

# THE EAGLE

# News and Views of Cumberland Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America



"ONE POWERFUL VOICE ®"

CV-MOAA, P.O. Box 278, Carlisle, PA 17013

cv.moaa@gmail.com

\*\* National 4-Star Chapter 2008 \*\*

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Michael Zang

There were forty-nine members and guests who attended the November dinner. Those in attendance enjoyed socializing with friends and meeting other Chapter members. Our speaker, Dr. Glenn Geeting, discussed steps we can take during cold weather to prevent illness and injury. He made the point that in hot weather our body adapts to it while in cold weather the body does not. If fact, when we are cold, the body automatically restricts blood supply to our extremities to preserve the heat in the body's core. This is why your hands and feet become colder earlier than the rest of your body. He recommends that we monitor the risk factors for cold injury and wear multiple loose layers of clothing to insulate us from the cold temperatures. Dr. Geeting's presentation was very timely as Central Pennsylvania experienced a drastic change in temperatures this past weekend. Hopefully, everyone heeded his advice and wore multiple layers of clothing when venturing outside. I encourage you to keep his recommendations in mind as we move into colder weather the next four months.

I would like to reflect on the significance of Veterans Day and its origin. This National holiday is rooted in World War I, known at the time as "The Great War". This war officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Armistice Day continued to be celebrated until 1954 when President Eisenhower signed legislation to replace the word "Armistice" with "Veteran". In doing so, the day changed from one to honor only the veterans of World War I to honor all veterans regardless of when they served. This one day set aside during the year helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Our December 13 dinner will be at the Letort View Community Center. It is **our Holiday Musicale**. Please make every effort to attend and kick off the holiday season.

The CV Chapter of MOAA publishes the *Cumberland Valley Chapter News and Views*. Its content does not reflect the official position of DoD, any branch of the US Armed Forces, NOAA, USPHS, nor MOAA National.

#### **Dunham Pharmacy Renovations Reminder**

The Dunham U.S. Army Health Clinic Main Pharmacy is currently under renovations. These will continue through December 2017. Currently, all Dunham pharmacy refill prescriptions are dispensed at the PX Pharmacy location. The PX hours of operation are 0730 to 1630 on M-T- W- F and 0730-1200 on Thursday.



#### We need your help, please!

If you have a change in your mailing address, telephone number, or email address please notify our membership chair **Frank Meehan**. He will make the necessary changes to our roster so that you can continue to receive information from the Chapter.

#### **Elections 2018-2019**

December is elections month and we'll be electing four individuals to a two-year term on the Board of Directors at the December Meeting. We are looking for 1 additional nominee for the Board. Please consider spending a total of 9 hours a YEAR, giving back to your Chapter. Please contact Glenn Mitchell or me if you are interested.

The proposed slate for the Board of Directors is:

COL Whitey Schmidt, US Army (Ret) LTC Jim Simms, US Army (Ret) Lt Col Richard Parady, USAF (Ret) 1 VACANCY!

### PROGRAM NOTES By Glenn Mitchell

Jane and I will be happy to see you at the Letort View Community Center on Carlisle Barracks on **December 13th**. Your RSVP form is at the end of this Newsletter as always. Please remember that we must commit to a definite head count by the Friday noon before the event. The good news is that we have been able to continue to keep LVCC prices at the same level as last year.

This month we will have **our traditional Holiday gathering** at the LVCC with a band and carol singing.

Beginning in January we will shift our fellowship meetings to the Carlisle Country Club and have luncheons during the cold and dark winter season.

#### **CV-MOAA UPCOMING EVENTS**



**December 13**, Holiday Dinner and sing along at LVCC

#### 2018

January 10, Lunch at Carlisle Country Club

February 14, Lunch at CCC

March 14, Lunch at CCC

**April 11**, Dinner at LVCC

May 9, Golf Outing and Picnic



# **Legislative News By Jim Simms**

# Results of the House and Senate Conference FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

The House and Senate conference on the FY 2018 NDAA is complete.

The final legislation recognizes the strain on the all-volunteer force by increasing the troop strength above the president's request by the following amounts: 7,500 in the active duty Army, 1,000 in the active duty Marine Corps, 500 in the Army Reserve, and 500 in the Army National Guard.

The defense policy legislation also authorizes the full 2.4-percent pay raise for members of the armed forces in line with the statutory baseline, the Employment Cost Index (ECI) rate. While this raise matches the ECI, as it did last year, we still have a lingering, cumulative gap of 2.6 percent from previous years as compared to the private sector.

#### **TRICARE**

The Senate's FY 2018 NDAA proposal, submitted earlier this year, included a provision to raise TRICARE pharmacy fees that will likely be included in the final version of the NDAA.

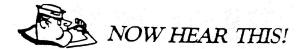
Reimbursement for spouse licensure expenses for changing jobs. The conferees approved language that would permit the Services to reimburse spouses up to \$500 of professional licensure costs incurred by a spouse requiring a new professional license because of a permanent change of station.

**Military survivors**. The conferees agreed to permanently extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) and index future increases to COLA. The SSIA was scheduled to expire in March 2018

SSIA was created in 2008 to provide partial relief for military survivors affected by the "widow's tax," a financial penalty where the military's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) suffers a dollar-for-dollar offset of the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). In many instances, a survivor's entire SBP might be wiped out from the tax. Establishment of SSIA is an incremental step toward addressing the issue of the widow's tax.

When SSIA was established in 2008, some survivors balked at a \$50 a month allowance, seeing it as a pittance. Now the SSIA monthly amount of \$310 covers roughly 25 percent of what it will take to fully repeal the widow's tax.

DoD estimates 67,000 survivors are affected by the tax



The Strategic Art Film Series continues Tuesdays in the Wil Washcoe Auditorium in Root Hall at 4:30 pm. The schedule for the remainder of November and all of December is as follows:

Nov 21: "Kelly's Heroes"

Dec 5: "MacArthur"

Dec 12: "Pork Chop Hill",

Dec 19: "Khartoum"

#### **AHEC Upcoming Events**

Nov 15: AHEC Perspectives in Mil History Lecture, "My Captivity in Vietnam", at 1915-2030

Dec 16: AHEC Perspectives in Mil History Lecture, "Last conflict of America's colonial Era", at 1400-1700

# The Chaplain's Corner By Art Pace



The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message" "Alter your course 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So, he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am seaman third class Jones."

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am a battleship."

Then the reply came "Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am a lighthouse."

In the midst of our dark and uncertain times, all sorts of voices are shouting orders into our night, telling us what to do or how to adjust our lives. This season of Christmas and Hanukah, this season of lights, helps us to sort out the noise. Out of the darkness, one voice signals something quite opposite to the rest—something almost absurd. But the voice happens to be the Creator of light, and we ignore it at our peril. Only God's light points the way to life. With that in mind, I wish you and your families a safe and blessed holiday season, never forgetting the true reason for the season.

### **November MOAA Meeting Memories**



Our speaker, Dr. Glenn Geeting



Dr. Geeting receiving a well-deserved thank you gift for his outstanding presentation















#### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY SERVING

#### Daughter of Lance and Laurel Betros:

1LT Rosemary Betros, USA, 8<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn, Schofield Barracks, HI

#### Grandson of Don and Lois Bliss:

CPT Kyle Bliss, USA, Advance Course, Ft Benning, GA

#### Family of Dick and Sharon Blouch:

SGT Emily Dowda, USA, Intelligence Analyst, Eglin AFB, FL

SGT Forrest Dowda, USA, Intelligence Analyst, Eglin AFB, FL

SPC Matthew Blouch, USA, Ft. Gordon, GA

#### Son of Jerry and Karen Comello:

LTC (P) Anthony Comello, USA, Ofc of J6, USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, FL

#### Grandson of George and Beverly Connolly:

Airman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Nathaniel Connolly, USAF, England

#### Son and daughter of Kevin and Dee Connelly:

MAJ Michael Connelly, USA, PEO-Aviation, Huntsville, AL CPT Lauren Connelly, USA, 75th Ranger Rgt, Ft Benning, GA

#### Granddaughter of Mike Daley:

1LT Brianna Burnstad, USA, Ft. Riley, KS

## Son and daughter of Jeffrey and Lori Elliott and Grandchildren of Ron Elliott:

1LT Christian Elliott, USA, Temple University Law School 1LT Elizabeth Elliott, USA, MSC Basic, Ft Sam Houston, TX

#### Daughter-in-law of Chip and Dee Fenton:

COL Anne Marie Fenton, USAF, The Netherlands

#### Son of Fred and Donna Gellert:

SGT F. John Gellert, III, USA, F/2-2 CAV, Vilseck, GE

#### Son of Keith and Marilyn Gillespie:

MAJ Stephen Gillespie, USA, Professor, USMA, West Point, NY

#### Grandson of Jack and Pat Hoefling:

1LT Jack Ambridge, USAF Special Ops

#### Son of Charlotte Kinney:

SSG Jeffrey Geer, USA, 420th CSB, Kuwait.

#### Family of Dutch Kissinger:

LtCol Andrew Kissinger, USAFR, IP, 559<sup>th</sup> Flight Trng Sqdn Capt Niki Kissinger, USAF, FAA Liaison, Ft Worth, TX Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ryan Kissinger, USAF, Special Ops, Davis-Monthan, AZ

#### Family of Patti Leggett:

LTJG Miles Ennis McGee, USN, Bahrain ENS Ryan P. McGee, USN, NAS Pensacola, FL

#### Nephew of Julie and John Manta:

CPT Christopher Manta, USA, Ft Bragg, NC

#### Son-in-law of Art and Mary Pace

E3 Erwin Villanueva, USN, Mayport Naval Stn, FL

#### Family of Mike Pasquarett:

MG James F. Pasquarette, USA, CG, US Army Japan/I Corps (Fwd)

1LT Jay Pasquarette, USA, C Troop, 2/104 CAV, Ft Benning, GA

SPC Drew Pasquarette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf Regt, Washington, DC

#### Son of Bob & Judie Read:

COL Mark Read, USA, Professor, USMA, West Point, NY

#### Grandson of Bill and Pat Solomon:

CPT Michael Leach, USA, USMA, West Point, NY

#### Family of Bill and Ann Whitesel:

MAJ William Whitesel, USA, Dhaka, Bangladesh Capt Thomas Whitesel, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC LT Connor Whitesel, USN, Quantico, VA MAJ Andrew Pfeiffer, USA, Washington, DC

#### Daughter of David and Trish Willmann:

LT Megan Willmann, USCG, CO, Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center, Alameda, CA

#### Son of Mike and Karen Zang:

CPT Patrick Zang, USA, 3-16th CAV, Ft Benning, Ga



# PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SPONSOR US!

(and tell them you saw them in the MOAA newsletter!)



COL Robert S. Hume, U.S. Army Retired Chapter President

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### COL (Ret) Ruth B. Collins

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### THE MILTARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA **CUMBERLAND VALLEY CHAPTER**



### RESERVATIONS FORM **December Dinner Letort View Community Center December 13, 2017**



PLEASE RESPOND BY Thursday, December 7, 2017

Remember, it is very important that you send your reservations in before the cutoff date of Thursday December 7, 2017. If an unexpected event surfaces and you must cancel, please contact Jane Mitchell at 323-0012 or by e-mail at janehmitchell@gmail.com. Refunds for cancellations received after noon on December 8th cannot be guaranteed.

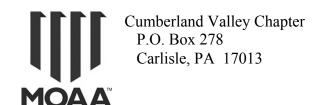
The dinner at the Letort View Community Center will begin with a social time at 6:15 p.m. A band will entertain us during the social hour. We will assemble at 7:00 p.m. for dinner, followed by a short business meeting and the traditional singing of Christmas Carols.

#### Menu:

A. Seafood Stuffed Whitefish with Scalloped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley Blend B. 8oz Center Cut Strip Steak, with Scalloped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley Blend Cost: \$35.00 per person, which also includes salad, dessert, beverages, tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. (For a special dietary meal, please indicate below.) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_Number to attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse/Guest(s) if applicable Menu choices: A\_\_\_\_\_; B\_\_\_\_\_; Special Dietary Meal\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: CV-MOAA, P.O. BOX 278, CARLISLE, PA 17013.

Check for dinner to CV-MOAA(@\$35): \$ enclosed.



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