



# 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



March 2023

Spring News & Events

Volume 45, No. 1



## 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 Presents the Annual Granite State Warrior Awards for 2022!

After a few days of nice, mild February weather, the temperatures again dropped as we prepared to celebrate our annual Granite State Warriors award at the Nashua Country Club on February 18th. Although these awards were started in 2011, this is only the 11th time this award had been presented due to the pandemic shutting down virtually all social activities in 2021 and 2022. Fifty-seven attendees, including guests and speakers, were present to see and hear Phil and Julie Taub, Co-Founders of "Swimming With a Mission, Inc." receive this year's award. After an enjoyable hospitality hour, President James LeFebvre introduced Senator Maggie Hassan who read a prepared statement praising the work of the Taub's on behalf of Granite State veterans. She mentioned that "Swim with a Mission" began as a fund raiser across Newfound Lake about six years ago to help veterans transition to civilian life, and now includes helping veterans obtain service dogs as well as starting a new initiative, "Arts with a Mission" for art therapy programs at locations such as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Other featured events that the Taub's have started include a huge Veterans festival held at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, a unique team building day led by the US Navy SEAL's, and they recently added a new event, "Green Beret With a



Mission" challenge with the help of Camp Resilience. Senator Hassan went on to mention various recent legislative issues that have been passed in Congress including the new PACT act and a "988" veteran suicide hotline. Congressman Chris Pappas was unable to attend, but sent a representative to add his congratulations to the Taub's for all their efforts on behalf of Granite state veterans. Following these tributes, the Country Club staff served an outstanding luncheon to all present.

After lunch, our President gave a brief history of the Granite State Warrior award, originally conceived by Bruce Avery, which was designed to recognize NH based organizations that enhanced the warfighting abilities of US forces or improved the health, morale, and welfare or recognition of US military personnel or their families through the creation of services in the US, or for deployed military personnel, designed to improve the quality of life for these forces and their families. The President then gave a brief recounting of past winners of this award. At this point, the President invited Phil and Julie Taub to the front of the dining room where he recounted their various efforts for veterans over the past six years. During this time, they have raised over \$10 million dollars to support veteran needs and brought together over 40 veteran service organizations to work on the issues that face veterans in NH. They published a book about NH's veterans in 2022. Lastly, they have instituted a "Never



## CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR, 603-356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret), 603-440-5054, millerlm73@me.com

**FINANCE (TREASURER)**

VACANT

**SECRETARY**

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret), 603-767-0411; mamclean@comcast.net

Visit the chapter's website at [www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Col. Andrew J Breuder, USAF, MC, CFS, 603-494-6639, abreuder@comcast.net

**President's Corner**  
**CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR**



I'm writing this column on March 3, a few weeks after the Granite State Warrior Award Luncheon, held at the Nashua Country Club this year, in lieu of a seacoast location. As an aside, we are expecting another late winter significant snow storm tomorrow – get out the shovels! Mr. and Mrs. Taub were an excellent choice for the award and were made honorary members of MOAA-NH. See other coverage of this event elsewhere in the Slate. Kudos to the event coordinator team of Michael McLean, Gary Terhune, and the Days. Without their efforts, the event would have been less than its exceptional norm.

By the time you get this edition, the second in person BOD meeting at T-Bones in Concord (March 9, 2023) will have taken place. Your BOD is doing a mix of Zoom meetings and live sessions to reduce wear and tear on individual BOD members. Chapter members not on the BOD are always welcome to attend in person meetings of the BOD. Please let me know in advance of attending the live meetings, as we must coordinate attendance and meal selection ahead of the session.

The next MOAA-NH luncheon will be held on April 1, 2023, at the Common Man in Plymouth. Please note that the suspense date for flyer event return is March 29<sup>th</sup>, and you should see the event announcement in the mail shortly. Our guest speaker is a NH National Guard BDE commander, who very recently returned from deployment. Should be a great talk!

On less enjoyable topics, we continue our search for a “Clambake” bake master, as well as a qualified replacement for Roby Day as the Chapter Treasurer. Please feel free to contact me about either position.

Bob Jaffin, the immediate Past President of the chapter, will be representing us at the national MOAA sponsored April 2023 “Advocacy in Action” session in Washington DC. This event is the new moniker for “Storming the Hill”, but with the same objectives – to enable us to discuss issues of concern with our congressional delegation.

The late spring/early summer chapter social event will be held in the North Country on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and we are planning a “family friendly” event, in a less formal environment. More details to come.

Before we know it, we will enter into the preparation period for our “World famous Clambake” which will be held on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This is an all-hands-on deck event, as chapter members do all the work associated with

administration and food preparation. We will be seeking out volunteers shortly.

As I close this column, I wish to thank all chapter members for their contributions to our success. Without you, we would be markedly less active and successful.

## Jim LeFebvre

(Continued from page 1) Forget” campaign to remember the 94 souls that NH has lost since the start of the “War on Terror”. This is a testament to their ability to include and grow their support for NH Veterans. Phil Taub then took the microphone and thanked the Chapter for this award on behalf of himself and Julie. He explained that although they did not serve themselves, they have learned a lot about veterans during their journey. When they started “Swim With a Mission”, they wanted to support veterans in the lakes region and only expected to raise \$25,000 initially. They met some Navy SEALs and convinced them to participate. To their surprise, 1500 people showed up and they ended up raising \$450,000 from that event. When they started to give out the money, they started to learn something about the Veteran Service community. There were gaps in what the various Veteran Service organizations were doing, and they realized that with almost 100,000 veterans in state, there were no outpatient therapy programs available. They began teaming up with the VA, Veterans Count, the state



of NH and donated \$740,000 to the Currier Museum to create a dedicated outpatient art therapy there. A similar issue arose with Liberty House and homeless veterans in the state, which now number less than 100 in state.

They donated \$1million to Liberty House while Catholic Charities donated \$500,000 to expand that space. Last year, they raised \$2 million and focused on veteran suicide by focusing on housing, service dogs, and educating the public. By joining forces with Governor Sununu, Easter Seals, and Alex Ray who donated property in Franklin, NH, they were able to leverage \$23 million for affordable housing for all veterans and provide a single point for all of the VSO's can have a presence. The VA is planning to move its Tilton CBOC to this new campus. Finally, they've organized an annual summit for the VA and all VSO's to share information and resources. After his talk, President LeFebvre presented Phil and Julie with Chapter Challenge coins, the official award certificate, and inducted them as “honorary members” into the NH Chapter of MOAA.

Col. (Ret) A. J. Breuder, USAF, MC, CFS, Editor



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



## 2023 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2023 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.

### 2023 TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

**A TASTE OF THE BALKANS:** 13-28 May 2023; 16 days, \$5,599 per person double occupancy with air from Logan. After 10/14/2023, call Tony or Tom for rates.

**Alaska Discovery Land and Cruise** featuring a 7-night Holland America cruise and 4-day land journey; August 30 – September 10, 2023; 12 Days; \$5899.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes 26 meals, air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan, taxes, surcharges, hotel transfers and scheduled tours. Highlights include Fairbanks, Denali National Park- Talkeetna, Anchorage, 7-Night Cruise through the inside passage Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan

**Montana: Exploring Big Sky Country, featuring Yellowstone & Glacier National Parks:** September 14–24, 2023, \$5,999.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, taxes, surcharges, travel to and from Logan, sixteen meals and scheduled tours. Highlights include hotel transfers and sightseeing.

### 2024 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

**Spotlight on the French Riviera:** April 18–26, 2024, 9 Days; \$3,649.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, scheduled tours in Nice, Monaco, Cannes, and back to Nice, Italy, transportation to and from Logan and 12 meals.

The following trips are guaranteed with Collette but exact dates and prices are not yet available.

**AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND DENVER:** 14 days, 20 meals, September 2024, estimate with air from Logan \$4999 per person double occupancy.

**Spotlight on South Dakota** featuring Mount Rushmore & the Badlands: 12–30 May 2024, 7 Days, \$2899.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, 9 meals, scheduled tours to Mt. Rushmore,

MEMORIAL OF WAR – NORMANDY, October 2024, prices not yet available.

## **LEADERS WANTED!**

The MOAA-NH Board of Directors is the leadership team for MOAA-NH. The Board supervises, controls, and directs the organization's affairs, promotes its purposes, and approves funds disbursement. This includes, amongst many endeavors, our luncheons, the clambake, the "Granite State Warrior" award, scholarships, and monetary donations to organizations that assist veterans such as the NH Veterans Home, and others.

This November at our annual meeting the membership will vote on BOD Officer and Director nominees. We need to recruit **ONE Treasurer** (currently vacant) **and up to FIVE Directors**. These vacancies comprise a significant portion of the Board's membership. **The future of how MOAA-NH functions and what it can accomplish is at stake. Please consider volunteering for one of the 6 open Board positions.**

The MOAA-NH By-Laws are contained in the 2022 MOAA-NH membership Directory starting on page 31. The duties and responsibilities of Officers and Directors are explained therein, that is, in Article X for Directors and Article XI for Officers.

For further information, questions, or to step up to the plate, please contact:

**For Treasurer:** former Treasurer CDR Roby Day, USN (Ret.): (603) 642-7956; [fuzzbutthall@comcast.net](mailto:fuzzbutthall@comcast.net)

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

### UPDATES TO HANSCOM RAO DATABASE

Michael,  
I had an extremely nice conversation with Gene today at the RAO office about updating our RAO database with the assistance of MOAA-NH. We at RAO certainly understand your position that you would prefer to have MOAA-NH members themselves initiate a request to have their names placed within our email database so they can receive newsletter and our information we disseminate via email correspondence. We would ask that you put a notice in your next newsletter to have those members who would like to receive correspondence from us to send us an email to [rao.hanscom.afb@gmail.com](mailto:rao.hanscom.afb@gmail.com) with the subject line ADD TO EMAIL LIST requesting inclusion to our database.

This would be most appreciated. Many thanks for your help.

Best regards,

Mike Hennessey, Captain, USNR, Ret  
Deputy Director,  
Retiree Activities Office



February 14, 2023

Dear Secretary McDonough:

We write to urge you to address the extremely concerning infrastructure failures at the Manchester Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and other VA facilities in New Hampshire. The VA facility in Manchester continues to suffer from infrastructure-related problems that have significantly reduced its capacity to treat veterans. Last week, for example, water and heating concerns required patients in the Community Living Center to be relocated to other facilities and in-person appointments had to be cancelled. While we commend the staff at the facility for continuing to provide the best possible care to veterans, we urge you to prioritize improvements to this facility and a full-service VA hospital in New Hampshire. We also request that you brief us on your progress as soon as possible.

It is well documented that VA facilities across the country are struggling with upkeep of their aging facilities and infrastructure. While the Manchester VA Medical Center is 73 years old, according to recent studies, the average VA facility is 60 years old, five times older than the average building age of not-for-profit hospital systems in the United States (1). The facilities are also in poor condition. One study estimated that VA would need two to three times its current expected funding levels to maintain its facilities and meet projected growth needs (2). Aging infrastructure can reduce veterans' access to high quality healthcare, negatively affect the morale and effectiveness of VA's health care providers, and discourage some eligible veterans from seeking VA care.

The VA is also struggling with a growing maintenance backlog. The agency is attempting to balance daily upkeep with a need to completely modernize facilities. In 2021, the VA estimated that it would need \$22 billion to address poor and failing conditions at VA facilities (3). Some of the main challenges faced by the agency are the these older building are not set up to support new and challenging technologies that are necessary to deliver the best care to patients.

Dr. Shareef Elnahal, the Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for Health, said in December 2022 that the VA would submit its updated infrastructure plan to Congress in the first half of calendar year 2023. We look forward to seeing this plan. Dr. Elnahal stated that the VA will focus more on new construction than on current infrastructure upkeep. It has long been our position that one of those needed construction projects should be a full-service VA hospital in New Hampshire.

Whether or not New Hampshire ultimately gets a full-service VA hospital, we strongly urge you to prioritize urgent maintenance of the Manchester VA Medical Center in the updated infrastructure plan. In 2017, a water pipe burst in the Manchester VA Medical Center closing the operating room for

months and cost-ing the VA millions of dollars to repair. On November 26, 2022, a different pipe burst in the facility that caused damage and flood-ing on the second, third, and fourth floors and forced the operating room to close for months again. Half of all appointments had to be cancelled or converted to telehealth. Finally, over the weekend of February 3, 2023, historic arctic temperatures were recorded in New Hampshire. In-person appointments at the Manchester VA Medical Center were cancelled due to water and heating concerns at the facility. Both the Community Living Center and long-term care unit had to be evacuated. In addition, the facility suffered another burst pipe in part due to the extreme weather. These are just some of the examples that highlight the ongoing problems and the critical need for a full-service hospital in New Hampshire.

We respectfully request a joint meeting with you to discuss the specific problems at the Manchester VA Medical Center and talk about the much-needed improvements to the infrastructure and modernization of all VA facilities in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your time and willingness to meet and discuss these urgent matters.

Sincerely,

Signed

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

Signed

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

1. Jory Heckman, *VA 'Infrastructure 2.0' plan in works to expand network of health care facilities*, Federal News Network, Dec. 13, 2022, <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/veterans-affairs/2022/12/va-infrastructure-2-0-plan-in-works-to-expand-network-of-health-care-facilities/>

2. Carrie M. Farmer and Rajeev Ramchand, *Infrastructure Investment for Veterans*, The RAND Blog, May 4, 2021, <https://www.rand.org/blog/2021/05/infrastructure-investment-for-veterans.html>

3. Nicole Ogrysko, *As VA plans to modernize aging facilities, it faces a daunting maintenance backlog*, Federal News Network, Mar. 9, 2021, <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/veterans-affairs/2021/03/as-v-a-plans-to-modernize-aging-facilities-it-faces-a-daunting-maintenance-backlog/>

### **Travel (continued from page 3):**

We continue to emphasize our **"WORLD CONNECT"** with Collette Travel. You are entitled to select any state, country or specific tour offered by Collette. View available Collette Travel tours on the web <https://www.gocollette.com> or <https://www.tourvacationstogo.com>. Contact me or Tom and we will provide you with our World Connect member number and any other information you need for your desired trip that is not scheduled on our group travel program. Reservations are made through the retail division of Collette. Tom or I can assist you through the reservation process.

For additional information or reservations, contact me, 603- 391-7106, email: [tonyajjb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajjb@gmail.com) or Tom Kyle, 603-686- 2663, email: [tkyleh@yahoo.com](mailto:tkyleh@yahoo.com) .

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 community organizations such as Kiwanis, Elks, religious organizations and other veteran organizations such as The American Legion, VFW, etc.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, 17 June 23

Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Albany, NH  
1100 - 1400

Theme: The Contributions Our Military Here in  
the Community and in Mountain Rescue

Speaker: Emergency Response Personnel  
from the NH Army National Guard

Fare: American Picnic catered by Sweet Maple  
Cafe, Conway, NH

Activities: Nature Trails, Garden Walks, Natural  
History Exhibits

Lodging: Special Rates to be provided by the  
NEW Fairfield by Marriott at Cranmore Mountain  
Resort in North Conway, NH

Cost: TBD, approx \$30/person less for children

Synopsis: This is the event to take your families,  
prospective members and grandchildren to!!!!

There is plenty to see and explore at Tin  
Mountain (please see [www.tinmountain.org](http://www.tinmountain.org)).  
The Naturalist will be taking families on a nature  
walk following the event and may provide  
activities to the younger children during the  
presentation by the NH National Guard. This  
event takes place on a 3 day weekend, known  
for being the beginning of summer activities in  
the Mount Washington Valley. It is also Father's  
Day Weekend. Lodging for those who wish, is  
available at Cranmore Mountain Resort's  
Fairfield by Marriott. We may be able to receive  
some complementary tickets to Cranmore's  
chairlift tours, etc. I especially would like to  
receive some complementary summer tubing  
and Mountain Coaster tickets to active and  
current reserve Officers who join us.



## MILITARY WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

*Honoring her service*

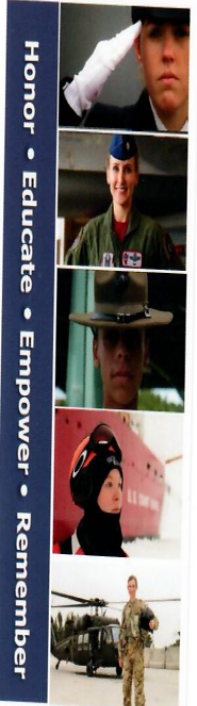


TELL  
*Her*  
STORY

Women in Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
**Martha (Marty) Gladu**  
MSGT, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)  
Ambassador - New Hampshire  
[wimsa.amb.nh@gmail.com](mailto:wimsa.amb.nh@gmail.com)  
(603) 969-4988  
Contact the Foundation: 703-533-1155  
Foundation Email: [hq@womensmemorial.org](mailto:hq@womensmemorial.org)  
Mail checks: 200 N. Glebe Rd. Ste 400, Arlington, VA 22203  
[www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org)

Register **HER**story

Every woman who has  
served deserves her place  
in history so it isn't forgotten.  
Register **HER**story.



The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA  
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www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?  
YouTube video

### Welcome to Our New 2023 Chapter Members!

CDR Andrew Lovgren, USN - FPO, AE 09622  
LTC Charles Nettleship IV, USA (Ret) - Bedford, NH  
Col. Marcia Tamblyn, USAF (Ret) - Londonderry, NH  
COL Edward Twaddell III, USA (Ret) - Meredith, 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>

March 2023



## Taps



Col Stanley L Anderson, USAF (Ret.)  
Lt. Col. Philip B Blanchard, USAF (Ret)  
LCDR Francis A Conti, USN (Ret)  
CW5 Glen E Crowell, USA (Ret)  
CAPT Bernard J Doherty, USNR (Ret)  
CAPT Harlan W Fair, USNR (Ret)  
Mrs. Charlotte B Ferguson  
Mrs. Barbara R Gale  
LT William K Hayward, USN  
Col Robert C Lilljedahl, ANG (Ret)  
Mrs. Nancy J McCarthy  
Mrs. Lorraine H Warfield  
Maj. C. William Willey, USAF (Ret)

Manchester, NH  
Peterborough, NH  
Center Barnstead, NH  
Osprey, FL  
New Castle, NH  
Hanover, NH  
Clifton Park, NY  
Nashua, NH  
Nashua, NH  
New Durham, NH  
New Castle, NH  
Laconia, NH  
Alexandria, VA

### 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](mailto:tgsk64@gmail.com).