



# The Granite Slate

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



Dec 2009

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## NH MOAA Chapter Earns Seventh Consecutive 5-Star Award

The National Chapter handbook states the 5-Star Award is presented to the "very, very best chapters." The evaluation of membership retention and recruitment, chapter communications, legislative liaison and updates, and civic support must produce a score of 91% or above to reach this pinnacle. For the seventh straight year NH MOAA attained this surpassed 91% and is a "Five-Star" Chapter



Gen Butch Neal, Chairman of the Board, MOAA presents President of NH Chapter, Gary Terhune 5-Star Recognition Banner for 2009

## Results of Elections at 2009 Annual Meeting NH MOAA Officers Elected to one Year Term

**President** LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret)  
**Vice-Pres** CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR  
**Secretary** MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret)  
**Treasurer** CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN (Ret)

### Board of Directors (Three year term)

Col George C. Arvanetaki, USAF (Ret.)  
CAPT Gary W. Lovgren, USN (Ret.)  
Col Kenneth L. Weyler, USAFR (Ret.)  
MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret.)

### Upcoming Program for 2010

**Jan 23** Maj Gen Kenneth Clarke (NHANG ret)  
former Adjutant General, NH National Guard  
*Veteran Issues of the Day*  
Promises to Keep, Derry NH

### Save the Date for 2010

**March 27** Portsmouth Country Club **June 5th** "North Country"  
**Aug 7** Clambake **Sep 18** Grantham  
**November 13** Annual Meeting-Bedford

## Chapter Officers

**President** LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret), (603) 570-4885, [schoonergst@yahoo.com](mailto:schoonergst@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President** CPT Jim LeFebvre, USAR (603) 356-7296, [lefebvrej@att.net](mailto:lefebvrej@att.net)  
**Secretary** MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret), (603) 644-1630, [smowcy@comcast.net](mailto:smowcy@comcast.net)  
**Treasurer** CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN, (Ret) (603) 863-5731, [joanhuber@aol.com](mailto:joanhuber@aol.com)  
Visit the Chapter's website at: [www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)

Special Dates of the Chapter



NH Chapter of MOAA presents...

## Vacations of a Lifetime

Where will the road take you?

Also Included: Enjoy the services of a professional tour manager who accompanies you throughout the trip and takes care of every detail - so you can just sit back, relax and explore!



### Shades of Ireland

September 28 - October 7, 2010 10 Days • 13 Meals

Dublin • Irish Evening • Kilkenny • Waterford Crystal • Blarney Castle  
Jaunting Car Ride • Ring of Kerry • Kilarney • Farm Visit • Limerick  
Cliffs of Moher • Galway • Castle Stay



### CANYON COUNTRY

May 13 - 21, 2010 9 Days • 12 Meals

Scottsdale • Oak Creek Canyon • Kaibab National Forest  
Grand Canyon • Lake Powell • Monument Valley  
Bryce Canyon National Park • Zion National Park • Las Vegas

For more information on these exciting vacations,  
call Bruce Avery at 603.626.2854 or email [bruceavery@tds.net](mailto:bruceavery@tds.net)



## President's Corner

*Gary Terhune*

As I sit back on the day after Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday, and reflect over what our chapter has done over the past year, I see that we have accomplished some very worthwhile things (but there is still much to be done). High-points include having Morrill Worcester of **The Worcester Wreath Co** and CPT Ed Johnson, founder of the **Pease Greeters** as guest speakers; and celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We had hoped to hear Rep Carol Shea-Porter speak but due to the vagaries of being a politician, she was unable to make it. The chapter officially received the 5 Star Level of Excellence award at the MOAA Annual meeting in San Diego, and we were honored to have our 7<sup>th</sup> straight award presented by COL Bancroft McKittrick as a representative from National. It doesn't get any better than that. We have some new people that have joined our team, but we first say goodbye to our longtime and dedicated servant Mary Beth Moran, who has been on the Board of Directors (BoD) or an Officer since 2000. In addition, Bancroft McKittrick, a past President and a member of the BoD will be leaving. George Arvenetaki, BoD member, has re-upped for next year and will take over as the Public Affairs Officer. We welcome back Patricia Graham who will replace Mary Beth as our Secretary and BoD Member as well as Gary Luvgren and Ken Weyler who are joining us as Board members for the first time. Thanks Mary Beth and Bancroft for your dedicated service and we warmly welcome Pat, Ken, Gary and George.

Our Fall luncheons up in Bartlett at the Grand Summit Hotel and the Annual Meeting in Manchester were bittersweet in results. Let me explain. The September luncheon had a very disappointing turnout which is very unusual for us at the fall luncheon. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> time in Bartlett and we had been averaging well over 140, but this year we came in with well under 75. We are not sure of the reason(s) but many people missed a very enjoyable day along with the magnificent weather. Our speaker, Phil Dwyer from MOAA National, gave us an enlightening talk about financial matters pertinent to our membership. The Annual Meeting had our usual good turnout, but was disappointing because our speaker couldn't be there. Our "Spouses and Friends" speaker from the morning, Christian Leibl-Cote filled in at the annual meeting and spoke to us about Collette Vacations. We also celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a new challenge coin designed by Bob Jaffin, our Recruiting Coordinator. These coins, available from the chapter for a nominal fee, can be used for recruiting purposes. Our Dec BoD meeting is going to be replaced by an envelope stuffing party and holiday cheer at the Holy Grail in Epping for those interested in joining us. Contact one of the officers if you would like additional information. This is a follow-up to a similar mailing we did last year at this time with a different target audience.

In September, our Chapter Vice President, Jim LeFevbre and I, along with our wives, attended the Chapter Presi-

## New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

LCDR Mark Berry  
USN(ret); Spouse: Robbi  
40 Melody Lane  
Hillsborough, NH 03244  
774-245-2086

CDR Lynne Blankebeker  
USNR  
26 Mulberry St  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-225-7758

Lt Col Barry Bradford  
USAF(ret); Spouse: Susan  
PO Box 570  
New London, NH 03257  
603-526-6465

Col Anthony Burdo  
USA (ret); Spouse: Janet  
34 Mammoth Rd #6  
Hooksett, NH 03106  
603-391-7106

Maj Leonard Kowalski  
USA (ret)  
917 NH Rt 49  
Thornton NH 03285  
603-726-2960

Col Bruce Martin  
USA (ret); Spouse: Janet  
275 North Rd  
Walpole NH 03608  
603-746-3439

LTJG James Pilliod  
USN (ret); Spouse: Judith  
504 Province Rd  
Belmont, NH 03220  
603-524-3047

CPT Gene Porter  
USAR (former);  
Spouse: Carol  
35 Fortier Dr, Rochester  
03867 603-303-6120

Lt Dino Vlahakis  
USN (former)  
54 Westview Lane  
Lebanon NH 03766  
603-448-3749

Welcome aboard: We look forward to seeing you at an MOAA event in the near future

ent's Symposium in Hershey, PA where we learned about the secrets of recruiting and retention as well as TOPS utilization in recruiting and other good ideas. My wife and I also had the chance to attend the Annual Meeting of MOAA in San Diego where the Chapter was formally presented the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award by MOAA's Chairman of the Board, Gen Richard "Butch" Neal, a picture of which appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

In case you haven't already heard, our first luncheon of 2010 is 23 Jan at Promises To Keep in Derry. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, MG Ken Clark USAF (Ret), the former Adjutant General of NH, who will speak to us about the role of the NHANG in Homeland Security and in the War Against Terror among other topics of interest to the chapter. You will not want to miss this luncheon. Let's hope we don't get another foot of snow like we had a few years ago at this venue. Look for your flyer in the mail shortly. Our Spring Luncheon will again be at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, speaker announced shortly.

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON  
EVERYONE! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

## Stopping the Bleeding?

The Army and Marine Corps have added forces in the last two years, and more are planned for 2008. However, it's important to keep things in perspective. Even with overall increases since 2000, the Army has only recovered 31,000 of its nearly 250,000 losses from 1990 levels. Similarly, the Marines have only regained about 8,500 members compared to a loss of a little over 23,000 since 1990 levels.

MOAA applauds that long-overdue reversal and strongly supports those services' renewed recruiting and retention efforts. But the recent increases replace only a fraction of troop cuts since 1990.

Meanwhile, Navy and the Air Force manpower levels continue to decline, with more cuts coming. Under current law, the Navy and Air Force continue to tumble in numbers losing a cumulative 233,000 and 190,000 respectively since 1990

*Information from MOAA.org*

## MOAA Receives Federal Charter

On October 27, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation granting a federal charter for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The Senate passed an identical bill on Sept 24. MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Jr., USN-Ret., said, "This is an historic day in the 80-year history of the Military Officers Association of America. MOAA was founded to support a strong national defense and to protect the earned benefits of those who have worn the uniform of our great country – active duty, National Guard and Reserves, military retirees, survivors, veterans, and their families.

We are deeply grateful for the public recognition that a federal charter provides. On their behalf I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Congressman Walter Jones (R-NC), and Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Bob Corker (R-TN) for leading a strong bi-partisan effort in the House and Senate on the MOAA federal charter bill."

The MOAA North Carolina Council first brought the charter issue to the attention of the association's national leadership. In North Carolina and at least nine other states -- Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania – MOAA council and chapter representatives are barred from participating in state-level veterans' advisory panels because state laws require a federal charter for participation. Passage of the MOAA federal charter will enable all MOAA councils and chapters to be "at the table" when military and veterans' issues are under consideration in each state.

## Defense Budget Future: Bleak?

Last week, the House Armed Services Committee heard a depressing defense budget forecast from representatives of the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and think tanks.

During the hearing entitled "Resourcing the National Defense Strategy: Implications of Long Term Defense Budget Trends," witnesses said steep increases in defense spending will be needed to continue a two-war effort despite the current competing federal deficit, but that may be difficult to achieve.

Dr. Matthew Goldberg of the CBO cited four main factors that will increase costs:

- Continued real growth in both servicemember and DoD civilian pay and benefits
- Projected increases in operations and maintenance costs for aging weapon systems and newer, more complex equipment
- Development and fielding of advanced weapon systems to replace worn-out systems
- Investments in new capabilities in areas to meet emerging threats (such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems)

Chairman Ike Shelton (D-MO) characterized the future defense budget picture as "not a pretty one" in view of growing deficits and competing requirements.

Skelton said that two Pentagon documents owed to Congress in February 2010 will dominate next year's budget discussions.

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) will outline national defense strategy and policy changes required to implement the strategy. The Administration's FY2011 budget will be the primary vehicle used to apply the QDR's recommendations.

Because of the burgeoning federal deficit and the potential for an expanded war effort in Afghanistan, Congress may be left struggling to find ways to fund future military needs. CBO estimates that current budgets envision defense spending dropping to 3.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (total national output of goods and services) in 2015 and to 2.6 percent of GDP by 2028.

Researchers told the Committee that weapon spending may lose out if the Pentagon continues to incur rising personnel and operations costs without a significant increase in the Department's budget

*This synopsis is from the MOAA National Legislative Website*



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### ***Veterans History Project Allows Veterans to Record Memories in Library of Congress***

The Veterans History Project, which is sponsored by the Library of Congress, is a nationwide effort to collect the first-hand accounts of US veterans. Although the project has been in existence since 2000, fewer than 150 of New Hampshire's almost 130,000 veterans have recorded their stories.

The Veterans History Project also accepts collections of original wartime photographs or artwork, letters, memoirs, diaries, or official military documents. The Veterans History Project welcomes the stories of any veteran or civilian support worker (war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, defense contractors, etc.) from any war. There is a particular urgency to obtain interviews from World War II and Korean War veterans.

- *For more information about the Veterans History Project, please visit the official website at*

[www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)



Mrs Cameron B Wagner	Contoocook, NH
Maj Kenneth Webb USAF (ret)	Clearwater, FL
Lt Raymond Kimball USNR (ret)	Berlin, NH
LTC Ernest Loretta USAR (ret)	Manchester, NH
LTC Stephen Robbins USA (ret)	Freedom, NH
Col John Hammond, USA (ret)	New London, NH



Mary Beth Moran accepts a small token of appreciation from President Gary Terhune for her significant contributions to the MOAA Chapter since 2000. Thanks Mary Beth!