



# Stack Arms



Vol. 38 No. 2 MAY/JUNE 2015

Military Officers Association

Willow Grove Chapter

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

## COMING EVENTS

### May Luncheon

Thursday, May 21, 2015

1200-1500 Hours  
Vereinigung Erzgebirge Club  
• 130 Davisville Road  
• Warminster, PA 189

See Back Page for Menu  
• and Reservation Form



### Board Meetings

1000, Monday, May 11, 2015  
1000, Monday, June 8, 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*



MOAA-Willow Grove met at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge Club, (VE Club), in Warminster for our 19 March 2015 meeting. We all enjoyed a very generous portion of chicken parmesan while enjoying each other's company. Our speaker was Jim McComb USMC, Vietnam veteran and past commander of Doylestown Post 175 Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also a member of the American Legion, the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 210 and is the Parade Marshal for the annual Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, the oldest Memorial Day parade in

the country. Jim presented a very moving presentation based on book he wrote called "More Than Names on a Wall".

[http://www.amazon.com/More-Than-Names-Wall-Remembering/dp/146646754](http://www.amazon.com/More-Than-Names-Wall-Remembering/dp/1466467541)

1. On a memorial in Doylestown are inscribed the names of one hundred and thirty six men who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War.

<http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=23472> His

book and the presentation detail the lives and deaths of these Bucks County residents helping to keep their memory alive. With music and projected pictures we learned about the lives of many of these veterans who died serving their country. On 21 March 2015 your president held an officers call at Willow Grove Air Guard Station for members of the 270<sup>th</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron. New MOAA-WG and MOAA National member LTC Geno Rapone, squadron commander, arranged for the meeting.

• (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.  
215-997-8133

### ***PERSONAL AFFAIRS LIAISON***

**EDITOR "STACK ARMS"**  
CAPT Gordon L. Bell, USCG-Ret.  
E-Mail: [CaptBell@comcast.net](mailto:CaptBell@comcast.net)  
215-393-6195

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
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 Frank Gorman, AUS-Ret.  
215-674-1418

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

Many expressed an interest in joining both the national and local chapters and everyone received applications for both. My wife Kathy and I attended the 270th EIS Awards and Recognition Dinner in Trevoze that evening. I served as Chief of Installations for this squadron from 1988 to 1998. Now that the winter weather has finally abated we hope to see all of you at our 21 May 2015 meeting. Our speaker will be Bill Hyndman, military historian and military memorabilia collector. <http://hyndmanmilitaryhistory.com/introduction.html>. Bill lives in Souderton and maintains a personal museum in his home. We are looking at a repeat of last year's MOAA-WG picnic at my home in Dublin. Everyone had such a terrific time and it allowed many of our members to get to know one another much better in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Please reserve Saturday 11 July 2015 for our picnic.

Remember that the dues notices found in the Stack Arms are our primary way of contacting the members regarding dues. The "Early Bird" payment of dues plus purchasing two \$10.00 award tickets ensures that you receive a third ticket free. **This offer has been extended to 31 May 2015.**

There are also dues forms available for download from our web site on the Membership Page: <https://sites.google.com/site/moaawg/membership>. Note: MOAA National Life Memberships do not cover chapter dues. The WG Chapter does NOT have life memberships.

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

### **SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER LUNCHEONS FOR 2015**

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

11 July – Saturday at President  
Gary Portnoy's home – 116  
Saddlebrook Drive, Dublin, PA  
1500 hrs to 1900 hrs. Everyone  
is WELCOME !!! \$7.00 PP

### **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2015**

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 11 May -  | Monday 1000 |
| 8 June -  | Monday 1000 |
| 13 July - | Monday 1000 |

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

LTC Geno Rapone, USAF/ANG  
270<sup>th</sup> Engineering Squadron

CPT James Vallely, USAF/ANG  
270<sup>th</sup> Engineering Squadron

# American Military History Program

## Introduction

From the icy winters at Valley Forge to the steaming jungles of Vietnam--from the bloody beaches at Normandy to the sweltering sands of Iraq, liberty-loving men and women have fought to preserve American freedom.

Campaign medals are awarded to those who serve in a particular theater of war; battle stars are awarded to those who participate in specific battles; the bronze arrowhead is awarded for participation in an initial assault landing or combat parachute jump. Other medals and awards are also given to acknowledge extraordinary sacrifices and acts of bravery.

Through the years, William Lee Hyndman has been privileged to meet personally with some of our greatest defenders of freedom. They range from his friend Roy Benavidez who received the Congressional Medal of Honor in Vietnam, the highest American award for combat valor, to a man he met in Sterling, New Jersey who received five battle stars and a bronze arrowhead. Bill honors them all by keeping their stories alive.

When asked the reason he does veterans displays and accepts speaking engagements he replied, "From the citizen soldier walking barefoot through the snow at Morristown to the soldier walking with his boots rotted off through the mud and mire of Vietnam, personal sacrifice has been the price of liberty--and I'm privileged to enjoy that liberty. What I do is little enough for what all our veterans have done in whatever capacity they served."

Bills magnificent displays and heartfelt words are a tribute to the hardships endured in the preservation of our freedom by all who have served, in all wars, from all branches of our military services.





# **MOAA-Willow Grove Family Picnic**

**Saturday, 11 July 2015 Rain or Shine!!!!**

**President Gary Portnoy's home**

**116 Saddlebrook Drive, Dublin, PA 18917-2124**

**15:00 Hours / 3:00 PM to 1900 hours / 7:00 PM**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**

**Cost: \$7.00 per Person**

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Brats, Beer-Wine, Soda etc.**



**Please fill out & return with your check payable to: MOAA-WG  
RSVP by 07 July, 2015**

**Mail to:**

**Maj. Gary Portnoy, 116 Saddlebrook Dr., Dublin, PA 18917-2124**

**Cell: 215-882-1376 H: 215-249-1305 gmportnoy@verizon.net**

**Names of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone # \_\_\_\_\_**



## IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2015 ANNUAL 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 **31 MAY 2015**. If you send a check for \$35

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**

- REPRESENTATIVE JOE WILSON (R-S.C.) introduced H.R. 1594, the Military Surviving Spouse Equity Act. The bill repeals a law known as the "widow's tax," an unfair penalty that forces thousands of military survivors to forfeit their earned benefits. Under current law, military survivors forfeit part of or their entire military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- VETERANS AFFAIRS FUTURE BUDGET BILL PASSED - The House agreed to a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended, that would direct the Veterans Affairs Department to annually submit to Congress a future-years veterans program with its budget request. The program would reflect estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations for that fiscal year and succeeding four fiscal years, and would include a five-year plan for the department to meet its commitment to veterans, including the resources needed to do so
- SEN. TOOMEY HONORS VIETNAM WAR VETERANS IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - Senator Toomey is cosponsoring a resolution recognizing 29 MARCH as Vietnam Veterans day!
- HOUSE PASSES MEDICARE PAYMENT FORMULA - On Mar. 26, the House overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan measure by a vote of 392-37 that would permanently fix the flawed payment formula that provides payments to physicians who see Medicare patients. (Source: Congressman Patrick Meehan News Letter, March 27, 2015).
- The Obama administration is working with the MCRMC to refine specific proposals and will report its findings to Congress by April 30. The MCRMC's retirement proposal recommends service members will receive a 20 percent reduction in military retired pay, in addition to matching government contributions in the federal Thrift Savings Plan. The commission also recommends privatizing TRICARE, with military family members and retirees moving into a health care system similar to one used by federal civilians.

**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)**

**May Luncheon  
Thursday, 21 May 2015  
1200 Hours**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of check enclosed:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(At \$18.00 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  
18 May 2015**



**May Luncheon  
Thursday, 21 May 2015  
1200-1500**

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

**Stuffed Chicken Breast-Al Gratin Potatoes  
Salad and Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Decaf**

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

**PROGRAM**

**Speaker: Bill Hyndman-Military Historian**  
*"He brings to life the stories of those who so heroically served  
in all wars to protect our liberty and defend our precious  
freedom."*

**Cost per person: \$18.00  
Reservation form to the left of this menu.**