



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 2024

Fall News & Events

Volume 46, 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

MOAA-NH Celebrates Its 45th Anniversary at the 40th Annual Clambake, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Early in the morning, it was cool and partly cloudy, but by the time of the opening ceremonies, the skies began to clear and the temperature rose to a pleasant degree, and the 40th annual Clambake of our Chapter roared into action again! Our President, Larry Miller, called everyone to attention and asked the Portsmouth Naval



Shipyards Color Guard to present the colors. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem. This was followed by a brief invocation by our Chaplain,

Gary Terhune. After the colors were retired, Larry made a few introductory remarks and then introduced members of the Congressional delegation present including Senator Maggie Hassan and a staffer from Representative Chris Pappas's office. In addition, former Senator Kelley Ayotte, her husband Joe Daley, and son Jake not only attended the event but provided great assistance to the entire event by helping out alongside the other kitchen staff. Senator Hassen made some brief



remarks, as she did last year, regarding the implementation of the PACT Act concerning compensation for exposures to toxic substances. Since its passage last year, there has been a great response to this program



and the issue now is to obtain sufficient funding from Congress to cover the expenditures for testing for those who have enrolled in the program. CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA National, who has become a regular attendee at the clambake, made some remarks congratulating the

Chapter on its activities both within the state on during the annual Advocacy-in-Action meetings in Washington, DC. This year's event had a 30% greater attendance than last year with a total of 215



attendees. It was great to see this increase in attendance. Not only did we have a great membership turnout, but we were very pleased to have four of our Scholarship Grant winners attend the meeting and assist with the cooking and clean-up activities. They were: Ian Morse, Justin Morse, Libby Velardi, and Thomas Velardi.
Andrew J Breuder, MD Editor



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



Another summer is coming to an end and we, MOAA-NH, have once again completed another successful year. Forty-five to be exact. We have also completed our fortieth year of the renowned Lobster/Clam bake. I will apologize in advance for leaving any one off the large cooking team. However, the cooking team of Jason Moody, Joe Daly, Gary Terhune, Bob Jaffin and Jim Spotts were superb with the able help of US Senator Kelley Ayotte, serving over 215 dinners. Many other dignitaries celebrated with us, to include US Senator Maggie Hasson and CAPT (USN, Ret) Frank Michael, Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA. I also must mention CAPT Michael Oberdorf, Commander PNSY, who has graciously approved holding our event on this beautiful facility. In addition, RADM Joan Hunter, US Public Health Service, Brenda Pennels, Maine MOAA President, CAPT Will Sumsion, PNSY Ops, and CAPT Jesse Nice, PNSY, Business and Strategy.

Bob Jaffin has stepped up to wrestle with the challenging area of "activities". He has acted upon the survey he sent out to all members asking for ideas and input for future events. The first one on the new "draft list" is the 7 September cruise on the M/S Mt. Washington, her 152nd season of cruises. More to come.

Next up, look forward to the annual November Luncheon and annual meeting at the Nashua Country Club. We will be signing an update to our ByLaws at that time. An event flyer will be forth coming. Also see the related article in this edition on the specifics of the ByLaws changes.

Pat, Bob Jaffin, and I were honored by Senator Hassan and Representative Chris Pappas to participate in a PACT Act Roundtable at the Manchester VFW. It was a great opportunity to discuss with Senator Hassan and Rep. Pappas and other veteran organizations the impact and needs of our NH veterans. Of course, funding is always the main issue, along with the many veterans who are eligible, but have not signed up. Please encourage your fellow vets to sign up and allow the VA to determine eligibility. If you are not aware, the PACT Act covers many state-side military bases that have stored hazardous waste. Listings of "Presumptive illnesses" are routinely updated and associated with many military locations, so do not presume just because yours is not listed now, that it will not be. Updates are made without ones knowledge, so always check, you may be accepted and receive back disability pay.

The State Veterans Advisory Committee (SVAC) will be resuming its meetings starting in October. The SVAC (dmavs.nh.gov) meets in person every first Tuesday of the

month at the Edward Cross Training Complex, 722 Riverwood Drive, Pembroke, NH. Meetings are open to the public and guests are invited to attend.

Speakers are often invited to give brief presentations. Pete Burdett is our primary MOAA-NH voting member, and Bill Luti is our secondary member. All NH veterans legislation passes through the SVAC for consideration and support in developing positions on matters important to the veterans of New Hampshire.

Remember, we are an "Organization of officers, NOT an organization ABOUT officers"! This is a direct quote from Lt. General Brian Kelly, MOAA President and CEO. In it, General Kelly stresses MOAA's commitment to all veterans in preserving and upholding the guarantee that the US government promised benefits, so duly earned and were promised, are delivered.

I want to welcome James Dunn, as our newly appointed JROTC/ROTC Awards coordinator. I also want to recognize the years of devoted service that Joe DiChiaro has given to this position.. It is directly due to Joe's commitment to MOAA-NH that we are recognized each spring at these JROTC/ROTC awards ceremonies across the state, including Vermont! These awards are presented to deserving young men and women across our state and helps to keep MOAA-NH in the public awareness.

One last thing. I have been toying with the idea of a MOAA-NH memorial at the NH Veterans Cemetery. Oddly enough, MOAA-NH does not have a presence at the Boscawen Cemetery where other veteran organizations do. With your help, I would like to correct this lack of representation by designing and installing our own memorial for the cemetery. Current cost estimates are running between \$4,000 - \$5,000 for a four foot granite bench. There are many ways to raise this amount, but I would like to solicit any ideas you might have for the raising of such funds. We can do this with your help. Please join me in this project. A Project Manager to spearhead this worthwhile project would be of great assistance. Please contact me if you are willing to take on this task.

Larry Miller
President, MOAA-NH Chapter

Surviving Spouse Corner

So excited to share the fact the House Bill #1354, regarding a surviving spouse being permitted to keep the veteran license plate longer than 1 year. Governor Sununu signed this bill on July 3, 2024 and it went into effect on September 3, 2024. It is now legal for a surviving spouse to keep this veteran license plate forever OR until the spouse remarries.

Please remember to check out EVERPLANS on the MOAA website where you can store digitally store copies of important documents.

This year, at the MOAA-NH annual meeting, November 2, 2024 at the Nashua Country Club, there will be a table reserved for Surviving Spouses. A flyer will be in the mail soon. I am looking forward to greeting and meeting with you.

Pat Miller, Surviving Spouse Liaison, MOAA-NH
patmiller73@yahoo.com

REVISED CHAPTER BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has approved revisions to the Chapter's By-Laws to bring them up to date and to make them more in line with the MOAA National's suggested chapter by-laws. The changes to our By-Laws must be approved by the Chapter membership, so the revised By-Laws will be brought up for a vote at the Annual Meeting on 2 November 2024.

The important changes are as follows:

Ø Surviving Spouses (formally called Auxiliaries) are now considered full Chapter members with the right to vote on any subject. They are also eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and to be elected as an Officer.

Ø The Surviving Spouse Liaison is now an elected Officer of the Chapter. This Officer may now be the spouse of an active member of the Chapter.

Ø The spouse of an active member may be elected to serve as a Director or an Officer of the Chapter.

Ø A Board of Directors' Director now is not limited to two consecutive terms but may serve successive terms.

Ø The number of Directors now is not set at twelve (Four three-year terms) but the number will be determined by the membership upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Ø The Scholarship Loan Program is now a Grant Program.

Ø Numerous wording changes in support of the above changes and in general to bring the By-Laws up to date.

The revised By-Laws are available for viewing on the Chapter website at www.moaa-nh.org/Chapter_News.html and some copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

September 2024 Activities Update

We had a very successful MS Mount Washington boat ride on September 7th with 71 paid tickets. That was about 33 separate reservations and that was a disappointment given that 46 people out of 75 who participated in the survey indicated that a boat ride was a preferred activity. We also ran a quick survey of the proposed event schedule on the cruise and based on those results I have tentatively booked two out of three cars on the May 10, 2025 dinner train out of Lincoln (Mother's Day weekend). The cost will be \$125 per person all-inclusive except for alcoholic beverages. I am exploring hotel options and, if enough folks sign up for rooms once we are able to get a block, will explore a Sunday morning breakfast or brunch.

Also planning July 4th events for 2025 and 2026 and we were able to reserve Jamaica Island, the site of our clambake's, for July 4th 2026. I am working with the Southern Maine Chapter and National to make that a very special event. More to follow.

We are also planning an Isle of Shoals boat ride for next September and both the Cog Railway and the Mountaineer are on our schedule of events. For many of these events, we need to plan and/or commit months in advance.

We will probably do some sort of Christmas get-together on the day of infamy, December 7th, in the western part of the state. There are three separate reasons we are doing this: (1) The Vermont chapter has ceased to exist but National has given us the membership list and we plan to invite the entire membership to come meet us and see if there is a way to get them engaged; (2) many on the cruise also indicated an interest in a Christmas get-together; (3) it has been a while since we've been able to do anything in that part of the state and we would like to find a way to start engaging more often in more varied venues understanding that we will not see the entire membership at all of these events.

There are lots of issues we need to work through to make all of this happen, so stay tuned and check our MOAA-NH website a little more often starting sometime in the next 60 days.

Bob Jaffin
Past President

Photos from the NH MOAA Annual Clambake



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



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:](#)

MEMORIAL OF WAR II – NORMANDY, LONDON, PARIS (80th Anniversary of D-Day), 11-20 October 2024 (10 days). 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.

[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, transportation to and from Logan if pickup point is within 100 miles from Logan, all tours, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotels and transfers. Highlights 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 (one hotel for entire trip): 22-30 October 25, 9 days, 11 meals. \$4,099 per person, double occupancy (\$3,999 if booked prior to 23 April 2025. Price includes round trip air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan if pickup point is within 100 miles of Logan, all tours, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel and transfers. Highlights include Montecatini Terme, Lucca, Gothic Line, Florence, Pisa, Cooking Class, Cheese Farm and San Gimignano.

Exploring Scotland & Ireland (includes Edinburgh Military Tattoo). 10-22 August 2025, 13 days, 18 meals. \$6,999 P/P if booked by 18 Feb 2025. Highlights include Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle, Loch Ness Cruise, Saint Andrews, Urquhart Castle, Highland Evening, Glasgow, Belfast, Titanic Experience, Giant's Causeway, The Causeway Coast Rail Journey, Derry, Cider Farm and Dublin.

TREASURES OF EUROPE(featuring London, Paris and Rome). 4-17 Sep 2025, 14 days, 18 meals. \$6899 if booked by 25 Mar 2025. 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.

(Travel information continued on bottom of Page 6)

Time is running out - can you help?

On November 2nd, MOAA-NH will be having its annual meeting to vote on, amongst many items, the Officers and Directors who make up the Board of Directors (BOD).

There remains one very important vacancy on the BOD, that of the Treasurer, which needs to be filled. Would you do this job? Please consider applying. CDR Roby Day, USN (Ret) will be glad to answer any questions you might have regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer or to volunteer. He can be contacted at (603)642-7956 or fuzzbutthall@comcast.net.

Though not a Director, the role of Webmaster for the Chapter is also an important duty. The Chapter's website is the face of MOAA-NH to the world and the source of chapter information to our members. We need someone to assume this job, and it does not need to be a MOAA-NH member. ***This job is open to spouses.*** CDR Michael McLean has held this job for many years but needs to be relieved. Please contact him at (603)767-0411 or at mamclean@comcast.net with any questions or to volunteer.

Upcoming Events/Proposed Event Schedule

Based on the interest survey conducted by Bob Jaffin, below are some potential Chapter event offerings for the rest of 2024 and into 2025. Please contact Bob Jaffin at 603-833-3211 or robertdjaffin@gmail.com if you have other suggestions.

7 Sep 24: M/S Mount Washington Luncheon/Cruise (Completed)

2 Nov 24: Annual membership meeting at the Nashua Country Club.

Nov 24: Sponsored trip to AF/Army game at West Point &/or dinner.

Dec 24: Holiday get together (early in month) for Saturday lunch or early dinner.

Jan 25: Mystery bus tour (USS Constitution or a theatrical or musical matinee)

Feb 25: Sunday regional brunch (place TBD)

Mar 25: Granite State Warriors Award luncheon

Apr 25: Service to the membership lunches or dinners from Congressional delegation, VBA, VSO's, State AL/VFW/VVA, TRICARE reps, Delta Dental, Martin's Point, etc.

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2024 Chapter Members!

LCDR Richard A Considine, USN Rye, NH
Lt. Col. Glenn W Michael, USAF (Ret) Merrimack, NH



September 2024 Taps

LTC Peter M. Dyer, USA (Ret)
CAPT A. Darby Reynolds, USN (Ret)
Mrs. Irene Plamondon Swist



Bedford, NH
Exeter, NH
Manchester, NH

(Travel continued from page 5)

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 and privileges. VISIT OUR CURRENT TRAVEL PROGRAM on the MOAA-NH website under “Group Travel” (<https://www.moaa-nh.org>). Contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email tonyayjbb@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, email Tkyle@yahoo.com for information or assistance.



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.