



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821



December, 2022

Autumn News & Events

Volume 44, No. 4



MOAA-NH Chapter's Mission

- To promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the By-Laws of that Association
- To further legislative goals and objectives of MOAA
- To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among our membership
- To provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents, and survivors

MOAA-NH Holds Its 2022 Annual Meeting

It was a sunny and warm day in November when the Chapter held its Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Nashua Country Club on November 5, 2022. The business meeting was attended by 23 Chapter members. There was more socializing this year as people felt more relaxed as the pandemic begins to fade from memory. A total of 72 members and guests who attended enjoyed a delicious meal excellently prepared by the staff of the club. As always, the staff of the country club was extremely helpful. Prior to the luncheon, chapter members Warren Coulter and Wayne Balcom raised \$180, of which \$90 will go to support veteran organizations in New Hampshire.

Before the meal, those present participated in the traditional playing of all the service marches, including the new Space Force march. Again this year, there was no one present from NOAA or the USPHS, but we did have one member from the new USSF present. Commander John Benda, the 76th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution, presided over the installation of this year's officers and Board of Directors. The results of the annual elections can be found on the "Chapter News"



page of the website. Following the installation, CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR again assumed the Chapter Presidency. Once again, we acknowledged the passing of chapter members who passed away

since the last annual meeting. TAPS was played for them. After our meal was completed, Commander Benda, who was filing in for his successor, CDR Billie J



Farrell, the first female commander of the Constitution who was unable to attend due to other commitments, regaled us with the history of the USS Constitution, including brief stories about some of her most famous former commanders and some of the most significant



sea battles in which the Constitution participated, such as the wars with the Barbary Pirates and battles in the War of 1812, including such famous officers such as Commanders Edward Preble and Stephan Decatur, and how the Constitution obtained her nickname of "Old Ironsides".

He also mentioned that the Constitution is internationally recognized and visited by both US and foreign officers attending the US Naval War College. He was presented with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation, a Chapter Challenge Coin, and an offer of a free meal in the future.

Andrew J Breuder, Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS Editor



CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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President's Corner
CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR



I'm writing this piece in late November, several weeks after the annual meeting of the chapter, held once again at the Nashua Country Club. The annual meeting was its usual success, featuring a great luncheon guest speaker, Commander John Benda, 76th Commander of the USS Constitution, the oldest active-duty warship in the US Navy. He entertained the 70 plus MOAA- NH members and family members attending with great "sea stories" about the ship and its crew. Thanks to all who were able to attend, and all who worked diligently to make the event successful, especially the event coordinator, Michael McLean.

As I discussed in September, we are searching for a new Bake Master to replace Ken Lull after seven years as the OIC of Clambake Food Operations. We also have a key vacancy in the role of Chapter Treasurer, although we are fortunate to have Roby Day continue to provide quality financial support. Anyone interested in either position should contact me at 603-356-7296, so we can chat in detail. On the positive side of the scale, we have a new editor of the Granite Slate, with Andrew Breuder replacing the interim editor, Cynthia A. LeFebvre. Thanks to you both for your willingness to help the chapter. Andrew has also agreed to serve as the Recording Secretary, taking some of the workload off Michael McLean, our long serving Administrative Officer. Tom Goff has also agreed to assume Chapter Recruiter duties, and I thank him for his willingness to step up.

Our next major event will be the Granite State Warrior Award luncheon, which will be held in early February 2023 in a seacoast location. It promises to be a great event, as we have a potential quality award recipient. In response to BOD feedback, and cost factors at our previous venue, we are using a new venue for the January 2023 BOD meeting. We wish to invite folks not on the board to consider attendance at this luncheon event, at T-Bones in Concord.

Please contact the Chapter's POC, Jennifer Wright for more information if you are interested.

In closing this relatively short column, I hope that all had a great Thanksgiving, and will have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings,

Jim LeFebvre

President

NH Chapter of the MOAA

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

MOAA needs your help to keep momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and had the support of two-thirds of Congress at the end of last session. We also need your work on behalf of new objectives and emergent issues, often via immediate action to keep up with the stop-and-go pace of legislation. To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and [register as an advocate](#) at our Legislative Action Center.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community.

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
- Service Families
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserve



**VETERANS LEGAL JUSTICE (VLJ)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dakota Thunder Wilson
Email: dakotah@vljnh.org
Telephone: 406-214-9317
Website: www.vljnh.org

EVENT: Launch of new NH nonprofit to provide legal services to veterans, service members and their respective families by matching them with expert volunteer lawyers.

DATE: Veterans Day, November 11, 2022

MISSION: There are 93, 000 veterans living in New Hampshire, many of whom face issues that require legal advice. Those issues range include housing instability, family matters, benefits, discharge questions, and life planning. Some veterans are eligible for legal services through NHLA and 603LegalAid. Others may fall out of the legal service guidelines and practice areas, but still need legal assistance.

Veterans Legal Justice, working with law students trained to do intake and volunteer attorneys ready to handle matters in their area of expertise, will fill the gap of legal assistance.

We welcome and encourage veterans and members of service to contact us at our intake number, (603)397-0650, or by email at info@vljnh.org, and share this information with anyone who might make good use of it.

Our service members have provided for us. We are proud to now provide for them.

To receive assistance, visit our website at www.vljnh.org

We thank Bangor Bank for their recent support of our efforts.

Comments from the Editor:

First, I want to apologize to the Chapter membership for getting this edition of the Granite Slate out in January 2023 rather than the scheduled date of December 2022. This is the first time in my life that I've ever been responsible for producing any kind of a newsletter for an organization, and I'm not that familiar with various types of publishing software, nor do I possess a copy of Microsoft Publisher, the application in which the newsletter has been prepared in the past. It seems that no other applications can open that particular document type, and so I've run into several technical difficulties in trying to use various work arounds to get this issue off the ground. Before having the Chapter purchase this software, I'm going to try to use my own software to prepare future issues and hopefully avoid the issue of buying one-off software and see if I can produce future issues with my existing software.

That being said, the question arises as to whether the membership wishes to see future newsletters as a four page or six page format. The additional cost of an expanded newsletter is about \$200 extra per issue (\$485 vs. \$285). If the chapter membership indicated a desire to see an expanded newsletter, this would need to be approved by the Chapter Board of Directors to cover the additional costs of production.

The other issue would be the need to find the additional material to be included in that issue. Although I could incorporate material from local sources, MOAA National Newsletters etc., it would be nice to see members submit articles for inclusion in the expanded issue.

Please consider responding to me at the email address on the front page with your opinions and suggestions regarding this matter.

AJ Breuder, Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS
Editor

Is travelling on your bucket list?

Maybe this list will help . . .



2023 MOAA Travel Program: All our 2023 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website under Group Travel. We will also be advertising our program through our "Trip of the Month" email blast messages and the Granite Slate.

Discover the Spotlight on Nashville: Five days, 26-30 March 2023; 7 meals; \$1,999 with air from Boston; double occupancy. After 9/26/22, call for rates.

The Alps to the Dolomites: 13 day trip in France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy; 14 – 26 Apr 2023; 18 meals; \$5,899 with air from Boston. After 9/26/22 call for rates.

A Taste of the Balkans: 13-28 May 2023; 16 days, \$5,599 per person double occupancy with air; 22 meals with roundtrip air from Boston. After 10/14/22 call for rates.

Alaska Discovery & Land Cruise: 30 August – 10 September 2023; \$5,899 double occupancy with air, 26 meals. This trip includes a seven night Holland America cruise and a four-day land journey including Denali National Park.

Montana: Exploring Big Sky Country, featuring Yellowstone & Glacier National Parks: 14-24 September 2023; 11 days including 16 meals with roundtrip air from Boston; \$5,999 per person double occupancy. Tour includes Yellowstone Southern and Northern Loops, Paradise Valley, Great Falls, Glacier National Park, Whitefish, Flat Head, and Missoula. After 11/30/22, call for current rates.

If you, a family member or friend desire a trip anywhere in the world, contact Tony or Tom and they will make arrangements under our World Connect Program. We want to take advantage of the World Connect Program, and we will emphasize this program throughout the year.

For additional information and reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email tonyajjb@gmail.com or Tom at 603-686-2663 or email tkyleh@yahoo.com.

Tom and I will be meeting with our Collette Regional Manager in January to develop our 2023 group travel program. We plan to schedule four trips and emphasize our World Connect Program for any other worldwide desired trips.

Please feel free to send this article to relatives and friends. They may be interested in our travel program.

We continue to seek partnership with a community organization. Contact Tony or Tom with a point of contact, and we will complete the coordination process.

~Tony B.

Are you up for a new challenge?

MOAA-NH communicates with its membership primarily through its Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and its quarterly newsletter, *The Granite Slate*. Currently, the PAO position is vacant; and the newsletter editor's last publication is the March 2022 issue. Without these two means of communication in full force, MOAA-NH's efforts to work within the community and with its membership would be severely restricted.

Therefore, the Board of Directors is seeking a PAO and editor for *The Granite Slate*. Please consider taking on one of these positions to help your MOAA-NH with its beneficial programs.

The Granite Slate Editor: MOAA-NH publishes a quarterly newsletter (March, June, September, December). MOAA-NH is seeking another editor for their newsletter, *The Granite Slate*, as the current editor will publish her last edition in December 2021.

Responsibilities include securing articles from MOAA-NH president, the list of deceased members and list of new members from the Chapter secretary, travel information, and gathering information and photos from recent Chapter events, and any current, highly pertinent information. Draft of newsletter must be reviewed and approved by the Chapter Secretary and President prior to publishing.

The editor reports to the Secretary and President. If you are interested in becoming a part of the MOAA-NH team, please contact Michael McLean at mamclean@comcast.net

Historical Notes from Chapter Members:

On December 23, 1783, at 12 p.m., General George Washington entered the Senate Chamber of the State House in Annapolis, Maryland —Congress having met there since November 26. Washington was there to resign his commission, to transfer the command of the army to the same body that provided him that power some eight years earlier. In a short address, Washington discussed a job accomplished, a war won, and gave his thanks to "Providence" and his "countrymen." In ending his speech, Washington said: "I retire from the great theatre of Action; and bidding an Affectionate farewell to this August body under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life." Two days after Washington himself handed back power, he returned to his home of Mount Vernon, just in time for Christmas Day.

Larry Miller

"Whiskey is good proofing water.

Tell's you who's real and who isn't."

Tommy Shelby

Peaky Blinders

All gave some, some gave all

VETERANS DAY is for the living. How will you celebrate it?

The observance of Veterans Day and Memorial Day has become less distinguishable in recent years, as if they are two holidays with the same intent. It is important to remember that Memorial Day honors those who died fighting for their country, and Veterans Day commemorates those among us who served in the armed forces.

Since 1919, America has set aside November 11 for its veterans. A year earlier, “on 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour,” the armistice that ended World War I took effect. Accordingly, it was called Armistice Day, until a 1954 law changed the federal holiday to recognize all veterans.

Half a century earlier, America began honoring the Union servicemembers who were killed during the Civil War on May 30, Decoration Day. After World War I, its name gradually changed to Memorial Day to honor all service- members “who gave the last full measure of devotion” to this nation.

Memorial Day observances are among our most solemn traditions, which are greatly appreciated and steadfastly commemorated by our veterans. In fact, when many veterans receive Memorial Day wishes, they are quick to point out that the holiday is for those who didn’t come home. Similarly, on Veterans Day, it’s important to recognize veterans who are still with us.

Fortunately, to help us honor the veterans in our communities and to celebrate Veterans Day as intended, the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery decided not to hold a ceremony on Veterans Day this year.

For many years, the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen held a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Veterans Day. Veterans’ organizations had long requested that the cemetery change the time of the ceremony because they didn’t want to choose between it and Veterans Day events in their communities.

The State Veterans Cemetery listened. Last year, it did not hold a Veterans Day ceremony to allow the local veterans organizations to have events in their communities, as they did in the years before the State Veterans Cemetery. Local veterans organizations were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Veterans Day locally, with the focus on veterans

who are still with us in our communities. This year, once again thanks to the State Veterans Cemetery, veterans’ organizations will have events in their communities. The State Veterans Cemetery will have a brief ceremony on November 10 at 1 p.m. to honor those veterans who have passed on, followed by the flag placement at each grave marker. Local veterans’ organizations were very happy with the turnout of residents at their events last year, and expect even better local resident attendance this year.

As an unknown author penned years ago, “Veterans Day is a time to remember those who served as well as those still serving by a warm greeting of thank you for your service.” Those five words, “thank you for your service,” can be very meaningful to a veteran, and having a conversation about their service can be even more so.

The Adjutant General of New Hampshire, Major General David J. Mikolaities, stated numerous times that the men and women who served this great nation in the armed forces are veterans for life.

The Union Leader and local newspapers list Veterans Day events in your town or city. Please attend these events and use them to teach your children and grandchildren that veterans are the reason we are able to enjoy our freedoms.

As a saying about combat goes, “All gave some, some gave all.” Memorial Day is for those who gave all. Veterans Day is for those who gave some. We are grateful to the State Veterans Cemetery for recognizing the distinction between the two holidays, and for giving local communities an opportunity to recognize their veterans. We hope you’ll take advantage of them.

In closing, we would like to recognize Madeline Dreusicke, the State Council’s Family representative, for her 3,000+ hours of volunteer work as an ambassador and escort at the Manchester VA Clinic. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with Madeline.



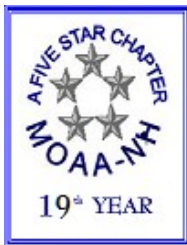
Your Turn, NH
Jim Adams, Roger Sevigny & Brendan Finn

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2022 Chapter Members!

Maj. Frederick Dinsmore, USAF (Ret) - Newton, NH

CDR Rhonda J Hodsdon, USN (Ret) - Madbury, NH



December 2022 *Taps*



CW4 Robert E Buffum, USA (Ret)

Portsmouth, NH

Mrs. Barbara K Mann

Frederick, MD

Maj Jack T Wells, USAF (Ret)

Hillsborough, NH

Mrs. Angie Wilkes

Sunapee, NH



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that MOAA-NH has a Facebook page? We do . . . at <https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH-403462326493407/> Check out all the latest pictures and information about the chapter. While you're there, be sure to "like" us.

Cut and paste or type the link below into your browser. It will take you directly to National MOAA's "Take Action" tab. There you can learn about current legislative issues and voice your opinions about their efforts.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

for linked-in users

MOAA-NH members: We have established a group on LinkedIn for the purpose of helping members find employment in the New Hampshire area. If you have a LinkedIn account, please request to join the "New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)" group. If you are seeking employment or know a prospective member who will be, create a post for the group with a link to the member's profile. We also ask that recruiters and human resource professionals from companies around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group. If you have suggestions for the LinkedIn Group, please contact Tom Goff at Tom Goff at tgsk64@gmail.com.