



THE EAGLE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

www.pa-coc.org



NEWS AND VIEWS November 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the Oct. 4 meeting of the State Veterans Commission we were told that the new veterans' outreach van being run by the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs is out and about. You can request the van for events in your area by visiting the DMVA's website. In September the DMVA reported that the van saw 770 veterans at 6 events resulting in 275 claim referrals and 79 health care enrollments. After the meeting I met with the governor's community outreach staff member and expressed our frustration in not getting state veterans' homes advisory board appointments confirmed by the governor's office in a timely manner. She later told me that they should be approved by the end of October, and true enough, some had already been approved by Oct 19. Shaking the tree works sometimes, although you don't

want to be underneath it! One of MOAA's appointees had been waiting more than 6 months for confirmation. Also reported at the meeting:

- our 6 state veterans' homes overall occupancy rate is 88% - it's 93% for nursing care/dementia and 76% for personal care (assisted living) - the rates compare well with the national average of 88% (NC) and 64% (PC).
- a PA Veterans Forum will be held Nov. 6-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg. It's funded by the state Dept. of Public Welfare and sponsored by Drexel University's College of Medicine. You can register online: www.drexelmed.edu/bhe. For more info call 877-243-3033.

Susan and I enjoyed meeting members of our Pittsburgh Chapter on Oct. 13 at the Chartiers Country Club. Some 50 members attended the

luncheon, which nears the end of my quest of visiting all of our Chapters during my term of office. That mission will be accomplished on Dec. 15 when we sojourn to Scranton to visit our newly rehabbed Northeast PA/Pocono Mountains Chapter. A photo of me addressing our Pittsburgh Chapter follows.

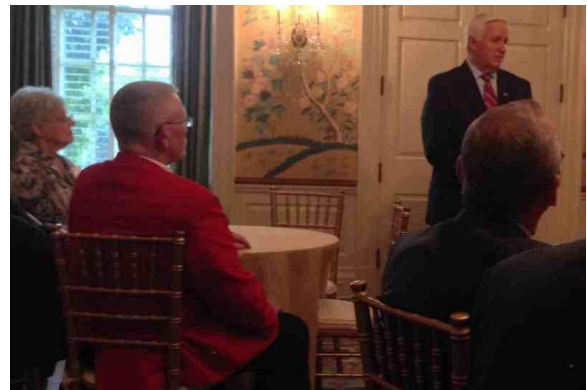


We had the wonderful opportunity to meet some fellow MOAA members with some unique military stories, including one gentleman who was one of Uncle Sam's first special ops guys, with photos of him at Fort Bragg's museum to prove it! Our sincerest thank you to Chapter president (and meeting emcee) **Carmen DiGiacomo**, and it was good to see **Pete Bellisario** there as well.

Bob Gray has agreed to continue with our electronic newsletter in January and so we are going to move forward in soliciting advertising for it - while at Hershey I asked MOAA's legal counsel for info on how you report ad income, and he sent me various contracts which we can follow

that will keep us out of IRS hot water. Key to this is it will not interfere with our council becoming a 501(c)(19) veterans' nonprofit organization. I will bring with me a recommended ad rate sheet for comment/approval.

I attended Gov. Corbett's annual coffee for members of the State Veterans Commission on Oct. 17 and had the opportunity to discuss veterans' opposition to payday lending. He reacted with a frown but didn't say anything that committed him to being either in favor of it or against it. A photo of him addressing the group is below.



Susan and I (I keep her busy, no?) will be off for MOAA's national meeting in Colorado Springs on Nov. 15-16 and I'll report on my observations in the December newsletter. We're hanging around for awhile after the conference to take in the Air Force Academy and visit her first cousin in Denver. Since we're paying the air freight (they pick up the hotel room), why not?

And lastly, have a memorable Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for, especially for the sacrifices our heroic servicemen and women (and their families) have made to keep us free.

TRICARE NOT AFFECTED BY OBAMACARE

The Affordable Care Act (AKA Obamacare) that reformed the health care system for Americans will have little impact on TRICARE beneficiaries, according to a release from the Defense Health Agency. "The biggest change they will notice may be an extra letter in their mailbox every January, and an extra box to check on their tax forms every April," the release says. The release added that TRICARE coverage of any kind meets the minimum level according to the new law and so requires no change for those who use TRICARE for their health care coverage. To read the entire release, please click [here](#).
(Courtesy of NGAUS Washington Report)

VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES IN FRANCHISING

VetFran works to make opportunities in franchising more accessible to veterans and their families, and over

610 of the International Franchise Association's members participate by offering financial incentives, training and mentoring. On Veteran's Day 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama announced Operation Enduring Opportunity, the campaign of the International Franchise Association and franchised businesses to hire, and recruit as franchise owners, 80,000 veterans and their spouses, through 2014. Since 2011, nearly 65,000 veterans and military spouses have entered franchising, including over 4,300 as franchise business owners.

VetFran has created the [VetFran Video Library](#). The Library is designed to enable Veterans and their families to understand and assess franchising and its opportunities. Covering the fundamentals of franchising, legal issues, franchise finance and more, the videos offer best-in-class education from the perspective of industry leaders and Board members of the International Franchise Association.

Content in the Library includes:

VetFran at McDonald's Hamburger University
Franchising 101 for Veterans
Michael Seid, (US Army veteran) CEO, MSA Worldwide and co-author of Franchising for Dummies presents veterans an introduction to franchising together with Rich Morey, Partner, DLA Piper.

VetFran, Veterans & Franchising
Joe Lindenmayer, (USMC veteran)
President & COO of TSS
Photography and Jon Rucker, (USAF
veteran) Military Programs Manager
of Snap-On Tools discuss VetFran
and the relationship between veterans
and franchising.

A Veteran Franchisee's Perspective
Marc Heuermann, (Illinois Air
National Guard veteran) RadioShack
franchisee offers a veteran's
perspective on franchise ownership.

Franchise Finance 101 for Veterans
Rich Bradshaw, (USAF, USNR
veteran) Head of SBA Lending at TD
Bank provides veterans an overview
of franchise finance.

Franchise Law 101
Rich Morey, Partner, DLA Piper,
presents veterans an introduction to
franchise law.

From Honor To Owner
A [short film](#) about VetFran

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UPDATING YOUR PROFILE

Anyone interested in receiving
periodic email alerts as well as
various newsletters and other info
from MOAA national should go to
their personal profile page on
MOAA's website. Some of the
available info are legislative updates,

news exchanges, president's
messages, spouses' e-news, general
messages and their "call to action"
emails which keep you up to date on
the national scene.

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STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETINGS

State Veterans Commission meetings
for 2014 are as follows: Feb. 7, April
4, June 6, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Dec. 5.
The meetings will held at the Fort
Indiantown Gap community club
except for the Sept. 5 meeting, which
will be held at the Gap's Keystone
Conference Center. All meetings
begin at 10 a.m.

Anyone can attend these meetings.
MOAA gets a seat at the main table
but there are plenty of seats at
adjacent tables for anyone interested
in observing - or asking questions and
making comments.

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MOAA CHAPTER AWARDS

MOAA has six excellent awards
program covering a number of chapter
activities and can be found by simply
clicking [here](#). Any chapter not taking
advantage of these programs should
review them ASAP.

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FOOTBALL TICKETS FOR ALL VETERANS

The attached PDF document contains the information to request tickets for Veterans. The event is coordinated by the PA National Guard State Family Program Office, Indiantown Gap.

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A VETERAN DIED TODAY

The following poem has been around awhile, but Frank Brown, Valley Forge Chapter president suggested we run it with Veterans Day coming.

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.

For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,

Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN
MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

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MOAA'S *AFFILIATE*

MOAA's monthly newsletter, *The Affiliate*, will become solely

electronic beginning this month. Up until now they've been mailed to chapter leaders. MOAA's state website, www.pa-coc.org will continue to post these issues as a service to chapter leaders and their members. The state web site contains all of the 2013 issues through October in pdf format for viewing and downloading.

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REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I am a US Army disabled veteran working on a PhD in Human Services at Capella University.

I would like your assistance with getting the link for my Resilience Survey out to potential participants (spouses of National Guard and Reserve service members).

I want to understand how distance, employment status of spouse, rank, neighborhood tenure and presence of children in the home correlate with resilience, social support and family coherence among National Guard and Reserve families.

For my research, I am seeking volunteers who are over 18 years old, the spouse of a National Guard or Reserve service member with at least one deployment to or in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or

Operation New Dawn, and live in the United States or one of its territories.

This survey is anonymous, i.e. no Internet Protocol (IP) addresses are recorded, so no identifiable information will be solicited.

The survey link is:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N-G-RSpouseSurveysTCARTER14>

The dissertation title is “The Development of Resilience, Social Support, Family Coherence Among National Guard and Reserve Families: A Correlational Study on Geographical Distance.”

I believe this research will be very informative and important to the National Guard and Reserve regarding familial needs during times of deployment.

A flyer is also attached. The average time to complete the survey is 10 minutes.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval letter (ID #442786) is available upon request.

Thank you for your assistance,

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2012-2013 Term**

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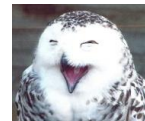
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GLORIOUS INSULTS

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

- John Bright



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