



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
The NH Chapter and MOAA National are nonpartisan & non-profits organizations



December 2025

Winter News & Events

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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 Chapter Holds its Annual Meeting/Luncheon at the Nashua Country

On Saturday, 8 November, at 1000 hours, the NH Chapter of MOAA conducted its annual business meeting at the Nashua Country Club followed by a short Board of Directors Meeting, then a celebratory luncheon that included the induction of both new Directors and Officers by our luncheon speaker.

Twenty-five members were able to attend the annual business meeting and listen to members of the Board of Directors and other members discuss the activities of the Chapter over the past year as outlined in the 2025 Annual Meeting Reports. Of note, the meeting minutes of last year's event had no comments or corrections and were approved by all present. The Treasurer/Bookkeeper reported that the Chapter was solvent, and the Trustee of the Trust Funds reported significant gains in our assets for the last year. Also, a proposed 2026 Operating Budget was presented. All three of these reports were approved by the attendees. Bill Luti reported on state legislative activities and the need for chapter members to participate in MOAA National's Legislative Action Center (see his separate article). An extensive report from the NH State Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services (DMAVS) was presented which also included a two page handout of NH Veteran Resources which can be accessed at: NHVeterans.NH.Gov.

As he does each year, our Secretary gave an extensive breakdown of our current membership of 500 members which includes 129 surviving spouses. He also noted that membership has continued to decline each year since 2003

from a high of 1073 in 2003 to our current level of 500 this year. As a result, he proposed at the October Board of Directors (BOD) meeting that the Chapter consider reducing the number of Directors from our current level of 12 to 9 over the next three years as it has become more difficult to find volunteers to fill vacancies. This recommendation was approved by the BOD and presented at the annual meeting for discussion and a vote. This recommendation didn't receive a "second" at the meeting, and after an extended discussion, an alternative proposal was offered by Peter Burdett to delay this decision for one year as all current Director positions had been filled this year. This proposal was seconded and approved by all present.

Another important discussion was the recent decision of Martin's Point to withdraw from NH for the Medicare Advantage Program for 2026 affecting about 8,000 veterans in NH, primarily in the southern counties. Brenda Pennels, the Maine Chapter President and, until recently, an employee of Martin's Point, gave an extensive explanation to why Martin's Point and several other insurance companies made this decision.

The final action of the business meeting was to approve the slate of four Directors for full 3-year terms. The slate, which included CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret), Col Charles Frost, Jr. USAR (Ret), Maj Jason Moody, USA (Ret), and CPT Hollie Noveletsky, ARNG, was approved and the business meeting concluded at 1120 hours. A brief BOD meeting was convened immediately after the business meeting to elect the officers for 2026. Nominated and elected were: President, Lt Col Laurance Miller, USAFR (Ret); Vice-President, CWO4 Robert Jaffin, USN (Ret); (Cont. on Page 4)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret) , 603-440-5054, millerlm73@me.com
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FINANCE (TREASURER)	CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret) , 603-738-0168, psburdett@aol.com
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Surviving Spouse	Pat Miller , patmiller73@yahoo.com

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North Star

I recently attended the MOAA Eastern Training at Hershey Resorts, Pennsylvania. There, we had many breakout sessions. However, I would like to focus on the Communications breakout. It was very enlightening, with General Kelley, MOAA President and CEO, in attendance. The General emphasized that MOAA's "North Star" (Polaris) is supporting earned benefits. I paraphrase from MOAA's Mission statement, "**...preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service...**". And, that "we are an organization of officers, but not about officers." Our own By-Laws underscores these ideals in our Preamble and Purpose, to 1) promote purpose and objectives of MOAA, 2) foster fraternal relations, 3) protect rights and interests, 4) provide useful service, 5) to serve the NH community.

So, why am I stating the obvious? To remind and highlight why we exist as an organization of officers. With that in mind, I want to expand those thoughts as to what we are and what we are not.

As we all know, there have been many events in the recent past that have directly impacted our views and perceptions of the military, the organization that we all love and have devoted a good portion of our lives to. Yes, we are still US citizens. However, in our current role, as stated above, we exist in a very narrow band of the military environment. And as such, we do not stray outside those perimeters. Why is that? Well, for one, we are a 501(c)(19)IRS organization, tax exempt nonprofit specifically designed to benefit US veterans. But, it also allows us to lobby our CODELS. To inform them, and focus on specific legislation that will benefit veterans and active duty. To maintain that status, MOAA and MOAA-NH must, at all times, follow these 501(c)(19) guidelines or risk losing our tax exemption, and thus our influence. As MOAA and MOAA-NH members, we must, at all times, abide by these guidelines. But, as I have stated, we are still US citizens. In that role, your free expression is guaranteed.

MOAA-NH has built a collegial and warm relationship with our four CODELS. Each of them have enthusiastically supported MOAA Key Legislative issues. They have welcomed our support and advice, at all times. In many instances, they have sought out our input and advice on many issues. And, on their own, have supported NH veterans with many of their own legislative bills.

As your President, I will confine my focus and direction to the stated MOAA Mission (above) and MOAA-NH By-Laws at all times. I will not stray from that "North Star". And if I do, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

I have said a great deal here and I have said nothing new that has not been codified in our organization. I hope you all understand. And I welcome any thoughtful discussion you might have on this topic.

On to a more lighter topic, the upcoming Holidays. God bless you all in this joyous and blessed season. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. At one time or another, we as military members, have been away from family and friends during the holidays. Our first President, and first US Officer, George Washington, celebrated the 1776 Christmas Eve by crossing the Delaware River, leading the Continental Army and defeating the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton. It inspired hope in Americans and rejuvenated their spirits. But, there were two other crossings planned that never were implemented due to deteriorating weather. These events were preserved by the 1951 Emanuel Leutze painting.

Larry Miller
President, MOAA-NH Chapter

Please Join MOAA's Legislative Action Center and Make Your Voice Heard Loud and Clear in Washington, DC.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a national organization dedicated to advocating for military officers and veterans. One of the most impactful ways to support the cause of preserving and enhancing veterans' benefits is by joining *MOAA's Legislative Action Center*. This web-based platform empowers members and non-members to take an active role in advocating for critical issues related to military and veterans' rights. By becoming involved, members help ensure that the benefits earned through service are protected and expanded. Everyone's activity and participation will become part of the grading for the Level of Excellence (LOE) Award, presented to chapters by MOAA. *We need members to participate on a regular basis, not just sign up once.*

Veterans' benefits, which include healthcare, retirement benefits, education assistance, and other services, are essential to the well-being of those who have served in the military. These earned benefits are a promise made by the government to serve members in recognition of their sacrifices. However, these benefits are not guaranteed to remain secure indefinitely, especially in a political landscape where military and veteran issues can sometimes take a backseat to other priorities.

The **MOAA Legislative Action Center** is open to all, not just MOAA members, and it offers a unique platform for veterans, active-duty military, and their supporters to influence policy decisions that directly affect the military community. By joining this platform, members can participate in campaigns and advocacy efforts aimed at preserving vital veteran benefits. This is important because lawmakers at both the state and federal levels regularly make decisions that impact military service members, veterans, and their families. Without strong advocacy, there is always the risk that these benefits may be reduced, altered, or even eliminated. (Cont. page 3)

Now is the time to come to the aid of MOAA-NH.....

There are several committee jobs and one liaison job available on the governing body of MOAA-NH. Here is a list with points of contact for additional information. Please consider volunteering.

<u>Personal Affairs</u>	Recently vacated by CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR. Email: lefebvre@att.net , cell: (603)356-7296.
<u>Transition Assistance</u>	Also recently vacated by CPT LeFebvre. Please see above.
<u>Web Page</u>	Currently held by CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret). Email: mamclean@comcast.net , phone: (603)767-0411.
<u>Public Affairs</u>	FILLED! Lt. Col. Annette Frost, USA (Ret) is now filling this position.
<u>Bookkeeper</u>	Peter Burdett is currently filling in as the temporary Treasurer/Bookkeeper for the next year, but the Chapter needs a new permanent Treasurer beginning November 2026. If interested, please contact him by email: psburdett@aol.com

(Continued from Page 2)

One of the key reasons to join **MOAA's Legislative Action Center** is the collective power it provides. When thousands of individuals speak out on behalf of veterans, lawmakers are more likely to listen. Through the platform, members can easily contact their representatives and urge them to support or oppose specific legislation. These actions include sending emails, making phone calls, and signing petitions. And sheer numbers of emails sent to legislators matters. They listen when their inboxes are flooded with emails. The ease of communication makes it possible for even those with limited time to participate in the democratic process and ensure that veterans' voices are heard.

Additionally, **joining the Legislative Action Center** helps to create a unified front. Often, the military and veteran community is fragmented by the diverse needs of its members, from retirees to active-duty personnel, to veterans who have served in different conflicts. By coming together through MOAA, individuals can present a more powerful and cohesive voice in support of veterans' rights. A united advocacy effort increases the likelihood of influencing lawmakers and protecting the benefits that veterans rely on. (Continued on Page 4)

Activities Update

It costs the chapter about \$600 each time we publish an activity flyer, but with response rates for events as low as 21, and no longer breaking 75, mailings are not an economically realistic approach to event announcements and collecting reservations. For the future, I think we will only be doing three flyers annually: the GSWA luncheon in the spring, the annual clambake the first Saturday of August, and the annual meeting in November. We will be glad to work with members to put on other events, I but have to hear back from a lot more members more frequently before we can afford to make reservations for such events. I don't have the boat ride scheduled for this year although I planned to do one. Nor have I planned a train or boat ride for next year. Below are the currently scheduled events.

8 December 25: MOAA-NH Holiday get-together, Jesse's Steakhouse, Lebanon, NH.

28 February 2026: ***Granite State Warriors Award***, Fratello's, Manchester, NH

18 April 2026: Common Man Inn & Spa, Plymouth, NH. **Speaker TBD**.

1 August 2026: MOAA-NH Clambake, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

7 November 2026: Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Nashua Country Club, Speaker TBD.

See page 5 for the latest info on our travel options.

Bob Jaffin
robertdfaffin@gmail.com.
Past President



Surviving Spouse Corner

This little corner of the Granite Slate Newsletter is for Members, Spouses, and Surviving Spouses. MOAA.org has a wealth of information from YOUR GUIDE TO MILITARY BURIALS, PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE, a checklist for survivors, and even "Who is Best to Serve as an Executor". Just food for thought. I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a joyous New Year!

Pat Miller, SSL MOAA-NH

(Continued from Page 3)

The importance of this advocacy extends beyond just protecting current benefits. Legislative action is also crucial for ensuring that veterans' issues are addressed in future policymaking. Many veterans face challenges in accessing healthcare, finding employment, or securing education benefits, and these issues require ongoing attention. By joining the **MOAA Legislative Action Center**, members help to push for comprehensive, long-term solutions that address these challenges. Whether advocating for expanded healthcare services for veterans or pushing for better support systems for transitioning service members, MOAA's efforts are critical for securing a better future for the entire military community.

In conclusion, join the **MOAA Legislative Action Center** by clicking on this link is an important and effective way to protect and preserve veteran's benefits. The advocacy work conducted through this platform ensures that the promises made to those who serve in the military are upheld. By taking part, veterans and their supporters help to safeguard critical benefits and secure a better future for generations of military members.

CAPT William Luti, USN (Ret), MOAA-NH Legislative Programs

NOTE: FOLLOW THIS LINK: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

(Annual Meeting - Continued from Page 1)

Treasurer/Bookkeeper, CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret); and Secretary, CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret). Immediately following this election, all adjourned to take part in the truncated Happy Hour!!!

Promptly at 1200 hours, eighty-one attendees assembled in the dining room and our President, Larry Miller, called the annual luncheon to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter Burdett. Larry then provided an invocation followed by the National Anthem. Larry then recognized special guests including Senator Hassan, who was unable to attend, Betty Tamposi, Congresswoman Goodlander's mother, Kevin Galeaz who also was unable to attend, and Brenda Pennels, President of the Maine Chapter. Betty Tamposi then read a letter from Congresswoman Goodlander.

Pat Miller, our Surviving Spouse Liaison spoke to recognize our surviving spouses: Gerry Wall, Barbara Donahue, Peter Burdett, Brenda Pennels, Gwen Devoe, Mary Webber, and Margaret Garneau who were all seated at a special table at the front of the room. Pat also mentioned some resources that are available on MOAA.org for use by surviving spouses. Again, Larry made some brief comments about the MOAA Legislative Action Center and its importance to both MOAA National and the Chapter. He also mentioned that the MOAA-NH granite bench has finally been installed at the NH State Veterans Cemetery! Due to the winter conditions, we will probably have a formal



dedication ceremony later in the spring. At this point, Congressman Chris Pappas had arrived and made a few comments. He had been in Dover at a bridge dedication & commemoration ceremony for Capt Jack Casey, USMC, who had been killed in 2024 in a training accident. He also made some comments about the ongoing government shut-down and his hopes of it ending soon and for ways to prevent future shut-downs. He also mentioned that Congress is working to get a full-service VA Hospital in NH and are awaiting the results of the feasibility study which led to a remodeling of the current facility or a new facility. They are also continuing to work on the PACT Act implementation and assisting veterans in connecting them with care and benefits. They are also working on MOAA initiatives including meeting the needs of military spouses in the workforce, the concurrent receipt issue involving both military retirement and disability benefits.



Other activities include veteran homelessness, mental health challenges, and to prevent veteran foreclosures, and a partial claims program. Following Congressman Pappas's comments, the President introduced all new members to MOAA-NH who were present at the luncheon. A list of all deceased members during the last year was present on each table and a moment of silence was taken to remember these deceased members and TAPS was played.

The President then asked our guest speaker, Colonel John Gargus, USAF (Ret) to perform the installation of all the new



Directors and Officers of the Chapter. Colonel Gargus then administered the oath of office to those assembled. Unfortunately, both CWO4 Robert Jaffin, USN (Ret) and Maj Jason

Moody, USA (Ret) were unable to attend the luncheon and will be installed at a later date.

After a wonderful luncheon, the President formally introduced our guest speaker, Colonel John Gargus, USAF (Ret), who was commissioned as a 2d Lt from the AFROTC Unit at Bowling Green University. He completed navigator training and crewed a C-118 Liftmaster and served as the lead navigator of the SonTay raid to rescue American POW's held in a camp 23 miles outside of Hanoi, North Vietnam on 21 November 1970.

Is travelling on your bucket list.

Maybe this list will help . . .



2026 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2025 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website (moaa-nh.org) under Group Travel and through our periodic “Trip of the Month” blast email messages, the Granite Slate and travel displays at our luncheons and special events.

2026 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

DISCOVER AMERICAN HERITAGE: 17-24 April 2026, 8 days, 11 meals. \$3,999 per person, double occupancy (\$3,899 if booked prior to 17 October April 2025. Price includes round trip air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan if pickup point is within 100 miles of Logan, all tours, meals, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel and transfers. Highlights include Smithsonian Museums, Twilight Monument Tour, Arlington National Cemetery, Greenbrier Bunker tour, Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, Tavern Dinner.

ALASKA DISCOVERY LAND & SEA: 2-13 Sep 2026, 12 days, 26 meals, Inside Double \$6,099, Ocean View Double \$6,699, Veranda Double \$7,299, prices are for bookings made prior to 2 Nov 2025. Highlights: Fairbanks, Sternwheeler Discovery, Music of Denali Dinner Theater, Denali National Park, Tundra Wilderness Tour, Domed Rail, Anchorage, Hubbard Glacier, Endicott Arms/Dawes Glacier, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Inside Passage.

SUNNY PORTUGAL DISCOVER: 27 Oct - 5 Nov 2026, 10 days, 13 meals. \$3,899 per person double occupancy if booked by April 28, 2026 (with optional 3-night Portugal’s Templar featuring Nazare & Fatima Pre-Tour Extension & optional 4-night Madeira Island post tour). Highlights: Lisbon, Belem, Cork Factory, Picnic Lunch in Monchique, Portuguese Riviera, Obidos, Sintra, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

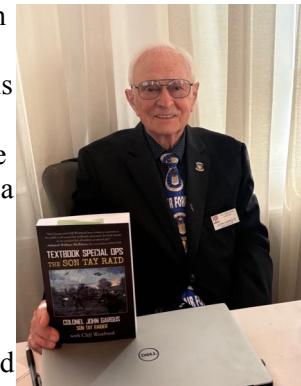
DISCOVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF MONTREAL & QUEBEC CITY: 14-20 Dec 26, 7 days, 9 meals. Book by 14 June 26 prices \$2,999 per person, double occupancy. Highlights: Quebec City’s German Christmas Markets, Montmorency Falls, Maple Sugar Shack, Buche de Noel Workshop.

DISCOVER THE ALPINE COUNTRIES: 16-27 July 2026, 12 days, 16 meals. Book by January 17, 2026 and save \$200 pp; \$5,999 per person, double occupancy. Highlights include Vienna, Schonbrunn Palace, Salzburg, Munich, Oberammergau, Classical Concert, Danube Cruise, Linderhof Palace, Black Forest, Freiburg and Lucerne.

CANYON COUNTRY (Contract with Collette pending).

VISIT OUR CURRENT TRAVEL PROGRAM on the MOAA-NH website under “Group Travel” (<https://www.moaa-nh.org>). Contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email tonyajjb@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, email Tkyle@yahoo.com for information or assistance. If using the tours under our “World Connect” program with Collette, DO NOT fill out the Application form. Contact Tony.

As a result of his actions for this mission, he was awarded the Silver Star. Colonel Gargus was born in Velka Poloma, Czechoslovakia, and escaped with the assistance of his parents in 1949 to join his grandmother in the United States. He retired from the USAF in 1983 after a 27-year career and his final assignment on active duty was as Chief of USAF Mission, Columbia. He was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 2003 and he currently lives in Manchester. He previously authored a book called, “The Son Tay Raid: American POW’s in Vietnam Were Not Forgotten”. He discussed his current book, just released in September, “Textbook Special Ops: The Son Tay Raid”, for the audience today. He went into great detail about the attempts of the US to rescue these POW’s and the virtually unknown role played by the US Navy in a vast attempt to deceive the North Vietnamese on the actual target of the operation by conducting extensive decoy air operations in the South China Sea. The secrecy in this operation was so great that the US Navy operations were not revealed for many years, but it also resulted in a several month loss of actual intelligence as to the activities around the POW camp prior to the raid. As a result, when the raid was successfully conducted, none of the POW’s were found as they had been moved to a new location sometime before the raid. Although unsuccessful, the raid attempt so stunned the North Vietnamese that they consolidated all POW’s into the “Hanoi Hilton” in the capital.



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

December Luncheon, Jesse’s Steakhouse, Lebanon, NH

We had a great turnout at our December luncheon at Jesse’s Steakhouse. Forty members and guests had a great time and meal!



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www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2025 Chapter Members!

Mrs Barbara B Donaghue, USMC
Maj. Richard A Grant, USAF (Ret)
Lt. Col. Kenneth L Kash, USAF (Ret)



December 2025 *Taps*

Col. Noel F Austin, USAF (Ret)
Maj Ernest H Brown, Jr., USAF (Ret)
LCDR Lester W Hatton, Jr., USN (Ret)
Mrs. Judith C Josephson
CWO4 Jerry W Lewis, USCG (Ret)
Mrs. Dorothy I Touart



Methuen, MA
Winnisquam, NH
Bedford, NH



Durham, NH
Eatonton, GA
Sebring, FL
Brentwood, NH
Durham, NH
Laconia, 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 tgsk64@gmail.com.