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Surviving Spouse Liason
Need –you don't need to be a surviving spouse for this position.

Our June 28th Speaker from MOAA



Retired Captain Frank J. Michael, US Navy, is 30-year Navy veteran and aviator who has served in command tours at the squadron and major command-at-sea levels. His active career high-lights were:

- Commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47 (HSL 47). Led Navy helicopter relief efforts following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.
- Commanded USS Boxer (LHD 4). Participated in the 2011 Captain Phillips rescue operation in the Indian Ocean.

Major staff assignments include a tour on the Joint Staff, CNO Fellow, Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Study Group, and Strategy Branch Chief on the Navy Staff.

Following retirement from active duty in 2015, Michael served as senior vice president for Programs and Membership at the National Defense Industrial Association, and executive vice president at the United States Navy Memorial. He has extensive experience in nonprofit program and volunteer member support.

Michael joined MOAA in 2021. His primary responsibility is support of MOAA's robust nationwide network of active and engaged affiliates to influence legislation, serve their local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA brand awareness nationwide.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration and was recognized with a Doctor of Humane Letters from Misericordia University.

In this newsletter hyper links are in this color and underlined.

French Creek Valley Calendar 2022

Date	Location and Program
This event requires pre-paid reservation by June 15th	
Tue 6/28	<p>Membership meeting Venango Valley Inn 21217 Church Street, US-19, Venango, PA CAPT Frank Michael USN (Ret) Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs National MOAA <i>1700 French Creek Board or anyone that wishes to serve on the board meets with Frank Michael</i></p> <p>1800 Social, cash bar 1830 Dinner 1915 Presentation Pre order from one of these three entrées, by June 15th</p> <p>This Is A BIG Try to Attend</p> <p>1. Stuffed Chicken Boneless breast with traditional sage stuffing, chicken gravy and mashed potatoes 2. Choice Sirloin 8oz, charbroiled and finished with caramelized onions & mushrooms, baked potato 3. Parmesan Cod Prime filet of cod broiled with garlic butter and Parmesan cheese crumble topping, mashed potatoes.</p> <p>All dinners include: Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage \$40 Includes tax and gratuity. Send a CHECK with dinner selection(s) made out to French Creek Valley Chapter mail to P.O. Box 1004, Meadville, PA 16335 Questions contact Gran Goza. Attire: Men: Golf Shirt/Sport Shirt, Slacks Ladies: equal attire</p>
6/24-26	The Last Train to Remagen Battle, 1945 Titusville, PA
Tue 7/26	Membership Meeting—1800 hr Iroquois Club— 10733 Konneyaut Trail, Conneaut Lake
8/24-28	Moving Wall—Hermitage, PA
8/18-20	D-Day Conneaut Ohio Free tickets available June 6 th http://www.ddayohio.us/schedule.html

Chapter health? Last checkup was October 2021

- The chapter still has a heartbeat.
- March, April, May, June and July have and will be at different venues.
- Our attendance has been 15, 13, 12 for March, April and May, half of the membership.
- All the speakers presented information on important topics. Preparing a Surviving Spouse, the duties of Congressmen Kelly Veterans Service Representative and Crime Prevention.

Continue on page 2

May Meeting Wrap-up

For our May Meeting the chapter made some changes. One was a venue change to Silver Shores Restaurant in Conneaut Lake, the other was on a Wednesday evening. There were 12 in attendance. Our speaker was Judie Bell-Dorman, the wife of chapter vice president Ralph Dorman. Judie was a certified Crime Prevention Specialist first in California, then Virginia, which meant she was heavily trained in personal safety, workplace violence/safety, neighborhood watch, home security, and more.

Judie interacted with our members as technology has made us safer with apps but still vulnerable. Members shared their safety precautions. Here are a few key points.

- Most importantly: BE AWARE of your surroundings, other people near you or NO people near you.
- Put that cell phone away as you walk, so you can BE AWARE.
- Try to avoid putting yourself into difficult situations, alone, like elevators or dark parking lots.
- Trust your first instincts, if it feels wrong, it IS wrong.
- Always know where you are.
- Someone should always know where you are.
- Lock your car doors when you are in it and lock your car when you are pumping gas.
- Check interior of your car before getting in.
- As you walk, have an air of confidence about yourself, look like you are in control as you walk.
- Leave only your vehicle fob or key at the repair garage.
- Lock windows and doors as much as possible when at home or away from home. Reinforce doors by adding a screw that will reach past the door frame into the 2 x 4 studs behind the door frame.
- What do you do if someone gets into your house during the night while you are sleeping? Burglars and assailants hate noise, so can you make noise with your car fob, whistle, app on your phone. How do you make noise? What is your plan?



Chapter President Granville Goza presents Judie Dorman a certificate that states that the chapter will make a donation to the "Fighting Scots" that are enrolled Edinboro ROTC program on behalf of Judie.

Chapter Health from page 1

- 90 postcards were mailed to Erie MOAA members inviting them to June 28th dinner at Venango Valley Inn.
- The newsletter has been distributed monthly, the chapter even got an award for it.
- The chapter has a basic web site www.moaa.org/chapter/frenchcreekvalley
- The chapter Facebook page has been updated visit us on [French Creek Valley Chapter](#) also visit [Edinboro ROTC Facebook](#) page.
- The chapter was able to present the MOAA award in person this year to Edinboro ROTC Trenity Meacham.
- The chapter was able to present the MOAA award in person to Noah Kinney at McDowell High School.
- The chapter did welcome new member William LCDR William Orson, USNR RET.
- The chapter made a memorial donation in honor of our deceased members to Post 52.

To Improve Our Health

- We need an exceptional turn out on June 28th.
- We need to sponsor the 5K run in 2023. This puts MOAA and French Creek visible in the community. Total chapter support is needed for this event.
- A PMS assign to Edinboro ROTC soon. We are sorry that LTC Colby Krug, time had come to sign off.
- Need someone to step up and take over being Chapter President for 2023. It brings a need for secession in chapter leadership.
 - There are lots of resources and workshops available for leadership training from MOAA. Some of these are in person and some online. Frank Michael, our speaker this month, would take you "under his wing" to get a person up to speed. Gran would also mentor an individual also.
 - It is not fair for the President to carry the whole load. An individual who would assume "membership" responsibilities.
 - An individual willing to plan programs.
 - An individual to do legislative affairs.
- Get Well!! Our small chapter has felt the pain of members or members love ones dealing with cancer treatments.
- Invite potential new chapter members!



MOAA Take Action Center Update

From MOAA Advocacy Web Page

Dear MOAA Member

Your senators will be casting their votes next week (**June 6th**) on H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act. We need your help to ensure they vote “YES” to pass this critical piece of legislation that would help one in five veterans. [One is our own chapter member.](#)

MOAA has long supported legislative efforts toward comprehensive toxic exposure reform on multiple fronts and is joined by dozens of veterans advocacy groups in seeking passage of the Honoring Our PACT Act. This legislation would:

- Provide access to care for 3.5 million veterans exposed to burn pits.
- Add 23 respiratory illnesses/cancers to the list of ailments presumed to be connected to toxic exposure.
- Expand Agent Orange presumptive exposure to include those with service in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia during certain periods.
- Invest in VA research, facilities, staffing, and claims support surrounding toxic exposure.

Now more than ever, current and future generations of veterans need your support on this long-sought comprehensive toxic exposure reform. Please contact your senators today and urge them to vote in favor of H.R. 3967, the [Honoring Our PACT Act.](#)

Thank you again for your continued and steadfast support of our nation’s veterans, their families, and their survivors.

Col Dan Merry USAF (Ret.)
Vice President of Government Relations

If the link doesn’t work call

Surviving Spouse Corner: Four Resources for Older Adults

The community of military spouses, encompassing all past and present, is a resilient group of individuals. The ability to change plans in a moment’s notice is a skill acquired over years of experience. The other amazing characteristic of military spouses is that we support each other and share tools, benefits, and resources no matter how long we have known each other.

Here are four such resources to consider:

VA Aid and Attendance: Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. Financial and physical considerations need to be investigated. Local veteran services organizations are a great place to get neutral information and support.

Geriatric Care Managers: Hiring these professionals can be an unmatched option of support for seniors who do not have family members close. They are social workers for hire who can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney: Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that “what you don’t know will hurt you.” A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise. Learn more through the [National Elder Law Foundation.](#)

Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES): This designation for Realtors means that they have done advanced education for working with home buyers over the age of 50. Often, they have a network of additional businesses and services that will assist in making the real estate transaction as smooth as possible. Learn more through the [SRES Council.](#)

Please send your elected official a MOAA suggested message today. [Click here](#)

Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Update
<https://moaa.quorum.us/or>
1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

Legislative Contacts

President Joseph Biden (D)
The White House
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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

The adult version of
“head, shoulders, knees and toes” is
“wallet, glasses, key fob and phone.”

From 'Pension Poaching' To Elder Fraud, No One Is Immune To Financial Scams

By: Kevin Lilley

News of scam artists targeting an older veteran unfortunately has become commonplace, with the Federal Trade Commission reporting more than \$66 million in losses from military retirees and veterans reported to the agency in 2020 alone. But a recent public information campaign makes it clear these scammers can go after anyone, including a World War II Navy veteran who spent part of his post-service professional career at the helm of the FBI:

William Webster, who also ran the CIA and is now a 98-year-old retired judge, and his wife were targeted in a lottery scam in 2014, according to an FBI.gov report. When the couple refused to pay the \$50,000 requested by an unknown caller, the scammers threatened violence. He called his old department; the caller's now in prison. "If it can happen to me, it can happen to you," Webster said in the video, released in early May by the FBI.

Along with the elder fraud threats targeted by the FBI campaign, military retirees and veterans face scams specific to their service. The VA last month reported an uptick in "pension poaching," where an individual or organization misrepresents their ability to help a veteran secure VA benefits, or attempts to convince a veteran to transfer their funds or share personal information to secure greater or faster VA compensation

While no two scams are identical, be wary of anyone making the following requests or proposals regarding your veterans benefits:

- Claims of "guaranteed" future VA benefits, or a request to provide credit card information before assisting with a VA claim. Accredited VA attorneys and claims agents cannot charge a fee until after a claim decision.
- Requests for your eBenefits, VA.gov, or other VA login credentials.
- Claims to represent the VA itself or to hold VA accreditation (Check any organization or claims agent against VA's online accreditation database), especially those accom-

panied by legal threats for noncompliance. Not sure how to proceed, or if you are actually facing a compliance issue? Hang up and call the VA direct at (800) 827-1000.

- Suggestions about moving money into or out of specific accounts to allow for benefits eligibility. Remember: If you receive VA benefits after misrepresenting your finances – even at the direction of a third party – you may be liable to repay the benefits to the government.

Report suspected VA-related scams by calling the VA Office of Inspector General at (800) 488-8244. Report other scams at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov> or via your local FBI field office.



Janet Oglesby receives a certificate for the chapter newsletter which was a four-star award in the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Contest. Three of the eleven chapters in Pennsylvania receive five-star, two received four-star. Nation wide 179 chapters receive a five-star and 44 four-star.

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the members of the French Creek Valley Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher. Also, the individual opinions do not reflect an endorsement by the French Creek Valley Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2018 Military Officers Association of American All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: Granville B. Goza, III, Capt USAF, Ret., (814) 398-4470 gboza3@gmail.com

APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL FOR FRENCH CREEK VALLEY CHAPTER AN AFFILIATE OF MOAA

Name: _____

Address _____

Spouse's Name _____

Primary Phone # _____ Is this a cell Yes No Do You Text Yes No

E-mail address _____

2nd Phone Number _____ Is this a cell Yes No Do You Text Yes No

Service Branch _____ Rank _____ Status (Retired, Former, Active) _____

Component Years Active _____ Years Reserve _____ Years National Guard _____

Member of MOAA National Yes No

Newsletters will be emailed, check this box if you prefer postal service **IMPORTANT DUE TO COST**

If you are an surviving spouse put your spouses name down, their branch(s) last rank, status

Make Check Payable to:
French Creek Chapter
PO Box 1004 Meadville, PA 16335

Chapter Dues for 2022

Regular Member **\$10**
Spouse Member **\$10**
Surviving Spouse **\$5**

How do you communicate, – these are faster than email

- Are you on Facebook?
- Do you use Twitter?