



The Granite Slate

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



September 2011

Published quarterly for the information of members of the NH Chapter of MOAA
P.O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821

Volume 33, No. 3

Another Outstanding Clambake

If it is the first Saturday in August, then it must be New Hampshire MOAA's Annual Clambake. Once again the team of volunteers led by Jeff Olson rose to the challenge and provided a day of fellowship, fun and obviously good vittles to the 375 that came out to Portsmouth Shipyard. Proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Loan Program benefitting children and grandchildren of chapter members. See page three for this years recipients.



Two of the four members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation were on hand for the annual clambake to share what was going on in Washington, to hear directly from MOAA members, and as an added bonus have great food and fellowship. On the left is Senator Kelly Ayotte (who is also the spouse of a Chapter member) holding son Jacob. In the picture on the right is Congressman Frank Guinta from the 1st Congressional District

Upcoming Events

October 1st

Harts Turkey Farm, Meredith

Guest: *Dr. Marc Levenson, MD*

Director, Manchester VA Medical Center

November 5th

Annual Meeting

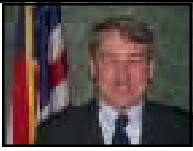
Manchester CC, Bedford

Guest: *John Sununu, Former Governor*

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



President's Corner

Pete Burdett

How did it get to September so fast?

As New Hampshire begins to enter the "primary" and Fall seasons the MOAA-NH chapter has continued to work hard for our members. Clambake attendance was over 370 and we enjoyed outstanding weather, lobster, steak and opportunities to visit with Senator Kelly Ayotte and Representative Frank Guinta.

You will see announced in an article in this issue, we have again been awarded the 5 Star Level of Excellence. Susie and I will be honored to be presented with the award at the MOAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX next month. Clambakes and awards just don't happen, they are worked hard for and our volunteers have outdone themselves again. A special shout out to our Bake Master, CDR Jeff Olson, USN (ret). The NH chapter is blessed with an active group, but there is room for others that can contribute any special talents or just work as Susie and I did passing out the HOT lobsters. Feel comfortable with calling me with any suggestions or ideas that you may have: 1-800-778-4251.

We are particularly looking for someone to help with expansion of the chapter's social networking capabilities. We would like to be more high tech! Don't forget to visit the website: www.moaa-nh.org for all the updates

I will finish with my usual request. That is: help us find new members for our chapter. **Strength in numbers.** Membership info is on the MOAA-NH website including the application. Give a membership as a gift! Only \$15 per year or \$10 for surviving spouse. Just remember to stay current as a national MOAA member. —THANKS!

Pete

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

For all of you that go south for the winter (or at any other time), we want your help. In order to keep our mailing list current, we need to know your alternate address where you go (other than in NH). Please help us out by providing your other mailing address to include street, city, state, ZIP +4 and phone number (if available) and the approximate dates that you are out of New Hampshire. This way you can continue to receive important information about your chapter. Please provide the information to MOAA-NH at PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03821-0712 or emailed to chapter@moaa-nh.org. Thank you

Military Retiree Pay Dates to Change

Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) changes its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3, 2011 will be issued on Sept. 30, 2011 and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments. Customers should speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service or their state tax authority to determine if their tax withholding will satisfy federal and state income taxes when they file returns next year.

(source www.military.com)

MOAA's Summary of Debt Ceiling Bill—(source www.moaa.org)

Here's what we know about the deal: (editors note: MOAA webpage provides details on the Super Committee)

- Enacts \$900 billion in federal spending cuts over 10 years
- Cuts include \$350 billion in savings from the base defense budget already agreed upon earlier this year
- Authorizes the President to increase the debt limit by at least \$2.1 trillion, eliminating further increases until 2013
- Establishes a Congressional bipartisan Joint Committee, often referred to as the "Super Committee," tasked with identifying an additional \$1.5 trillion in debt reduction, including discretionary (e.g., pay raises, procurement, etc.) and direct (e.g., Social Security, TFL) spending; the Committee will also consider tax revenue measures
- Requires \$1.2 trillion in cuts if the "Super Committee" fails to reach an agreement, or Congress fails to pass the committee's recommendations by December 23
- Cuts would be divided between defense and non-defense spending
- Ensures a vote on a balanced budget constitutional amendment by December 2011

MOAA Auxiliary Liaison Information

Please remember to bring your used cell phones to the October meeting. We continue to collect old cell phones in support of the National Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee project to turn old cell phones into phone cards to help our troops call home. We have donated a total of 42 phones to date. We can accept cell phones, Blackberries, Palms, etc., and their matching accessories (no manuals, CDs or mismatched accessories). These donations are tax deductible; forms will be available at the luncheon and the annual meeting.

New Chapter Member Welcome Aboard !

Maj William J. Utera
USAF (ret)
Spouse: Joanne
14 Hastings Rd
Bedford, NH 03110-6218

Welcome! Hope to see you at an upcoming MOAA event soon!

Military Retirement Options Under Discussion

Below are summaries of articles in the Take Action section of www.moaa.org. In the current budget discussions proposals to alter military retirement are part of the discussion. These links are provided so you can review the proposals and provide your elected representatives feedback on these plans. Again, these are all in the proposal stage, so your inputs are still very timely.

[If You Don't Protect Yourself, Who Will?](#) Congress is considering an array of major deficit-reduction initiatives. Take a few minutes to visit your legislators in August.

[Retirement Reform – What Would It Do?](#) Several recent recommendations would make sweeping changes to the military retirement system. But how would they affect a real 20-year servicemember?

[Will Current Troops Be Grandfathered?](#) Maybe Not. A Defense Business Board task force recommends dumping the current defined-benefit military retirement system. And its "lower-cost" option would switch current servicemembers to the new system immediately – as private sector retirement conversions often do.

[MOAA to White House: Protect the Troops](#) At a Wednesday meeting at the White House, MOAA's President urged Administration leaders to ensure our troops and families at war are protected against any fallout from continuing political battles over the debt limit.

[Budget Crisis Affects Military Readiness](#) This week the Vice Chiefs talked candidly to a House Armed Services Subcommittee about their current and future state of readiness and the challenges and shortfalls they face in the areas of personnel, equipment and support services.

The NH Chapter Scholarship Loan Program

Approved Renewals

Christina Kasper	Daughter of Robert Kasper	Jr	Vanderbilt
John T. McDonald	Grandson of Edward Farouri	Soph	Loyola
Sydney Thren	Granddaughter of John Zanella	Soph	California State, Long Beach
Alexandra Zanella	Granddaughter of John Zanella	Jr	Boston Univ

Approved New Applications

Kelsey Hayes	Granddaughter of Barbara Hayes	Fresh	Fashion Inst of Tech, NYC
Caitlin Olson	Daughter of Jeffrey Olson	Fresh	Univ of Nebraska
Richard Tidwell, Jr	Son of Richard Tidwell	Jr	Texas A & M
Ryan Tidwell	Son of Richard Tidwell	Fresh	UNH, Manchester
Bianca Zanella	Granddaughter of John Zanella	Fresh	Green Mtn College

2011 Graduates who had received loans

John Burdett	Son of Peter Burdett	Univ of New Hampshire
Troy French	Grandson of David Penniman	Springfield College
Luke Kyle	Son of Thomas Kyle	Univ of New Hampshire
Mary Levine	Daughter of Stephen Levine	Rivier College

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2012 Travel Program

The MOAA-NH Travel Program for 2012 has been expanded to include four trips. We start the travel season on May 17 with a trip to Alaska's Denali National Park followed by a 7-night cruise down through Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan and ending in Vancouver, British Columbia. In late June, we have an 8 day trip to America's Music Cities of New Orleans, Memphis, and Nashville. On the 1st of October, we offer an 11 day trip to the Imperial Cities of Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Our 2012 travels ends on the 14th of October with 7 day cruise from Boston on Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas along the Maine and Canada's Maritime Provinces Coastline.

Detailed information available on the Chapter website (www.MOAA-NH.org) Bruce Avery (bruceavery@tds.net / 603- 526-2854) or Dick Vitale, our Cruise Specialist, (dandsvitale@roadrunner.com / 603- 356-0136).



CDR Evert L. Cook, USN (Ret.) Nashua, NH
Mrs. Nancy R. Boyd Farmington, NH
CAPT David T. Fenner, Jr., USN (Ret)
Venice, FL

NH MOAA Chapter Earns Ninth Consecutive 5-Star Award

The National Chapter handbook states the 5-Star Award is presented to the "very, very best chapters." The evaluation of membership retention and recruitment, chapter communications, legislative liaison and updates, and civic support must produce a score of 91% or above to reach this pinnacle. For the ninth straight year NH MOAA surpassed 91% and is a "Five-Star" Chapter.