



# 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



September, 2021

Summer Edition

Volume 43, No. 3



### 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

### In Memoriam

MOAA-NH lost a brilliant and innovative leader when CDR Bruce F. Avery, USN (ret), passed away on 31 July 2021. Bruce's obituary catalogues his extraordinary career in both the Navy and civilian sectors where his entrepreneurial talents and creative energies were particularly manifested in the missile systems acquisition and management fields.



After joining the New Hampshire Chapter of MOAA in 2005, he immersed himself in the chapter's governance. He assumed a leadership role as Director for two terms, and in between terms as Director, served as the chapter's President. Not afraid to wear more than one hat at a time, Bruce also acted as the Group Travel Chairman while still President. He created the *Granite State Warriors Award* in 2011 from whole cloth that has attracted newsworthy attention, as well as recognition by our Congressional delegation. He promoted the concept of rapid membership communication using e-mails (known as Blast Emails), and chaired a Strategic Initiatives Committee that he established so to focus on the chapter's future shape, purpose, and viability.

Bruce's mantra was the same as MOAA National's, that is, "Never Stop Serving". Would that we all had Bruce's selfless dedication and determination to do the best job possible in any endeavor. He will long be missed.

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

### Vouchers for Veterans

Vouchers for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We feed Veterans in New Hampshire and Maine by providing them food vouchers that they redeem at local farmers markets.

Veterans receive fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and baked goods from local producers at participating farmers markets. Vouchers for Veterans delivers nutrition and relief to Veterans and direct financial support to farmers and growers in the communities we serve. Here are the participating markets and their dates for September:

- Barnstead Farmer's Market  
0900-1300 each Saturday in September
- Dover Farmer's Market  
1415-1730 each Wednesday in September
- Exeter Farmer's Market  
1415-1730 each Thursday in September
- Littleton Farmer's Market  
1000-1300 each Sunday in September
- Portsmouth Farmer's Market  
0800-1200 each Saturday in September
- Rochester Farmer's Market  
1500-1800 each Tuesday in September
- Sanford, ME Farmer's Market  
0800-1200 each Saturday in September

For additional information, contact:  
(603) 817-6030; [info@vouchersforveterans.org](mailto:info@vouchersforveterans.org)  
PO Box 42, Rochester, NH 03866-0042

*Credit: Vouchers for Veterans website*

**Welcome to Our New 2021 Chapter Member!**

Capt David C. Rankin, USAF — Portsmouth, NH

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>      | <b>CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin</b> , USN (Ret), 207-850-1009; <a href="mailto:robertdjaffin@gmail.com">robertdjaffin@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> | <b>CPT James R. LeFebvre</b> , USAR, 603-356-7296, <a href="mailto:lefebvrej@att.net">lefebvrej@att.net</a>                  |
| <b>TREASURER</b>      | <b>Vacant</b>  |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>      | <b>CDR Michael A. McLean</b> , USN (Ret), 603-692-4648; <a href="mailto:mamclean@comcast.net">mamclean@comcast.net</a>       |

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

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Marie Chipola, 603-521-7708; [marie.chipola@gmail.com](mailto:marie.chipola@gmail.com)

## President's Corner

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)



Last week, MOAA National informed me, as president of the Chapter, that we have won the Five-Star Level of Excellence Award again. I did look at the entire list of winners and noted that we are the only chapter of any size in the six New England states to have won the award this year. While it takes a large leadership team and an engaged membership to reach that level, I want to state yet again that Michael McLean deserves the bulk of the credit for his consistently award-winning write ups which are both time-consuming and challenging. I would be remiss if I did not recognize Roby Day for all his hard work. Although he no longer officially serves as treasurer, it is really Michael and Roby, through their consistent application of time, energy, expertise, and passion that allow us to function and to win awards.

As I write this, we have just recently completed our MS Mount Washington Lake Winnepesaukee brunch cruise. The weather could not have been better, and the turnout fell just one short of 100 folks. That means 99 of us and our friends enjoyed a beautiful cruise and a varied brunch menu.

In addition, within the next week or two, the Board will provide direction on whether or not to proceed with the Fall foliage train ride. As it stands, if we were to do that, it would have to be on October 16 because October 23 was completely sold out. Based on the feedback I received on the cruise reservations, it looks like we have close to 50 people who would like to take the trip; but the Board will have to decide if we can move this forward. At the current time, we are definitely planning on the clambake for September 18. This will be the first time we will be holding the event in conjunction with the Southern Maine Chapter of MOAA. I believe the Annual Meeting will be November 6.

In review, if we do the train ride, the Chapter will have been able to offer four face-to-face events for the membership. Given the moratorium that ended just before the Granite State Warrior Award luncheon in Plymouth this past May at the Common Man, I would suggest we are doing much better than many other chapters.

We also had an extremely effective series of interactions with our congressional delegation. As a result, they have signed on to all three of MOAA National's major initiatives and have shown great interest in getting us a full-service commissary at Pease. During the current year, we have been able to hold multiple in-person BOD meetings. All in all, I think all this demonstrates the dedication of an engaged and enthusiastic leadership team. There have been plenty of challenges, and I am sure there are many more still in front of us; but we are both an award-winning chapter and a chapter that has been able to deliver meaningful social events for the membership at large while setting an example for other chapters.

Since we have not had many of our normal luncheon meetings, you may not be aware of the tremendous amount of work that continues to go on behind the

scenes to keep the organization functioning and to transition it to the next level while the nation and the world slowly moves past the pandemic. The SIC has done a tremendous job. Our "bake master" and his team have done a tremendous job. Wayne Balcom and the Scholarship Committee have done a tremendous job, and Marie Chipola keeps producing the Granite Slate. Those are just a few of the folks who keep us on track. While you may not hear about all their efforts, rest assured that the team has stayed engaged and has charged forward. As a result, you should see some very interesting presentations at the Annual Meeting.

In closing, I would like to ask many of our newer members and those who have not yet served on the Board to consider supporting the incoming president and his Board by signing up to become part of this dynamic and ever-changing leadership team. As always, stay safe and continue to enjoy as we slowly, but surely, transition back to what will be the new "normal."

*Bob Jaffin*

### *MOAA Level of Excellence Award*

Every year, MOAA's affiliates compete to receive a four- or five-star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award. The very best councils and chapters receive five-star awards, while above-average councils and chapters receive four-star awards. This award is based on the 2020 calendar year programs and events. The NH Chapter received a Five-Star Level of Excellence Award for 2020 marking the nineteenth consecutive year that MOAA-NH has received this award! Well done to all.



### *>> CHAPTER DIRECTORY <<*

The Chapter is planning to issue a new member directory at the beginning of next year. In order for it to be as accurate as possible, we need correct, up-to-date information before it is printed.

Please look over your address label. It has all the data that will be included in your entry in the directory (except your telephone number). Check that your name, rank, service, status [(RET), (FRM), (CIV), etc.], spouse, address, and zip code are all current. If you can still find your old directory (it has a blue cover), check that your telephone number is correct; or, if you can't find it, have changed your phone number, or joined the chapter in the last three years, please provide us with your current number.

Any changes/corrections should be mailed to MOAA-NH at PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03820-0712 or emailed to moaa-nh@comcast.net. Please ensure that your changes are received by the end of this year to be included in the directory.

As they say in computer speak, *garbage in – garbage out!*

*CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)  
MOAA-NH Secretary*

## *m/s Mount Washington Cruise*

by LCDR Peter Dawson, USNR (Ret)

Over 100 of our chapter members and guests took part in an afternoon brunch cruise aboard the MS. Mt. Washington (Lake Winnepesaukee) on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Our group was given a private function space on the second level of the ship, and we had a wonderful meal followed by the ship's Captain visiting with us.



Captain Pat Quinn is the first woman in the ship's "official" 149-year history. She comes from the US Coast Guard, and several prior shipboard positions. During the trip, and after our meal, she provided a brief summary of her

position and answered questions about the lake and the ship. Our chapter president (Bob Jaffin) encouraged Captain Quinn to join our MOAA NH chapter and provided her an application.

We were pleased to be joined by chapter member CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret.) who is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New Hampshire and chapter member and President of the Southern Maine Chapter of MOAA LTC Brenda Pennels, USAR who is CASA for Maine. Also joining us was Justin Troiano from Senator Hassan's office.

The Mt. Washington has been on Lake Winnepesaukee for over 80 years, and has undergone several modifications since its rail trip from Lake Champlain in 1888. Its namesake history includes a devastating fire, hull changes, and in 1982 the Mount was cut open and extended with an additional 20-foot hull section, this to add a larger lounge and food service facilities. The greater size advanced the ship's designation to M/S or "motor ship."



The *Mount* makes one or two round-trips on the lake per day during the summer season, as well as numerous dinner dance cruises in the evenings. It's important to note that Lake Winnepesaukee is one of New England's largest bodies of water and covers over 71 sq. miles with over 250 natural islands (130 of which are over .25 acres).

The lake area provided us a beautiful summer day with bright sun and a 75-degree temperature. Our chapter had free reign of the entire ship, and the event was a wonderful taste of summer and camaraderie at a perfect location.

### — UPCOMING EVENTS —

September 18, 2021	Clambake (PNSY)
October 16, 2021	Fall Train Trip (Tentative)
November 6, 2021	Annual Meeting
	Nashua Country Club

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



### **2021 MOAA-NH Travel Program:**

- Spotlight on San Antonio Holiday, five days, five meals. November 27—December 1, 2021 (\$1,990 per person, double occupancy, includes air)
- Greece Island Hopper, 11 days, September 10-21 2021 featuring Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini (\$4,849 per person, double occupancy, 13 meals)

**2022 MOAA Travel Program:** I recently completed our 2022 program with our Collette Regional Manager. The information below indicates our group trips. However, the information on some of the trips is forthcoming and will be posted on our website or "Trip of the Month" email messages. I will begin publishing our Trip of the Month program once again.

**Mackinaw Island Tulip Time Festival:** Nine days, 6 to 14 May 2022. \$3,395 per person, with air. Double occupancy.

**Croatia and its Islands:** Private ship cruise with only 22 cabins, August 2022, 12 Days, 19 meals, \$4,999 with air (this is a deep discount). Additional information forthcoming.

**Tropical Costa Rica:** 12—20 February 2022, nine days, \$2,198 per person, double occupancy with air (this offer is a deep discount for 2022).

**Classic Danube River and Land Tours:** (limited time available, only two cabins left), with Passion Play in Oberammergau, 28 August – 6 September, \$6499 per person, double occupancy, with air. This trip includes a six-night Danube River cruise and a four-day land journey including Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest.

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

- Classic Danube River and Land Tours
- 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 desire a specific trip not included in our program, contact me and I will make arrangements with Collette under our World Connect Program. For additional information or reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email [tonyajjb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajjb@gmail.com)

Tom Kyle has agreed to co-direct the travel program with me effective immediately.

*I continue to seek partnering/co-op with a community organization. Contact me with a point of contact, and I will complete the coordination process.*

*~Tony B.*



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



WHY MOAA?  
YouTube video

## September 2021 *Taps*



CDR Bruce F. Avery, USN (Ret)	New London, NH
CAPT Diane Botzum, USN (Ret)	Hampton, NH
Mrs. Barbara N. Hayes	Greenland, NH
LCDR Edward E. Ikerd, USNR (Ret)	Amherst, NH
Mrs. Barbara G. Maysilles	Bellows Falls, VT
CW4 George A. Miller, USA (Ret)	Exeter, NH
Mrs. Ramona T. Otis	Hampton, NH
Col Norman P. Phillips, USAF (Ret)	Portsmouth, NH

### *Would you enjoy publishing a newsletter?*

**The Granite Slate Editor:** MOAA-NH publishes a quarterly newsletter (March, June, September, December). MOAA-NH is seeking another editor for their newsletter, The Granite Slate, as the current editor will publish her last edition in December 2021.

Responsibilities include securing articles from MOAA-NH president, the list of deceased members and list of new members from the Chapter secretary, travel information, and gathering information and photos from recent Chapter events, and any current, highly pertinent information. Draft of newsletter must be reviewed and approved by the Chapter Secretary and President prior to publishing.

The editor reports to the Secretary and President. If you are interested in becoming a part of the MOAA-NH team, please contact Michael McLean at [mamclean@comcast.net](mailto:mamclean@comcast.net)



### 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).