



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



July 2024

Summer 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 Makes It's Twelfth Annual Granite State Warriors Award at The Common Man Inn & Spa

On 27 April 2024, with vestiges of winter still present in spots on the ground, seventy members and guests meet at the Common Man Spa and Inn, Plymouth, NH for the 12th Granite State Warrior Award Luncheon. Our President, Larry Miller, opened the luncheon recognizing new members like Colonel Pat Ryan and Deborah Davitt. Our Chaplain, Gary Terhune, opened the luncheon with a prayer followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. After everyone was seated, Larry took a few minutes to mention some activities that the chapter has participated in over the past few months especially the trip to Washington, DC for the annual Advocacy-In-Action meeting with our various Congressional delegations. In particular, they were promoting the "Major Star Act" which is trying to remove the Congressional mandate that deducts an equal amount of retired pay for each dollar received in disability benefits. The team was also advocating for a 5% increase in the basic allowance of housing. And finally, we advocated for not increasing any veteran expenses for TRICARE such as increased pharmacy costs or other copays. Finally, Larry was promoting the "HALO" Girls, two NH women who were born in 1891 and 1892, who have both since passed away. They finally received their veteran benefits in 1978 under President Carter, when they were originally considered to be Army sub-contractors, who wore uniforms and were eventually awarded Distinguished Service crosses. Efforts are now being made to award these women the Congressional Gold Medal. The President urged everyone to contact their Congressional representatives to support this effort. Finally, Larry mentioned that he and Bill Luti have

been actively trying to have the State Legislators vote down HB 1283 regarding medical aid in dying. The Chapter Board of Directors had voted to oppose this bill, and Larry has testified against it both in the Senate and House committees. Gary Terhune then took center stage to remind everyone that this year is the 45th anniversary our Chapter. In addition, we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Annual Clambake at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in August. The Southern Maine Chapter will also be supporting us at this event. Gary was also pleased to announce that we now have two co-coordinators to replace Ken Lull, who had held this position for many years. Jason Moody, a new member, who lives in Portsmouth, and Bob Jaffin, who lives in Rochester, will be assuming these duties. We still are looking for volunteers to assist with setting up, cooking, and clean-up after the event. After an enjoyable lunch, Larry introduced his wife, Pat, who is the Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison, wanted to remind everyone that the most important document everyone should have in their house was a DD214! She also asked if everyone knew where their wills were as well as your birth certificates and marriage license. She stated that MOAA National has started a new plan, called an Ever Plan, which will allow you to upload those documents for safe storage. Pat then presented a "Surviving Spouse" pin to a new member, Deborah Davitt and Peter Burdett. Larry then began the formal presentation for the Granite State Warrior award, first giving a little background information on how/why the Chapter began presenting this award. (Continued on Page 2).



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

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President's Corner
Lt Col Larry Miller, USAFR (Ret)



First, I want to welcome you all officially to Summer, 20 June, and what's ahead, but then what has passed. We had a great luncheon event a few weeks ago, 15 June, at the Washington Resort and Hotel. Our stand-in speaker stepped up at the last moment when our scheduled guest speaker could not make the event, due to pressing family matters. None other than our own Gerry Boyle gave an inspiring talk on the The Essence of Memorial Day. He even related a personnel story about his father, a WWII veteran, stationed in the Western Front and as a POW. His father endured hardships in POW camps and being transported between those camps. Injuries that followed him. A wonderful story, but a heartbreaking one that shined the American spirit during the most trying of times.

Now we look forward to 3 August 2024. MOAA-NHs 40 year hosting its world famous Clambake. It is also the 45th anniversary of the MOAA-NH Chapter charter. So, this is truly an event filled with memories and history. I hope that all of you have received the flyer announcing the Clambake. If not, you may find the flyer on our chapter web site, moaa-nh.org. Make sure that your reservation(s) is in NLT 26 July 2024.

Following in September is a tentative Mt Washington boat Ride. More to follow on that. But, keep on the look out for more detailed information.

Also, we have distributed our MOAA-NH awards to the ROTC/ JROTC over the past few months. I want to personally thank our chairman, Joe DiChiaro, for his yearly organization and distribution of awards to each school. Jim LeFevre, past President, has for the second year, presented an award to the ROTC, Norwich University, VT. Also, Andrew Breuder has presented the award at the University of NH ROTC. These are great opportunities to spread the MOAA-NH benefits and awareness.

I want to underscore the below announcement from the NCA. Please read it carefully before selecting this benefit, for there are caveats that are irreversible.

"The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) began accepting applications on Jun. 10, 2024, for a new benefit – a commemorative plaque or urn. It is only available if the Veteran is cremated and not interred.

Of important note, if families choose to commemorate their Veteran with the commemorative plaque or urn, VA will be prohibited from interring them in a VA national cemetery or providing a government headstone, marker, or medallion for that Veteran in any cemetery."

There is a project I want to announce that not only honors our veterans, but promotes MOAA-NH in the eyes of the public. The BODs has approved a project to place a memorial granite bench at the VA Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. The bench, and the associated engraving will, with installation, costs in the range of \$5K. It will be a permanent memorial from MOAA-NH as a tribute to those who

have Served. It will join the many other memorials lining the cemetery's memorial walk way. Therefore, I am soliciting donations, so that we can meet our goal by the end of this calendar year. Please look for further information as how and where you can send your donations.

Provided for your consideration.

Larry Miller

(Granite State Warrior Award - Continued from Page 1)
This award began in 2011 and has been given to eighteen recipients so far including Senator Kelly Ayotte, BAE Systems, Sig Sauer, and Alex Ray, owner of the Common Man restaurants. It is awarded to recognize superior contributions of NH based organizations or residents who have enhanced the warfighting capability of US military forces, or improved the health, morale, welfare of US military personnel and their families. This year's award winner is John "Jack" R. Daly, Jr. In addition to supporting existing veterans' programs, Jack has created various support programs for veterans when he has identified needs. He has put teams of local and regional talent and programs together to support those needs. Specifically, he is the current advisor to "Veterans' Rest Stop (VRS)", a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established for the purpose of assisting veterans who are in need of counseling and mentoring due to issues such as addiction, under-employment, medical issues, homelessness, domestic relations issues, and personal issues. Jack secured \$240,000 for funding VRS development. In addition, he is an instructor at New England Disabled Sports based at Loon Mountain and Bretton Woods. He has been a volunteer for 29 years at New England Disabled Sports working with veterans and individuals with a variety of disabilities. He has partnered with the New Hampshire Scots Association to have the International Board of Highland Games establish the first recognized Adaptive Highland Games competition for individuals with disabilities as an annual competition with the New Hampshire Highland Games. He is also the current Vice-President of Loon Mountain Area Community Fund which provides financial support to veterans and other community members who have fallen on hard times. Ray D'Amante spoke about how when he first met Jack, he was teaching the blind how to ski. Jack had put together teams to be able to do that. After that brief intro, Jack spoke to the gathering and mentioned that his father had been a veteran at Guadalcanal, his son was a Marine, and he has numerous relatives that have been members of the



military. He credits his father with instilling in him the concept of “team”. This meant being together and, as a result, you can achieve more. Jack recounted the story of a friend of his, Jeff Ingalls who was on a plane in 1985 that was hijacked by Hezbollah and taken to Lebanon where he was imprisoned for 17 days and suffered PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of his captivity and treatment. He eventually came to Jack to help him create a non-profit to assist veterans, particularly in the North Country. His vision was to create a local community of tiny homes for veterans and their families that contained a community center for site based services. Jeff’s motto was “a hand up not a hand out”. As a result, in 2016, he created a 501(c)(3) called **VET’S REST STOP** whose mission is: “to assist Veterans of the US Armed Forces who are in need of counseling and mentoring. Another local veteran offered his property (4-½ acres) to Jeff, and this building was eventually turned into the community center. Another architectural company donated work to design and build six homes on the site; two 2-bedroom and four 1-bedroom. Many other organizations have donated both money and services to the project. Unfortunately, Jeff died three years ago at age 59 while out driving around on his 4-wheeler and suffered a stroke. Jack closed saying that America is the land of the free because of you, the brave.



Jack was presented with a one-of-a-kind actual granite award. After the presentation to Jack, our President mentioned that during the recent trip to Washington for the

Advocacy-in-Action meeting, our Chapter was awarded two awards. The first award was our 22nd consecutive Level of Excellence award based on five general areas including: Advocacy & Legislative issues, Community Engagement & Outreach, Recruitment & Retention, Leadership Succession, and Training of Chapter leaders. The second award was for Communications and this was largely the work of our Secretary, Michael McLean. (Photo unavailable).

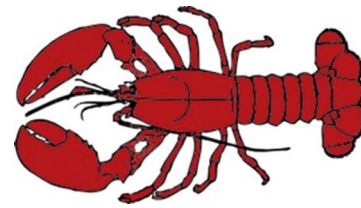


A. Breuder, Editor

Surviving Spouse Corner

As you might remember I was looking into and following the House Bill #1354, regarding surviving spouse being allowed to keep the veteran license plate longer than a year. I am happy to report that it has passed the House and Senate, just waiting for it to get to the Governor and hopefully sign it. Soon to be decided...I will keep you informed. I would also like to remind you to go to the MOAA website and investigate EVER-PLANS. This is where you can digitally store copies of important documents all in one place. You know especially that piece of paper in your closet I keep talking about.....your DD214! I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Happy Independence Day, also known as the 4th of July!

Pat Miller, Surviving Spouse Liaison, MOAA-NH



Attention MOAA-NH & Southern Maine chapter members!

This is the **45th Anniversary** of the founding of this chapter so let’s celebrate it in a **BIG WAY**. This is our premier event of the year, and will be the **40th anniversary** on 3 August at Jamaica Island at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY). By now, you should all have received the flyer for this event in the mail with **a reply deadline of 26 July 2024!**

Last year, we had two members from MOAA National, James O’Brien and Frank Michaels, the PNSY Commander, Captain Michael Oberdorf, the Southern Maine Chapter President, Brenda Pennels, and Congressional Representatives in attendance. We expect similar attendance this year from MOAA National, local military commanders, and our Congressional delegations.

Gary Terhune and Chad Chadwick took on last year’s Bake with great success, but we now have two new Bake Meisters; Bob Jaffin and Jason Moody who have assumed these duties. Their jobs have been streamlined, as the name implies, from the old Bake Meister who did everything from A-Z. We’ve broken down the job into 2 areas: Admin & Food Prep/Logistics. Admin is handling all non-food-related coordination with the PNSY. The Food Prep and Logistics arena pretty much run themselves. All the Coordinator has to do is make sure everybody does his/her job in a timely fashion. We had assistance last year from several Southern Maine chapter members which was fabulous. We loved having them. We can do this folks and do it well. Between two great chapters, NH and Southern ME, we have many able-bodied and intelligent people who have worked on this before, but we are still going to need assistance in doing the preparation, setup, and cleanup on the day of the event. Anyone who can help with these areas, please contact any of the following:

Contact President Larry Miller (603-440-5054), VP Pete Burdett (603-738-0168), Director Gary Terhune (603-674-0318), chapter member Bob Jaffin (603-833-3211), or any Board of Director member for more information.

Finally, I would remind members that the Clambake is also one of the main sources of donations to our local scholarship program. There is a line in the flyer for any contributions you might wish to make to this program.

A. Breuder, Editor

The June Luncheon at the White Mountain Hotel and Resort.

Our June luncheon again took fifty members to the renovated White Mountain Hotel & Resort in North Conway. It was a bright and sunny day for travel, but for those of us coming from the southern part of the state, some of us forgot that this was “Bike Week” in Meredith as well as Father’s Day weekend and we proceeded to get stuck in heavy traffic trying to traverse Route 104, Route 3, and then to Route 25 before we could proceed relatively freely on the rest of our journey. Although we personally missed the social hour, we were only a few minutes late for the start of a wonderful meal and dessert. Because our numbers were fewer than the



last time we visited this location, our group occupied a smaller dining room, but the arrangement was more conducive to listening to our speaker. Unfortunately, our scheduled guest speaker, Jeb Bradley, President of the NH

Senate, was unable to attend our function, and Col. (Ret) Gerry Boyle, aptly stepped in to fill this spot. Since our luncheon took place two weeks after Memorial Day, Gerry spoke eloquently about some events that reminded us all about the reasons we celebrate this holiday. He spoke about the invading forces that stormed the beaches at Normandy during World War II and how they proceeded in their mission in spite of heavy losses among the

invading forces. He reminisced about his visit to the American cemetery with 3500 Boy Scouts from the Trans-Atlantic Council for the BSA representing the troops and scouts from American military



units in Europe and Africa. Every three years this Council holds a Camporee on Omaha Beach. During the closing ceremonies, an USAF Major General from NATO was giving the closing speech. At the end of his speech, while standing in front of a monument for the 1500 servicemen whose bodies were never recovered, he asked everyone to turn around and face all the crosses and stars in the cemetery which were all lined up in precise order. He asked the Boy Scouts to render a salute during the playing of TAPS. He then asked all the Scouts to come forward, pick up a tuplip, and place one on each and every one of the 10,000+ graves in that cemetery. Gerry stated that this was the essence of Memorial Day. He recounted another event during a rainstorm at McGuire AFB, NJ in 1983. General PX Kelly, the Commandant of the USMC, climbed to the top of a make-shift podium that looked out over a sea of flag draped coffins carrying the bodies of the 241 Marines, sailors, and soldier killed in the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. America had been stunned by this attack. The General said, “My God, where do we get such men”? They came from every race, city, town,

state, and way of life in America. That is the essence of Memorial Day. Memorial Day is not a day when we honor our veterans. It’s a day when we honor those who, when the trumpets of war sounded, they answered our nation’s call, went off to war and didn’t come home. Captain Douglas DiCenzo, USA was such a man. He had graduated from Plymouth Regional high school in the lakes region, was the Captain of the state championship football team and state championship wrestling team. He was the President of the National Honor Society and President of the senior class. Doug joined the Corps of Cadets at West Point where he again excelled in academics and athletics. He lost his life in Iraq eighteen years ago doing what he enjoyed doing most. He died leading men. That is the essence of Memorial Day. Memorial Day is also a day when we ponder those men and women who answered our call to battle, fought, and came home. Whether it was a day, a week, a month, a year or decades later, succumbed to the wounds of war, emotional or physical. Gerry’s dad, SSgt James J Boyle, USA was such a man. Like Captain DiCenzo, he excelled in sports and academics. He was the first of his family to go to college at Lehigh University on a football scholarship, but he wasn’t destined to graduate from Lehigh. When our nation was attacked in World War II, he answered the call to serve our nation. He was the youngest of seventeen children, and served as an Army Infantry Platoon Sergeant and was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart during the battle of the Netherlands. He was subsequently captured and became a POW, learned to deal with adversity, moved multiple times cramped in box cars from camp to camp. He suffered starvation and cold. He had managed to escape from one prison camp, but was soon recaptured and was brought into an interrogation room where he waited for the Gestapo Lieutenant. He noted that his dad was from Cambridge, MA and asked him if he knew where the Rathskeller restaurant was? His dad had grown up several blocks away from the restaurant and knew it well. The Gestapo officer said, “So do I. I’m a Harvard graduate”. Today is also a day when we note those who have suffered the wounds of war, physical and emotional, and who later succumbed to them. For five decades, his dad was in constant physical and emotional pain after the war. It didn’t stop him from doing things with his sons, even though he too also succumbed to them. In the fall of 1984, President Ronald Reagan went to Camp Lejeune to dedicate 241 trees that line Lejeune Blvd. When he finished the dedication, he met with 15,000 Marines, Sailors, families, and friends and of those who were killed. He said, “Some men spend an entire lifetime if they ever made a difference, but Marines don’t have that problem.” Neither do the servicemen and women called to active duty during war. For over two centuries, they have answered our nation’s call and many have not come home. Gerry ended his comments with the following: “God bless them. God bless their families, and God Bless America”.

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



*Is travelling on your bucket list.
Maybe this list will help*



The Future of MOAA-NH

Where do you see our organization headed? Do you wish to help it move in the correct direction? Or sit by and watch where it goes? The future of MOAA-NH depends on a strong leadership team, the Board of Directors, and you can be a part of that team.

There are currently two Officers (Vice-President and Treasurer) and three Director positions (two 3-year terms and one 1-year term) to be filled at the November annual meeting. For more details and to answer questions, here are the points of contract:

Vice-President: CPT Jim LeFebvre, USAR (Ret); (603)-356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net.

Treasurer: CDR Roby Day, USN (Ret), (603)-642-7956, fuzzbutthall@comcast.net.

Directorships: CDR Sharon Day, USN (Ret); (603)-642-7956, cimice89@comcast.net.

Former Scholarship winner now touring with “American Girl Live!”

Tatiana Bahoque, a former NH MOAA grant recipient, is the daughter of LTC (Ret) Benjamin and Teresa Bahoque of Bedford. She is a 2019 graduate of Bedford High School and a 2023 graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles, California where she obtained her BFA in Performing Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre.

Since graduation from college, Tatiana has toured with the Gershwin Theatre Company’s American Girl Live! In Concert National Tour performing as the American Girl doll “Melody”. She performed as the Palace Theatre in Manchester in “Beautiful”, The Carole King Musical as “Janelle Woods”, and as a member of the girl group the “Shirelles”. This summer she will be performing at the Coeur d’Alene Summer Theatre as “Chiffon” the urchin in the musical “Little Shop of Horrors” in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

If you would like to follow Tatiana’s rise to stardom, you can visit her webpage at www.tatianabahoque.com and follow her on Instagram @tatianabahoque. Submitted by Wayne Balcom.



2024/2025 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2024/2025 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.

2024 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS AND DENVER: 14 days, 20 meals, September 24 - October 7, 2024. Book now and save \$50/person. \$6499 per person double occupancy. Tour includes Sedona, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Jackson Hole/Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks, Rapid City, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Price includes round trip from Logan, air taxes/fees, hotel transfers, 20 meals, including 13 breakfasts and 7

MEMORIAL OF WAR – NORMANDY, 11-20 October 2024. Book now and save \$100/person. \$4,799 double occupancy. Tour includes tours of London, Portsmouth, English Channel Crossing, D-Day landing sites in Caen, and Paris. Price includes round trip from Logan, air taxes/fees, hotel transfers, 12 meals including 8 breakfasts and 4 dinners.

Work is in progress for our 2025 travel program. The following is the latest draft. You will be kept updated as changes occur.

2025 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’: 19-26 May 2025, 8 days, 12 meals, \$3,999 per person, double occupancy (\$3,899/person if booked by 19 Nov 24). This tour comes offers 3-day, 2-night San Francisco post tour extension for \$399/person. Includes round trip air from Logan including taxes, fees, transfers/surcharges and transportation to/from Logan if pickup within 100 miles of Logan. Includes Monterey, Scenic 17-Mile Drive, Yosemite National Park, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe Scenic Cruise, Napa Valley Vineyard Tour/Wine Tasting, San Francisco

SPOTLIGHT ON TUSCANY: 22-30 October 25, 9 days, 11 meals. \$4,099 per person, double occupancy (\$3,999 if booked prior to 23 April 2025. This tour comes with an optional 3-night Rome extension for \$399.00 per person and a 3-day, 2-night Gourmet Bologna for \$1,099 per person. Price includes round trip air from Logan plus taxes, fees, transfers/surcharges to/from Logan if pickup within 100 miles of Logan. Highlights include Montecatini Terme, Lucca, Gothic Line, Florence, Pisa, Cooking Class, Cheese Farm & San Gimignano.

Exploring Scotland & Ireland (includes Edinburgh Military Tattoo). August 2025(dates pending), 13 days, 18 meals. Includes Edinburgh & Castle, Loch Ness Cruise, St. Andrews, Urquhart Castle, Highland evening, Glasgow, Belfast, Titanic Experience, Giant’s Causeway, Causeway Coast Rail Journey, Derry, Cider Farm and Dublin. (Continued on Page 6)

Visit our Current Travel Program on MOAA-NH website (<https://www.moaa-nh.org>). Contact Tony Burdo, 630-391-7106 or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663 for information.

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2024 Chapter Members!

LTC Annette Buford-Frost, USAR (Ret) Dunbarton, NH
Maj. Daniel O'Brien, ARNG Bedford, NH



June 2024

Taps



Mrs Barbara L. Doane
Lt Col Miller Graf, USAF (Ret)
LCDR Ralph R. Lachance, USN (Ret)
Lt. Col Russell T. Ober, III USAF (Ret)

Sebring, FL
Newburyport, MA
Vero Beach, FL
Hudson, NH

2025 Travel (Continued from Page 5)
Treasures of Europe (featuring London, Paris and Rome). 14 days, 18 meals, September 2025 (dates TBD). Highlights include London, Eurostar Rail, Paris, Seine River Cruise and Dinner, TGV High Speed Train, Lucerne, Venice, Italian Vineyard Experience, Florence, Michelangelo's David, Rome, The Vatican Museums and Saint Peter's Basilica. **OUR PROGRAM will also include trip suggestions under our "World Connect" program with Collette.** You can select any specific location of interest offered by Collette. **DO NOT** fill out the application form on the Collette website. Call Tony or Tom and they will guide you through the reservation process and you will receive MOAA-NH benefits & Privileges.



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.