



# 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



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Summer Edition

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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

### *Ever wonder if your vote was counted?*

CAPT Lynne F. Blankenkemper, USNR (ACT)

Lately there has been a lot of talk about mail-in and absentee ballots. How many of our military and veteran friends have voted absentee? I am sure, just like me, they have always wondered if that vote counted. We have selflessly served to secure all Constitutional rights for all Americans, and the right to vote is one such important right. Yet many of us never know if our absentee vote was even considered.

Did you know that about 975,000 military members are eligible to vote absentee yet according to the Federal Voting Assistance Program, only 26% of military members voted in the 2018 election as compared to 52% of civilians? It is reported that this is because of a lack of information with completing the absentee ballot, challenges in receiving a timely ballot, and process barriers.

Count Every Hero is a campaign whose goal is to ensure every service member's vote is counted before election results go public. I am proud to partner with them in my continued commitment to our military, veterans, and our electoral process. Please go to [CountEveryHero.org](http://CountEveryHero.org) to learn more!

Also, please like and share:

<https://www.facebook.com/counteveryhero>

### 2020 MOAA-NH Annual Meeting

November 7  
Nashua Country Club

### Flu Shots Available at the VA



#### VAMC Manchester Drive-through Clinics:

Follow signs around back of building. You will receive the quadrivalent "standard" dose flu shot. Please call first.

Sept. 29th 8 - 4 PM

Oct. 6th 8 - 4 PM

Oct 13th 8 - 4 pm

Oct. 20th 8 - 4 PM

If you wish to receive the "high-dose flu shot," please contact your PACT Team 624-4366 ext 3199.

#### VAMC Fall River:

**New:** Drive-through flu shot clinic at the White River Junction VA Medical Center

Beginning Monday, September 28, 2020

Follow the signs from the main entrance

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Closed on Federal Holidays

Please wear short sleeves. You will need to wait in the parking lot for 15 minutes after your shot.

If you would like to get a flu shot at one of the CBOCs, please call 802-295-9363 ext 6364 to schedule an appointment.

#### **DO NOT GET YOUR FLU SHOT IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Fever - New or worsening cough or shortness of breath -  
Cold or flu-like symptoms - New onset diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting - New onset headache, loss of sense of taste or smell

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret), 207-850-1009; robertdjaffin@gmail.com
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR, 603-356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net
<b>TREASURER</b>	CDR James R. Day, Jr., USN (Ret), 603-642-7956; fuzzbuthall@comcast.net
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Visit the chapter's website at [www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)

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## President's Corner

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)



The coronavirus pandemic is still having a major impact on MOAA National as well as chapter operations and activities. However, we still plan to move forward with our Saturday programs for the next few months, subject to change based on overall pandemic conditions. We have held one face-to-face Board of Directors meeting, just completed a very successful ZOOM Board meeting, and will be holding another face-to-face Board meeting on October 8 at our normal location, The Red Blazer, in Concord.

We will hold the Annual Meeting at the Nashua Country Club on November 7 and are currently looking at Granite State Warrior awards at our January 30, 2021 meeting at the Portsmouth Country Club. Updates will be provided as needed.

For the November meeting, the main dining area will only be able to accommodate 84 people. As a result, please get your response in as soon as possible. If you are over the 84 limit, we will refund your money.

It is still too early to define the set up for the January luncheon. We expect that although we will be in a different venue, the seating and limitations will be much the same.

Beyond the challenges of the pandemic, our chapter is still facing a number of significant challenges. We hope more members will step up to take an active role in chapter operations so that we may rebuild our numbers and operate more effectively in a post-pandemic world. More people are needed to volunteer for open positions on the Board and to serve on various committees. Our chapter has an enviable record of winning five-star awards consecutively now for 18 years. In order to qualify for that award, we must have some of currently open and soon-to-be-open positions filled, so I am asking those who have not yet had the pleasure of serving on a committee or as a director, to step up and try at least a year in one of the many open positions.

Jumping to a different area, we are now in the first of three different open seasons that impact our membership. Below are the firm dates for the two open seasons that are most important to you as beneficiaries. Remember that if you are satisfied with your current plans, you do not need to do anything; but if you are considering a change of any sort, it needs to occur during the open seasons.

The three open seasons of most concern to the membership are:

- (a) TRICARE – November 9 — December 14
- (b) MEDICARE – October 15 — December 7
- (c) Each year, there's a Medicare Advantage open enrollment period from January 1 — March 31.

We, as a Board and as a Chapter, need to reflect on the reality of a shrinking membership, dropping attendance at events, and the difficulty of filling elected and appointed positions within the Chapter. In line with that, we are

thinking of creating a group consisting of probably no more than seven people to examine the Chapter's role and mission. This committee will also look very specifically at the Scholarship Committee's structure and purpose.

Membership, attendance, and filling open Board and Committee seats are the three areas we need to address in the upcoming year. Our chapter is certainly not unique in facing some of these problems; but now, with the added impacts of the pandemic, is the right time to re-examine who and what we are and how we want to function moving forward.

Some thoughts: We have seen many successful openings and expansions of services regarding both business and leisure activities. At the same time, we are seeing increasing information indicating that a failure to properly exercise social distancing protocols at all gatherings (large and small, indoor and outdoor) can lead to serious spikes in both cases and deaths. The travel and hospitality sectors take huge losses from the current restrictions. I think we all need to get out and support our local hospitality businesses and attempt to return to some semblance of normal activity. The one strong caveat to this is that you must follow the social distancing protocols.

For now, I will leave you with my standard – stay safe, but go out and enjoy life!

**Bob Jaffin**

### ***MOAA-NH Needs Your Help!***

MOAA-NH needs a volunteer for the role of treasurer. Please read the role's description below and consider helping us with our dilemma!

***Treasurer:*** The Treasurer's role within the framework of the Board of Directors is to prepare periodic treasury reports to the Board and membership, keep our books, write checks, make deposits, and complete reports external to the organization (e.g. IRS, State of NH, etc.). Your current treasurer, Roby Day, will be retiring from the position in November 2020, and is willing and able to assist a Vice Treasurer be prepared to step into the job as an elected officer of MOAA-NH. If you are interested in being a part of our leadership team, please contact Roby Day at 603-642-7956 (fuzzbutthall@comcast.net) or any member of the Board.

### ***Welcome to Our New 2020 Chapter Members!***

Col Patricia Ann Evans, USAFR (Ret) — Exeter, NH  
CDR Roland N. Nicol, USNR (Ret) — Kensington, NH

***"Over the course of time, we have noticed a decline in the number of NH chapter members attending functions. As the chapter ages, demographics may explain most of that decline. However, we are interested in getting more complete information. Request that members provide Jim LeFebvre, Vice President of the Chapter, with information as to what drives you to come to functions, what we could do to enhance turnout, etc. You may send him an e-mail at [lefebvrej@att.net](mailto:lefebvrej@att.net), or call him at 603-356-7296. All***



*Reflections . . .*  
**In Service to My Country**

***An Embarrassing Sea Story***

**CDR James R. Day, Jr., USN (Ret)**

In 1970, Navy Attack Squadron Twelve was in the Tonkin Gulf off Viet Nam on an old and decrepit ship flying antique iron-sight aircraft, the A4 Super Charlie. The engine had been souped up to make it a Super Charlie. There really wasn't anything "super" about them, but the aircraft was rugged.

I was given a night bombing mission into Laos in a flight of two where an Air Force forward air controller (FAC) would tell us where to drop our bombs.



We rendezvoused with the FAC who put a flare near the target as an aiming point and warned that the immediate area was rather mountainous and bad guys were about, so "Be careful." Right. It was an overcast night with no moon and no lights on the ground... sort of like flying in an ink well.

Anyway, my lead and I split up for individual bomb drops and I watched lead's bombs go off alright and saw tracer bullets from the bad guys coming up. After the FAC told me to shift my aim point, I lost track of altitude in the dive after spotting more tracers and busted through the release point. I released my bombs and yanked on the stick hard, not wanting to hit a mountain, and suddenly the cockpit went dark. Aak! The generator! I popped the emergency generator (the RAT) out, but the lights didn't come back. Double Aak! Realizing that my helmet sun visor had come down, I raised it, and Poof! Lights in the cockpit. Yeah!

Checking the attitude gyro, I noted that the airplane was going straight up and air speed was going straight down. Nursing the nose of the aircraft through what probably looked like a poorly executed loop, I regained control, and lead and I returned to the ship.

The maintenance officer approached me in the ready room and said something like, "Hey, Day, what did you do to that airplane?" The unretractable RAT was a dead giveaway that SOMETHING had happened, and both leading-edge flaps were twisted and stuck so tight that they couldn't be moved. I told him my embarrassing story. The aircraft had to be inspected for further damage, and the main wing spar was found to be badly cracked. The plane would never fly again.

There is a postscript. The plane's logbook noted that the aircraft had been stricken from inventory because the wing spar had been cracked on a previous combat cruise. It had been offloaded and taken to Atsugi, Japan, where there was an aircraft rework facility. The Japanese took the plane, did a bit of repair work, and presented it back to the Navy as ready to go back to the fight. The Navy was happy to take it, because we were running out of airplanes in the late 60s; and it flew many times subsequently, the last being into Laos where Roby broke it again... this time for good. The maintenance officer said that it should never have flown again after the first time, but it was a tough bird.

Roby was forgiven, and many thanks went to the Douglas Aircraft Company.

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



**2020 MOAA Travel Program:** The remaining trips for 2020 have been cancelled because of the COVID19 pandemic. Needless to say, we had no travel passengers for 2020.

**2021 MOAA-NH Travel Program:** I may add one more trip for our 2021 program. Many employees at Collette have been furloughed since March and are now beginning to return to work. I will plan a meeting with our Regional Manager in the near future to discuss the feasibility of one more trip for 2021.

- Painted Canyons of the West, 9 days, 18-26 April 2021, featuring Utah's five national parks (\$3,599 per person, double occupancy)
- Spotlights on San Antonio Holiday, 5 days, November 27—December 1, 2021 (\$1,990 per person, double occupancy)
- Greece Island Hopper, 11 days, late Sept 2021 (exact dates to be announced) featuring Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini(\$4,849 per person, double occupancy)

**2022 MOAA Travel Program:** Information on additional trips will be added in January or February 2021. Detailed information for our 2021 and 2022 trips is posted on our website at [www.MOAA-NH.org](http://www.MOAA-NH.org) under "Group Travel."

Classic Danube River Cruise and Land Tours with Oberammergau Passion Play, 10 days, featuring a six-night Danube River Cruise, Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest. 28 August—6 September 2022 (\$6,499 per person, double occupancy).

The following 2022 trips that include the Passion Play are available. Since these trips are not included in our group travel program for 2022, contact me for reservation information and prices.

Classic Danube River and Land Tours (several dates available that differ from our 2022 group travel)

- Exploring the Alpine Countries, 13 days
- Austrian Delight, 10 days
- Discover Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria, 10 days
- Imperial Cities, 11 days
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, 13 days

If you, a family member or friend want a specific trip not listed on our program, contact me; and I will arrange the trip with Collette with MOAA-NH privileges. **For reservations or additional information, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email: [tonyajjb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajjb@gmail.com).**

***In order to increase our customer base, I continue to seek partnering/co-op with a community organization such as the Kiwanis, the Elks, American Legion, VFW, a religious organization, a men's or women's club, social clubs, and state or federal organizations. Contact me with a point of contact, and I will complete the coordination process.***

***~Tony B.***



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www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?  
YouTube video

September 2020

## Taps



Col John W. Ballentine, USAF (Ret)  
LT Arthur R. Beauchesne, USN (Ret)  
Maj Laurent J. Biron, USAF (Ret)  
Mrs. Martha V. Bradley  
LTC William F. Doherty, USA (Ret)  
Maj Baldwin M. Domingo, USAFR (Ret)  
CW3 Joseph W. DuBois, Jr., USA (Ret)  
Col Henry V. Hall, USAF (Ret)  
Mrs. Teika V. Ikstrums  
Mrs. Myra P. Jennison  
Mrs. Athena M. Laipis  
Mrs. Jean E. Lyon  
Mrs. Margaret Mary Mongan  
Capt Henry S. Otto, Jr., USMC (Ret)  
CW4 Alfred J. Roy, USA (Ret)



### 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 Jim Spotts at [jim.spotts@hotmail.com](mailto:jim.spotts@hotmail.com).