

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

# MOAA PITTSBURGH

A Five Star Chapter  
Chartered on Veterans Day, 11 November 1965  
Our Mission: Never Stop Serving

## Christmas Luncheon - Bring a prospective member to lunch 5 DECEMBER 2021

### Chapter Information

CAPT Bob Heister, USN (ret)

**President**

412-953-9576 (text please)

[heysailor53@mac.com](mailto:heysailor53@mac.com)

PUT "MOAA" IN SUBJECT  
LINE OF EMAIL

COL Carmen DiGiacomo

**1st Vice President**

412-563-1859

[tippfado@verizon.net](mailto:tippfado@verizon.net)

BG Peter Bellisario

**2nd Vice President**

412-734-9434

**Come Join us for our annual  
Christmas Celebration  
at the Chartiers Country Club from  
1300 to 1600 hours. Bring a wrapped  
gift to exchange and get ready for  
prizes and surprises.**

---

### Chapter Updates from the President

Two weeks ago I was sworn in as the **president of the MOAA**

[p.joanandpete@verizon.net](mailto:p.joanandpete@verizon.net)

Pat Seda-Rivera

Secretary/Treasurer

412-704-5070

[julio.moaa@comcast.net](mailto:julio.moaa@comcast.net)

LTC Charles Chasler

ROTC Liaison

716-785-4383

[chuckchasler@gmail.com](mailto:chuckchasler@gmail.com)

Ed Blank

Chaplain

[edwblank@aol.com](mailto:edwblank@aol.com)

LTC Jon Comis

Membership Chairman

[jon.comis@gmail.com](mailto:jon.comis@gmail.com)

Carolyn Brahney

Surviving Spouse Liaison

412-534-4276

[cjbrahney@comcast.net](mailto:cjbrahney@comcast.net)

LTC John Carroll

Program Director

[carrollfamily1@comcast.net](mailto:carrollfamily1@comcast.net)

LTC Wm Pentecost, USAR

Legislative Liaison

412-996-9920

[wpentecost@c-law.com](mailto:wpentecost@c-law.com)

Joan Bellisario

Newsletter Editor

412-734-9434

[joan.bellisario@gmail.com](mailto:joan.bellisario@gmail.com)

**Pennsylvania Council of Chapters.** Having me in this position can only help Pittsburgh develop into an even more successful chapter.

We are busy planning a **full schedule of speakers** for the 2022 calendar year luncheons, and are **planning additional activities that will interest families and younger members.** **We must recruit younger members and get current younger people involved. With an average chapter age approaching 80, the need is obvious.**

Many senior chapter members have already done their duty and stepped forward. They continue to advise me and I welcome their willingness to step forward and help me. But **we really need the help of members who are nearing military and civilian retirement or have launched their children, to help carry the load.** The chapter will only succeed when we have more hands doing the work.

MOAA, at all levels, is a **non-partisan** organization that advocates for the needs of service members and veterans, and that educates members regarding relevant issues to create a more knowledgeable membership.

There is quite a bit of information below. **Please take the time to read through all of it and click on the [links](#).**

## Foreign Affairs Update (a new monthly feature)

Our primary strength has always primarily been our “soft” power ... the idea that we were admired and emulated; our clothing, slang, movies, and music. The Land of Opportunity, that our children would have a better life. That we practiced what we preached. We were not a world power until early in the 20th Century. But we were admired, and boat after boat brought immigrants to our shores seeking a better life. Will shifting geopolitics and climate change cripple Washington’s current world order? Here is one historian’s view:

“While using its unprecedented power to promote a liberal international system based on human rights and inviolable sovereignty, Washington - in the post WWII years - simultaneously violated those same principles all too often in pursuit of its national self-interest—a disconcerting duality between power and principle that has afflicted every global order since the 16th century.

... Beyond Washington’s strategic failings, there was another far more fundamental force already at work eroding its global power. After seven decades of the profligate kind of fossil-fuel

consumption that became synonymous with the US world system, climate change is now profoundly disrupting the whole human community.

...In the 600 years since the age of exploration first brought the continents into close contact, [90 empires](#) have come and gone. But there have been just three new world orders, each of which survived until it suffered some version of cataclysmic mass death. After the bubonic plague, also known as the Black Death, wiped out an estimated 60 percent of medieval Europe's population, the Portuguese and then Spanish empires expanded to form the first of those world orders, which continued for three centuries until 1805.

The devastation of the Napoleonic wars then launched the succeeding British imperial system, which survived a full century until 1914. Similarly, Washington's hegemony, along with its current world order, arose from the devastating destruction of World War II. Now, climate change is unleashing cataclysmic environmental changes that could soon enough overshadow such past catastrophes, while damaging or destroying the global order that has pervaded the planet for the past 70 years.

...{But} If the "Chinese century" does indeed [start](#) around 2030, barring remarkable advances in the reduction of the use of fossil fuels on this planet, it's likely to end sometime around 2050 when its main financial center is flooded out and its agricultural heartland begins to swelter in insufferable heat. ... The environmental destruction in our future will be so profound that anything less than the emergence of a new form of global governance—one capable of protecting the planet and the human rights of all its inhabitants—will mean that wars over water, land, and people are likely to erupt across the planet amid climate chaos. Absent some truly fundamental change in our global governance and in energy use, by mid-century humanity will begin to face disasters of an almost unimaginable kind that will make imperial orders of any sort something for the history books."

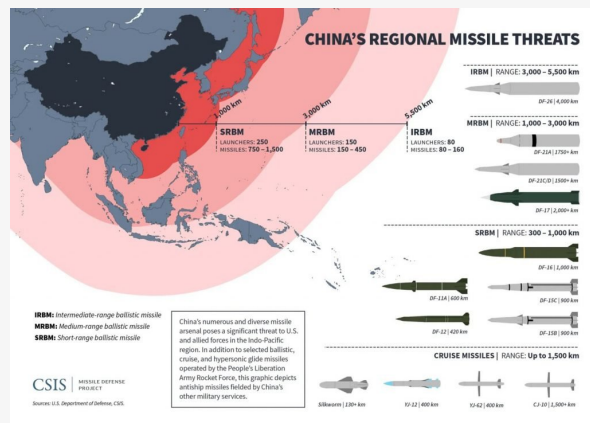
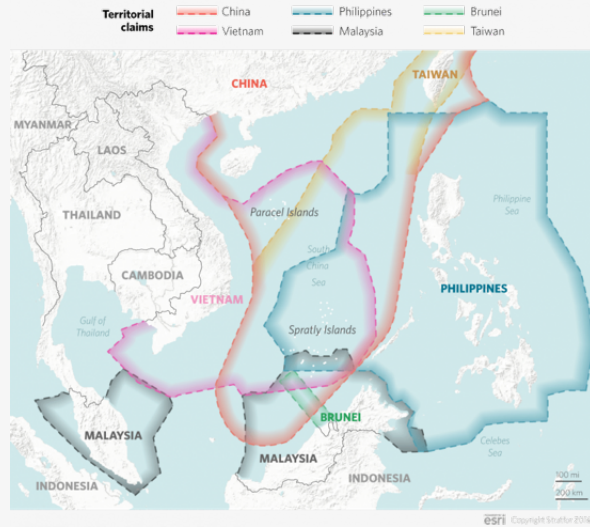
Alfred McCoy, the J.R.W. Smail Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/american-hegemony-climate/>

Below are two helpful diagrams on what China is trying to achieve by dominating the first and second island chains that control the flow of a huge fraction of the world's commerce. Things by no means are a lock for China and we must not throw in the towel. The Chinese as a country have peaked in many ways, and are trying to lock in a favorable situation while they are strong enough to do it. But *this* is what makes our time so dangerous. And we haven't even talked about Russia ... that will be coming soon.

#### Territorial Claims in the South China Sea

Six countries lay claim to at least a portion of the resource-rich Spratly Islands. The overlapping maritime claims combined with China's maritime expansionism and the involvement of major naval powers have roiled the waters in the South China Sea for most of the past six years.



## The COVID Omicron Variant

First identified in Botswana, where only 10.2% of the the population is vaccinated, the **Omicron variant, B.1.1.529**, is quite a bit different from previous COVID viruses and has now been reported in other countries. Because of the stark gap between vaccination programs in different countries and affordability of the vaccine, many people overseas haven't been able to get the shot. **The shot's become politicized in the US, unlike previous vaccines for flu, polio, and childhood diseases. Because so many people are refusing to be vaccinated, the virus is able to mutate and adapt.** The disease rates in the US among the unvaccinated are scary and getting much worse. Hospitals again are filling up. This is a prime cause of the economic distortions you see with inflation and the supply chain disruptions.

One thing is clear, until Third World populations get vaccinated, **and** misinformed people in developed countries like the US start to get their shots, COVID will remain out of control across the

planet. **Getting the shot is not a matter personal choice; it is a matter of personal responsibility.** This virus will continue to impact Americans' ability to buy domestic & imported products and, with the *Omicron* variant, scientists expect that *current* vaccines' effectiveness could be compromised to a degree but it is too early to tell.

Stay tuned and **talk with your doctor about getting your shots/booster.** Please stay safe. **We have unvaccinated chapter members who have gotten COVID and had severe complications, including ICU.** The chapter members who have been vaccinated but still got COVID had relatively mild cases and were not hospitalized. **Getting the shot doesn't mean you won't get it - you should still practice precautions - but it does mean that you are very unlikely to die or be hospitalized. COVID has already needlessly killed over 750,000 Americans.** Almost everyone knows someone who has died from it. Too often the dead were those who refused to get vaccinated.

## General Greene Christmas Party

Please join me as I drive to Latrobe to celebrate the Christmas season with chapter president David Johnston and the members of the MOAA General Greene Chapter on Thursday 02 December:

**Location:** DeNunzio's at the Latrobe Airport (upper ballroom), easy trip off the Turnpike/Irwin exit/take Rte 30 east of Greensburg

**Date/Time:** Thursday, 02 Dec / Social at 1130 / Lunch Served at 1215

Menu Selections / Cost: Choice of Mixed Green Salad with Chicken Romano -- or -- Baked Fish Sandwich (desert, wine, water, lemonade, ice tea, coffee, tea included) / Cost is **\$28 per person**

As is the General Greene tradition, they encourage attendees to bring gifts that they will distribute to needy veterans. Col. Nancy Anderson recommends the following examples -- socks, toiletries, paperbacks or other easy to read materials -- DO NOT GIFTWRAP.

Contact **ASAP:** [johnstond@wpa.net](mailto:johnstond@wpa.net)

PH: 724-423-3771

## MOAA Needs YOU!

Senators headed home for the Thanksgiving holiday before wrapping up their version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), leaving a weeklong window for MOAA





members to register their views on issues of critical importance to the military community. **The Senate will take up the NDAA bill Nov. 29. With so much going on, MOAA needs your help now more than ever to get these issues onto your senator's to-do list.**

**Here's why it matters:** The House-passed NDAA (H.R. 4350) includes many MOAA-backed provisions for the military community likely to carry over into the Senate version – a **pay raise** in line with legislative requirements and a much-needed step **toward ending hunger in the ranks**, for example. But **other items on MOAA's priority list didn't make the House NDAA, and the only chance for them to be included in this legislation, which has passed both chambers annually for 60 years, is for the items to be part of the Senate version and be included in the final bill via the joint conference committee.**

Below are details on four such provisions. **Click the links to send a message to your legislator, but also consider a phone call via MOAA's dedicated congressional hotline, (866) 272-6622, which can connect you directly to your senators.**

- **[Reversing Planned Eligibility Changes at Arlington National Cemetery](#)**. MOAA members have been among the thousands of veterans and others who've registered major concerns with the flawed, discriminatory changes proposed to Arlington National Cemetery eligibility that would force many 20-year-retirees to change long-held burial plans. A Senate amendment (SA 4297) would require a joint DoD/VA report on the issue and prohibit any eligibility changes until the report's filing – a critical first step to a better solution for Arlington's space issues and for finding the next national cemetery.
- **[Fixing the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#)**. MOAA has long advocated for this much-needed improvement – one that would bring TRICARE in line with commercial plans and save military families thousands of dollars in health care costs for dependent children up to age 26. The current TRICARE Young Adult Program saw **[yet another significant premium hike for 2022](#)** and shouldn't be viewed as a viable alternative. A **[Senate NDAA amendment](#)** has made significant progress thanks to MOAA-backed support for similar legislation and **[recent media reports](#)** on the issue.
- **[Helping Military Survivors](#)**. MOAA's work on behalf of surviving spouses has been among its **[greatest recent legislative successes](#)**. The fix included in the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act – which has been introduced as **[a Senate NDAA amendment](#)** – seems minor compared with ending the so-called "Widows Tax," but it would make a significant difference in the days and weeks after a loss. Learn more about the act and how it could save some survivors from unexpected financial disaster **[at this link](#)**.
- **[Addressing Concurrent Receipt](#)**. MOAA's support for the Major Richard Star Act dates to the bill's inception, but budget concerns prevented the House from including the text of the act in the NDAA via the amendment process. However, Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) plan to submit a Senate amendment with similar language, and while final NDAA inclusion faces several hurdles, **all of your representatives need to hear from you about the need to end the unfair offset of military retired pay with disability compensation for so many ill and injured veterans.** MOAA's **[incremental approach to this issue](#)** will continue moving forward in coming years; don't waste this opportunity to continue our progress.

Congress, not just the Senate, is facing an overwhelming agenda, which includes addressing several time-sensitive crises in the coming weeks: The Dec. 3 continuing resolution deadline, dealing with the debt ceiling prior to Dec. 15, and the president's Build Back Better Act. Unfortunately, it is difficult to predict how legislators will prioritize these other legislative issues relative to the FY 2022 NDAA –

**hearing from their constituents could make all the difference.**

Keep up with these and other NDAA issues [at MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

---

## Dues Increase

Dues have been set at \$10 for many years while the price of everything else has gone up. To keep the wheels turning and the lights on **we need to increase our dues to \$20 a year**. We present the luncheons at a small loss and we are expanding our programs. To fulfill our community service obligation and build for the future takes money. **Please include your \$20 dues for 2022 in your check to Pat for the next luncheon or send it to her separately.** If you still owe \$10 for 2021, please include that as well.

---



## Member in the Spotlight - LTC Brett Jordan

Commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of California Santa Barbara, Brett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCSB and a Masters in Business Administration from Fordham University of New York.

He served as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division while deployed in Iraq, company commander in the First Armored Division, and on staff in the United States Army Special Operations Command. He became an Active Guard Reserve Soldier after attending the Command and General Staff College

and was assigned to the United States Army Reserve Command Headquarters. There he served as the deputy executive officer of the G-3/5/7, and as the executive officer of the Headquarters Special Troops Battalion. He attended the Inspector General School and became the command inspector general of the 316th Expeditionary Support Command in Moon Township in 2020.

His military awards include: the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

Brett Lives in Green Tree and is a volunteer firefighter with the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company. He enjoys scuba diving, horseback riding, and world travel.

---

## MOAA Pittsburgh Christmas Raffle

We will again conduct a Christmas Raffle as we have in the past. Please bring a small gift to the luncheon and place it on the raffle table. Winners will be drawn and winning ticket holders will have the opportunity to come forward and select their choice of gift until all the gifts have been distributed. This will be in addition to the chapter's usual 50/50 raffle.

---

## Menu for the 5 DECEMBER 2021 Luncheon

**Princess Soup  
Salad**

**Choice of Beef Tenderloin  
or  
Salmon**

**Whipped Potatoes  
Vegetable  
Parfait**

---

### Reservation Form

MOAA Luncheon 5 December 2021 from 1300 - 1700 (1 PM to 5 PM) ; bar opens at 1300 (1 PM) and luncheon as served at 1400 (2 PM) at the Chartiers Country Club, followed by entertainment and gift exchange. Adjournment by ~1600 (4 PM) or a little later. **Chartiers only prepares plates for paid, registered attendees. No walk-ins.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PRICE: **\$ 50 per person**

ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MEALS

Meat \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter and return to:

Patricia Seda-Rivera  
602 Cloverview Circle  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2370  
home: 1-412-704-5070, cell: 1-412-916-6333

### 2022 Luncheon Schedule



**10 April, 05 June, 14 August, 09 October, 11 December (Christmas Party)**

**Other activities, social and public service, to be announced later**