



The Granite Slate

The Official Newsletter for the
New Hampshire Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America



June, 2017

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Spring Edition

April Luncheon Plymouth, NH



The chapter held its second meeting and luncheon of the year on April 29, 2017 with 102 members and guests at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth, NH. This was our third visit to Plymouth, and the *Common Man* provides both outstanding capabilities and is located in an ideal spot for viewing NH scenery.



Chapter Pres. P. Burdett, Sen. Ayotte, Col. B. Davis

Once again the meal choices were wonderful and received high praise from all. Chapter President CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret.) summarized his visit to Washington, DC as part of MOAA's "Storm the Hill" event. Items relevant to MOAA were outlined to our delegation during his visit. He also acknowledged chapter webmaster CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret.) in recognition of the New Hampshire Chapter being a Five Star Award winner in MOAA's annual Communications Award for the second year in a row.

Two of the recipients of the Granite State Warriors Awards (GSWA) who were not able to attend our January meeting were presented with plaques commemorating their achievements. Barry Conway received a plaque on behalf of Harbor Homes (see citation on the MOAA website), and former US Senator (and chapter spouse) Kelly Ayotte was also an award recipient.



gift presentation

Sen. Ayotte's commendation summarized the extensive effort she brought forward during numerous programs supporting military requirements, veterans, and their families. Our guest speaker, Col Bill Davis, USAF, Vice Commander 157 Air Refueling Wing, Pease ANGB, NH

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June Chapter Meeting & Luncheon White Mountain Hotel & Resort

On June 10, 2017 the chapter, for the fourth time, held its summer meeting and luncheon at the White Mountain Hotel and Resort near Conway, NH. The weekend weather was unusually clear and bright which allowed those who arrived on the previous day the chance to play golf at the Hale's Location Golf Course adjacent to the hotel. Although the usual luncheon attendance was diminished by June graduations, weddings and vacations, the 70 members and guests who did attend the luncheon were rewarded with



Mr. Charles Summers



the spectacular view from the semi-circular dining through its large ceiling to floor windows while they enjoyed several entrees provided by the hotel staff in their usual efficient and cheerful manner. The chapter was pleased to have **Senator Maggie Hassan**, the newest member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, join us for a short address at the beginning of the luncheon. Although her schedule did not allow her to remain for the meal, she was able to arrive early and meet some of the members. Following dessert and coffee, the members adjourned to the nearby Echo Ballroom where they were given a presentation by our guest speaker, **Mr. Charles Summers, Executive Director of Veterans Count of ME, NH and VT**. He discussed the needs of service members and their families that arise during ongoing deployments and how Veterans Count makes available the funds that Easter Seals of New Hampshire then uses to provide the necessary services to those people. His presentation was followed by a question and answer period after which the meeting was adjourned.



Chapter Officers

President	CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret.), (800) 778-4251, Peter_burdett@ml.com
Vice-President	CAPT F. Warren Coulter, USN (Ret.), (603) 465-2744, Warren.Coulter49@outlook.com
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Secretary	CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret), (603) 692-4648, mamclean@comcast.net

Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org



President's Corner

Pete Burdett

June, 2017

As your NH Chapter President, I can report that the trip to Washington DC to meet our NH Congressional Delegation at the MOAA Storm the Hill Day, 5 April 2017 was successful. Information on the legislative issues of the day were discussed with the members or senior staff that will lead to change and protection of the values and need for predictable funding for our military, both active and reserve forces, and protection of retired programs. My #1 idea presented was to NOT subject the military budget writers to repeated Continuing Resolutions (CR). A CR is not a good way to help the military to be more efficient.

If you believe that a strong military is needed to protect America's Freedom, then belonging to this chapter, being a member of MOAA National, and helping to recruit others are key actions for FORT New Hampshire. As you have heard many times, the chapter members are the ones that influence legislation with direct contacts with our Congressional Delegation. So keeping our membership numbers high is KEY to having a strong influence in Washington DC. Go to:

www.moaa-nh.org and print out a membership flier for a friend or colleague, or they can now sign-up online! If you need some help, use your smart device to taking a camera view of the QR code on the address page of this newsletter. Check it out: **WHY MOAA?**

We have an excellent Granite Slate for you this month. And we have some contributed stories! If you have a military adventure story to tell, please add to the history of the Chapter by being published on these pages. Exercise your internal Hemingway! Sending a photo is also a GREAT idea.

I have just returned from the National Conference of the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) at Fort Bragg, NH. Tons of information was learned about this Special Forces base and the Army issues currently of concern; READINESS is #1. Spent some quality time on Range 37...and yes, I did hit the target at 1600 meters. LTG Paul Nakasone Commanding General of the US Army Cyber Command was a featured presenter and shared some interesting background on a recruiting advertisement for new Army cyber experts (Be thinking hidden message). Next year to West Point!

If you have any ideas for the chapter or questions, just call me: 1-800-778-4251. My email is peter_burdett@ml.com. I would also be pleased to speak to any group that may have a large % of eligible possible members or would like to hear some of my stories! THANKS,

Pete Burdett



Elizabeth Golden, Pres. Burdett, Maggie Hassan

2017 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

Col Eric C Murdock
USAF (Ret.)
12 Avery St
Plymouth, NH 03264-1101

Lt Col Michael Reitan
ANG (Ret.) Joan
181 Mallego Rd
Barrington, NH 03825-3507

CPT Gary E Waterhouse
USA (Ret.) Cynthia
1 Birch St
Colebrook, NH 03576-3103



2017 remaining Luncheon Schedule

08/05/2017 Clambake, (PNSY)
09/16/2017 The Inn on Main, Wolfeboro
11/4/2017 Annual Meeting, Nashua C. C., Nashua



June, 2017
Taps

Mrs. Birna Boudreau	Nashua, NH
Maj Guy K. Buesing, USAFR (Ret.)	Rye, NH
Maj Alfred S. Despres, Jr., USAFR (Ret.)	Hudson, NH
Mrs. Patricia K. Jones	Williamsburg, VA
Fr. John F. Leonard, Maj USAF	Pelham, NH
Col Paul F. Lessard, USMC (Ret.)	Hampton, NH
Col Robert D. McLaughry, USMC (Ret.)	Hanover, NH
Mrs. Doris Sayer	Springfield, NH
Lt Col Edgar D. Stubbs, Jr. USAFR (Ret.)	Boynton Beach, FL
Maj Milton J. Walsh, USAF (Ret.)	Salem, NH
COL Bernard F. Wilkes, Jr., USA (Ret.)	Sunapee, NH
Mrs. Evelyn L. Wingo	Portsmouth, NH
Lt Col Paul S. Wyman, Jr., USAF (Ret.)	Laconia, NH

Travel Update

Our 2018 travel program*: America's Cowboy Country, May 2018; Discover Scotland, August 2018, Romantic Road and Fairy Tale Road (Germany), April 2018; California & America's Western Wonders, March 2018; Charming French Canada, September 2018; Spain Classics w/Portugal, October 2018. We have three trips remaining for 2017. Refer to our website for details. Contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email tonyajjb@gmail.com for information,

provided a presentation describing the history and future of aircraft in-flight refueling. He explained the upcoming transition to the new KC-46A next generation tanker scheduled to take place during the next three years. His talk generated a number of queries and Col Davis provided good answers while also touting Pease as the first recipient of this new aircraft.

We were joined by three first time chapter members: Raymond D'Amante of Concord, Douglas Putney of Concord and James Spotts of Litchfield.



Sen. Ayotte award presentation

One reason to change career paths

It is not uncommon in the Navy to find oneself stuck with a nickname not of one's choosing. My first ship was a Gearing class destroyer with a wardroom of 15 officers. When in port, each department had an officer assigned daily as its duty officer, and I stood that watch as the Duty Engineer.



"Clampdown" Day

One such duty day at 8 o'clock reports (held, of course, at 1930 on the port weather deck), the Command Duty Officer took the reports and directed the duty officers to be sure their departments held a proper clamp down. I said, "Right, Boss." (The CDO was our Chief Engineer.) "What's a clamp down?" Thereafter, I was known as "Clamp Down" Day. Aviators don't know what clamp downs are, so I went to flight training to shake off the unfortunate sobriquet, and became known as "Mad Dog" instead. Sometimes you can't win.

- Cdr. James R. Day, Jr. (Roby) -

Membership notice:

Our Transition Liaison, COL R. Bancroft McKittrick is available. If you hear of an officer transitioning to NH from active duty or just moving here, ask them to call Bancroft: Tel: (603) 489-2429 Fax: (603) 489-2125 Cell: (603) 548-6558 or email at bancroftmc@aol.com.

MOAA news:

Alexandria, Va. - Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) council and chapter leaders from all 50 states and members of the board of directors urged lawmakers to end the harmful effects of sequestration as well as eliminate the survivor benefit plan (SBP)/ dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) offset otherwise known as the "widow's tax."

More than 150 MOAA members participated in the annual "Storming the Hill" campaign on April 5, 2017 in Washington, D.C., to advocate for a strong national defense, which requires Congress to end the harmful effects of sequestration.

"While it's only one day out of our year-long legislative strategy, storming mobilizes significant numbers of constituents to get appointments and make MOAA's case face-to-face with legislators and staffers on priority topics." (retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, MOAA's president and CEO).

See highlights at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Press-Releases/Detail/MOAA-to-Urge-Lawmakers-to-End-Harmful-Effects-of-Sequestration-and-Repeal-the-%E2%80%9CWidows-Tax%E2%80%9D.aspx?list=4294967994&cat=365#sthash.X3IHsYK8.dpuf>

News:

MOAA RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED FY 2018 DEFENSE BUDGET MAY 23, 2017

Alexandria, Va. - The president released today a FY 2018 budget request calling for a proposed 2.1-percent military pay raise for 2018.

On the proposal, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), said: "We're disappointed this request proposes another year of capping military pay raises below the average American's. Seven of the past eight military pay raises fell below private-sector wage growth, creating a worrisome gap between military and civilian pay that threatens military retention. It's also important to remember those raises were the smallest in 50 years."

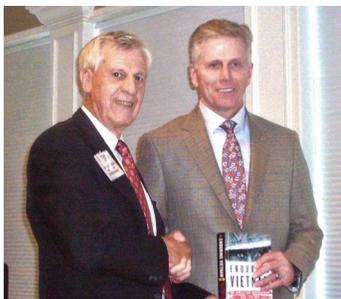
Congress spent a decade fixing a 13.5-percent military pay gap following retention problems during the late 1990s.

"As we enter our 17th year of continued conflict, putting America's men and women in danger in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, the Korean peninsula and elsewhere around the globe, we should be providing more reasons for people to remain in service, not giving them reasons to leave," said Atkins.

See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Press-Releases/Detail/MOAA-Responds-to-President-s-Proposed-FY-2018-Defense-Budget.aspx>



Senator Hassan
White Mtn. Hotel



White Mtn. Hotel
Gift Presentation

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

We are sad to report the death of long-time chapter member Col Paul F. Lessard, USMC (Ret.) of Hampton, who died on May 30, 2017. He and his wife Dorothy (Dottie) were dedicated chapter members with Paul serving on the Board of Directors from 1995 - 2001.



"Col. Lessard was the Deputy Director for the 9th Marine Corps District (Recruiting) when I served as a Major. The recruiting mission was very challenging, however through his leadership and unwavering support, we were successful as a District. He knew very well that the mission could not be accomplished without caring for and supporting the troops that made it happen. He was a Marine's Marine..... Semper fi Paul."
R. Bancroft McKittrick
Col, USMC (Ret.)

Chapter Members,

I was fortunate enough to reconnect with a squadron-mate dating back 30 years to our active duty in Pensacola. During our long and enjoyable reunion we naturally discussed and embellished many years of our flying days including tales of living abroad and sometimes on the threshold of large-scale calamity. Not amazing to any of us veterans, many of these events aren't actually too far from what *really happened* back then.

While countless day-to-day active-duty chores were annoying and monotonous, not one of us spent an entire term without several (or many) awe-inspiring challenges. The spread from aircraft-carrier excitement to organizing a band of misfits in the Philippines were on my legend list; we all have our own adventures to look back on.

Next column

While the stories may blend over time, there is always a common link. The bond we shared of unity kept us protected and confident even during the most difficult ordeals.

It's very rare to find an equal relationship among "normal civilian" groups where many peoples' priority have a 3 foot radius. "I'm aboard, pull up the rope."

We've all seen promotions and lifestyle improvements sometimes attained at the expense of others' concessions. While aggressive upward climbs are not isolated to the civilian sector, we typically functioned as a family with mutual support as part of our active duty units. This bond may never be understood by others.

As pilots we worked, lived, flew, and joked together. At night in a storm returning to the ship in the blackness of the ocean we trusted each other, sometimes with our lives.

Veterans are a proud and very lucky group,

--Editor--

Peter W. Dawson
LCDR, USNR



Attention all retirees and annuitants,

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. Old addresses are being discontinued & replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are: Retired Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN, 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E 56th, Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

More information can be found at: <https://www.dfas.mil/>