

# The Granite State Warriors Award New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)

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## The Granite State Warriors Award Requirements and Selection Criteria

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH) established the Granite State Warriors Award in 2011 to annually recognize the superb contributions of a New Hampshire based organization and/or a New Hampshire resident that have:

- Enhanced the war fighting capabilities of US military forces through the development and introduction of weapon systems and/or subsystems that have led to the strengthening of our national security or
- Improved the health, morale, welfare, and recognition of US military personnel and their direct families through the creation and delivery of unique services either in the US or where are military forces are deployed. Such unique services are specifically designed to improve the quality of life of our military forces and their families.

## Granite State Warriors Award History

**2011 Paul Moore**, the founder and driving force of **MooreMart**. Established in 2004, MooreMart has provided over 44,000 “Care Packages” to members of the armed forces serving in the Middle East, Iraq, and Afghanistan, hospitalized armed forces personnel at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, residents of the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, NH, and homeless veterans in the state.

**Joseph W. McQuaid**, President and Publisher of the New Hampshire Union Leader and Photographer **Bob LaPree** for their leadership and content of the **Union Leader’s** coverage of the New Hampshire National Guard’s Charlie Company in Afghanistan. Written while embodied with Charlie Company in Afghanistan, the Union Leader’s coverage of the men and women of Charlie Company provided invaluable insight and recognition of their contributions to the War on Terror.

**2012 Pease Greeters** have welcomed more than 500 flights and more than 200,000 military personnel passing through Pease International Tradeport transiting to and from various overseas battle zones. Pease Greeters have also shipped over 43,000 pounds of care packages to soldiers overseas.

**Wilcox Industries** has provided highly specialized tactical gear for military and law enforcement personnel for over 30 years. Wilcox is honored for its efforts to improve the effectiveness and survivability of the United States military in extreme combat conditions. As an example, Wilcox is the provider of all hand held weapons used by the US Navy SEALs.

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**2013 Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Currier** for their efforts to treat wounded warriors and their families with a magical New Hampshire Christmas experience. Starting as a Currier family endeavor in 2008, this has evolved into the Christmas Can Cure organization. It's mission statement says it best "By granting that family in need a perfect (hopefully White) Christmas, perhaps that sadness becomes glee, fear becomes pride, depression becomes enthusiasm, and the holiday can give them a fresh start they need in the new year. Then, just maybe, the magic of Christmas can start the healing process in their lives and perhaps Christmas Can Cure."

**Veterans Count** has provided financial assistance totaling nearly 1.5 million dollars to over 2350 families of all services. The regional statewide chapters have raised funds and awareness to help with a hand-up: providing care coordination that prevents suicides, prevents homelessness, helps with employment and increases readiness by reducing family stress. Veterans Count reaches out to all who have served our country in uniformed military service.

**2014 BAE Electronic Systems** for their Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (WGU-59/B) – that turns a standard unguided 2.75" rocket into a precision laser-guided munition giving the military a low-cost surgical strike capability.

**Jo Moncher**, Bureau Chief, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. This position is the first of its kind in the country to help facilitate and develop partnerships between military and civilian health care providers. In her role at DHHS, Moncher works with the VA, vet centers, National Guard and other military and civilian provider agencies. She plays a key role in establishing military and civilian partnership communities than focus on homelessness, suicide prevention and substance abuse, among other problems.

**2015 Veterans Law Project.** Since January 2015, the Veterans Law Project has provided legal assistance to over 500 New Hampshire veterans and families of veterans. Legal assistance provided to veterans covers family law issues, housing and finance problems, criminal law, Veterans Administration benefits, estate planning and probate, discharge upgrades, Social Security disability and Workers Comp, and other legal matters throughout the State of New Hampshire. The Veterans Law Project provides veterans emergency access to legal professionals, offers in-house legal services and referrals at no cost to the veteran, reaches veterans and active duty service members both in New Hampshire and around the world, and encourages collaboration with community agencies and local resources. To provide these services, the Veterans Law Project utilizes highly experienced, veteran legal professionals, attorneys and paralegals who understand the unique needs of New Hampshire veterans.

**Matthew Albuquerque, Founder and President of Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics.** Having founded the human helping company to provide and fit high quality prosthetics for amputees of all ages over 25 years ago, he has been a leading consultant particularly for special use limbs tailored for veterans. He has provided DARPA level development of artificial

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limbs and specialty fittings for unique needs and uses. He has a strong veteran focus and served as the Chair for Easter Seals Veterans Count Advisory Board. As an American Board Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist, his emphasis is on serving those who have served. Matt is the “go to” authority for answers that solve the toughest veteran amputee questions.

**2016 Joe Byron, Executive Director and Founder of Honor Flight New England**, Honor Flight New England was founded in the spring of 2009 to transport America’s World War II Veterans to Washington, DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifices. In the spring of 2016, Honor Flight New England began also transporting Korean War Veterans. These trips are provided at no cost to the veterans. To date, 42 flights have been launched serving 1,474 veterans. Honor Flight New England – one more tour with honor

**Harbor Homes** for their work done in direct support of New Hampshire Veterans under its Veterans FIRST Program. Veterans FIRST includes Veterans FIRST Transitional Housing, Veterans FIRST Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, Veterans FIRST Permanent Supportive and Affordable Housing Programs and Supporting Services for Veterans Families Program including primary medical and dental care. Through the efforts of Harbor Homes, more than 1,000 veteran households moved from homelessness to independence and more than 650 homeless veterans have obtained employment.