILLOW GROVE CHAPTER  
P.O Box 12  
1051 Fairchild Street  
Horsham, PA 19044-5203**

**Presorted Std.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Lansdale, PA  
PERMIT NO. 634**

**(CLIP COUPON AND MAIL)**

**March Luncheon  
Thursday, 19 March 2015  
1200 Hours**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of check enclosed:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(At \$17.00 per person)

**Make check Payable to: MOAA-WG**  
Mail check and this form to:

**Dave Manuel  
501 N. Bethlehem Pike Unit 1C  
Ambler, PA 19002**

**Reservations must be made by  
16 March 2015**



**March Luncheon  
Thursday, 19 March 2015  
1200-1500**

**Vereinigung Erzgebirge Club  
130 Davisville Road, Warminster, PA 18974-5599**

**Chicken Parmegiana with  
Penne Pasta & One Vegetable  
Salad and Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Decaf**

**Come and enjoy a pleasant luncheon with your  
fellow MOAA members.**

**PROGRAM**

**Speaker: James McComb  
Sr. Vice Commander, Doylestown, PA- VFW  
Author of "More Than Names on a Wall"**

**Cost per person: \$17.00  
Reservation form to the left of this menu.**