



The Granite Slate

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



December, 2013

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Christmas Edition



CONCORD, NH—Commander Bruce Avery USN (Ret.), President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (NHMOAA), and the Board of Directors was honored to host Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, MOAA's President and CEO at its annual conference Saturday the 9th of November 2013 at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford.

Ryan has commanded aviation units at the squadron, wing, and fleet levels and has directed the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. He served as the 52nd Chief of Naval Personnel before retiring and assuming his current position in September 2002.

VADM Ryan addressed the over 200 members, spouses and guests of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officer Association of America. His message was straight-forward and direct: "Sequestration with 50% of those mandatory cuts coming from the DoD budget is having detrimental effect on the nations readiness, and is clearly unfair. MOAA and its 380,000
(continued on page 3)



Ohio Christmas trees heading to soldiers

November 14, 2013

Dozens of Ohio-grown Christmas trees are heading overseas to brighten the holidays for military men and women on active duty. Volunteers from the Ohio Christmas Tree Association delivered the greenery to the Ohio Department of Agriculture in suburban Columbus Wednesday, where the trees and decorations donated by schoolchildren were boxed and prepared for shipment.

This is the 18th year for Operation Evergreen said Amy Galehouse, from Galehouse Tree Farms in Doylestown. Nearly three dozen farms donated trees this year, many from northeastern and eastern Ohio. Trees were checked Wednesday for diseases or pests, then were then tied and packed into long boxes.

Roger Koch, a tree farmer from Butler County, kept busy packing the latter into a waiting truck. "We want to tell our veterans and our current active duty military that we are interested in them and what they doing for their country," Koch said. "It's a great thing. We have to do it."

Chapter Officers

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



President's Corner



Bruce Avery

President's Corner
December 2013

First, I would like to express my appreciation for your membership in and support of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Thanks to you, we have had a good year. Under the leadership of COL Chad Chadwick, your VP and Programs Director, the 2013 program offerings have been well attended and enthusiastically received. Chad has passed the Programs torch to LTC Armand Francouer and I am excited about the range and depth programs scheduled for 2014.

I am particularly pleased with status of our communications. Under the leadership of CDR Michael McLean, our website (www.moaa-nh.org) remains to be an outstanding and timely source of information about your chapter. Our new editor of *The Granite Slate*, CDR Peter Dawson, has brought many improvements to our quarterly printed newsletter. As the Chapter's Public Affairs Officer, COL Ken Lull has opened new avenues of communications with wide series of press releases about chapter events to local and statewide media.

In addition to your continued support and attendance at our events, we badly need your help in the recruitment of new members. When you learn about a neighbor's or business acquaintance's service as an officer, I encourage you to bring up the subject of MOAA-NH membership. You are in a position to be our best source of new members.

Finally, please remember that MOAA is THE professional association for military officers and their families - at every stage of life and career. Your Chapter of MOAA is grateful to touch part of your lives. We remain committed to improving that "touch" to our current membership and extending that "touch" to a wider base of New Hampshire's military officer community.

Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2014.

Please always remember that every day is a beautiful day in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bruce

2013 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

CAPT David S Brimblecom USCG (Ret.) Stevie 30 Greenleaf St Merrimack, NH 03054	CDR Sharon P Day USN (Ret.) CDR James R. 2 Blue Heron Ct East Kingston, NH 03827
CWO4 Jerry W Lewis USCG (Ret.) Barbara 57 Magnolia Ln. Newmarket, NH 03857	1stLt John J Meaney Jr. USMC 32 Cliff Ave. Hampton, NH 03842
CAPT Ramon D O'Hara USN (Ret.) Bonnie PO Box 274 Waterville Valley, NH 03215	MAJ James H O'Rourke USA (Ret.) 26 Elk Dr. Bedford, NH 03110
Maj Stephen M Parsons USAF Tracy 2 Buckingham Dr. Londonderry, NH 03053	Capt Donald W Simmons USAF (Ret.) Col Linda M 59 Cluff Rd, Unit 85 Salem, NH 03079
Col Linda M Simmons USAF (Ret.) Capt Donald W. 59 Cluff Rd, Unit 85 Salem, NH 03079	LTC Charles M Swinford Sr. USA (Ret.) Rachel PO Box 453 New Boston, NH 03070



All,

Every attempt is made to keep our members up-to-date with future events, and to provide some glimpses of our past MOAA activities. Additionally, the intent is to share news from all branches of US forces as uniformly as possible.

Please add your comments to the MOAA-NH web-site, and possibilities for our next edition to "poko@comcast.net."

-Editor- Merry Christmas from Rosemary and Peter

(continued from page 1)

members nationwide will continue to fight for the rights of our nation's veterans and their families as the nation's largest military lobbying organization.

Admiral Ryan vowed that MOAA will continue in its efforts working with President Obama's Administration (including both the Senate and House of Representatives) to improve several programs. These include medical coverage, VA compensation, and transition programs aimed at young men and woman who are now, and have recently served in the US military during wartime.

Additionally, VADM Ryan took part in a presentation to Major General William N. Reddell, New Hampshire's Adjutant General, and Colonel Lori Farris, project officer and Director of Operations for the NHANG Joint Staff. They were recognized for their efforts in promoting the New Hampshire Air National Guard's, national bid to be selected for the U.S. Air Force (USAF) KC-46 fielding at Pease Air National Guard Base. The Boeing KC-46 is a military aerial refueling and strategic transport aircraft developed by Boeing from its 767 jet airliner.

(article edited for our newsletter with permission from the author, P.A.O. Col. K. Lull)



(Above left) Commander Bruce Avery, USN (ret.), President of the NH MOAA; Colonel Lori Farris, KC-46 Project Officer; BG Carolyn Protzmann, Assistant Adjutant General NH Air National Guard, and VADM Norbert Ryan, President and CEO MOAA.

As our news has shown disaster and strife in the Phillipines from the tsunami, a story from a Christmas past was found and warrants space in our special holiday newsletter. Enjoy.

Secret of Giving

On Christmas in 1985, I was on deployment to NAS Cubi Point in the Philippines. My crew was off the flight schedule that week, and I was standing Squadron Duty Officer watches from 10 each night until 10 the next morning.

It was Christmas Eve, and I had just gotten off watch and was waiting to catch a ride to my barracks. As I waited, a Filipino man came walking up the street and approached me. He asked me if I had an apple. We often got box lunches, and they usually came with a piece of fruit. On this day I did not have an apple.

He looked dejected and told me he needed an apple for his son, as when he had asked him what he wanted for Christmas he had said "Daddy, can I have an apple?" That was all his Son wanted for Christmas that year.

Apples are hard to come by in the Philippines and quite expensive. I directed him to our hangar and maintenance control as they often ordered box lunches, and I figured that was his best chance for his Son's gift.

I was feeling down in the dumps about being so far from my wife and Sons at Christmas, but suddenly realized how fortunate I really was. Within the hour I was at the commissary buying bags of apples. I spent the afternoon giving them to every local I could find on the base and in town.

I think of that man every Christmas, and each time I have an apple. My entire perspective of Christmas has never been the same since those days, and I'm thankful for my service and the lessons I learned back then. (AE3 R. Leddy)

Merry Christmas to all MOAA families,

— editor —

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11th YEAR



MOAA Travel update (see web site for all details)

Three wonderful trips still available for 2014. First is Paris and the Normandy Beaches in June. Next is Spain in early October. Finally, we have a Seine River barge trip from Paris to the Normandy Beaches in late October.



MOAA NAMETAGS Need a nametag? Have questions about ordering one? Ordered one, but don't have it yet? Please contact Sharon Day at (603) 642-7956 or cimice89@comcast.net.

2014 TENTATIVE Schedule

- January 25 Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland
- April 12 Granite State Warriors Awards Seacoast (TBD)
- June 14 The Eagle Mountain House, Jackson
- August 2 Clambake (PNSY)
- Sept 27 TBD
- Nov 8 Nashua C.C., Nashua, NH

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Barrell	Concord, NH
Mrs. Betty W. Crook	Morehead City, NC
Mrs. Thelma B. Grahn	California City, CA
CW4 Roger A. Krey, USAR (Ret.)	Wolfeboro, NH
LT T. Holmes Moore, USN (Ret.)	New Hampton, NH
Mrs. Marian C. Mosteller	York, ME
Lt Col James R. Nelson, USAF (Ret.)	Manassas, VA
Lt Col Richard L. Ravenelle, USA (Ret.)	Bedford, NH
Mrs. Grace E. Treadwell	Exeter, NH