



FEBRUARY 2013 * NEWSLETTER**



Ranger Jim Bailey **New Old Theater Actors**



Steve Lampredi as HMS Guerriere and Linda Gabriel Deutsch as USS Constitution reenact American victory of August 19, 1812. At the climax Steve was dismayed!

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Appropriate to its new name, The Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA held its first meeting of the New Year in the Visitors Center of Fort McHenry National Monument and Shrine. After gathering with wine and coffee and a call to order, a brief ceremony, with VADM Jim Sagerholm officiating, installed the officers and board members to serve for 2013-2014. The admiral then spoke concerning the effects of “the sequestration” based on an informational letter he received as a Navy Flag Officer. (See more comments later in the newsletter.) The rest of the meeting was “just for fun.”

The New Old Theater performed “The Star Spangled Banner and All Its Cousins,” the bar songs commemorating early U.S. naval victories, and the early 19th century lyrics to the tune that we now know as *The Star Spangled Banner*. Two actors were in the U.S. Naval enlisted uniform and two in ladies’ fashions of the period as they encouraged audience sing-alongs. Rounding out the afternoon, US Park Service Ranger Jim Bailey gave an exuberant and educational tour of the Visitors Center and the Fort.

2013 SPRING EVENTS ** Mark Your Calendars!**

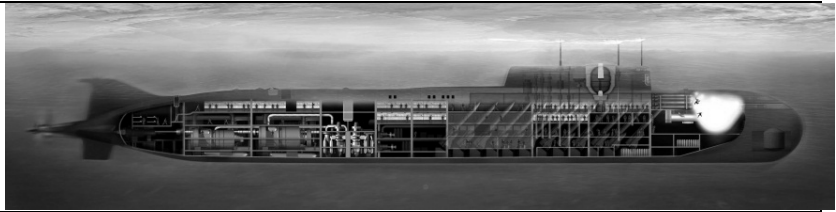
**URGENT RSVP NEEDED for
SUNDAY BRUNCH at TOBY’S DINNER
THEATER, MARCH 24th**

Call today! Col Randy Everett: 443-910-0593 See full page notice.



APRIL 14, 2013

Special Program by
Ramsey Flynn, author
Cry from the Deep
More on the last page.



DOD'S FISCAL CLIFF

My take from Admiral Sagerholm's commentary and other sources is that the current fiscal shortfall within the DOD will cause major limitations on readiness and units scheduled to deploy-- ground, air, and naval; and if the sequestration mandated by a law passed in 2011 goes into effect on 1 March, the effects will be doubly damaging to our readiness. The reasons, without getting into hard numbers:

- The DOD has been operating under a continuing resolution instead of an Appropriations Act since September 2012, requiring that there be no increases in funding. Since the services are operating already at "bare bones" as the result of previous cuts in the Defense budget, there is no slack to cover rises in costs for operations and maintenance. The shortfall for the Navy alone is almost \$5 billion, to which sequestration will add another \$4 billion.
- Sequestration requires fifty percent of the agreed cuts in Federal Funding to come from Defense.
- Continuing resolutions allow no shifting of funds between appropriated accounts, preventing shifting of funds from capital accounts to operations and maintenance, without special permission from Congress.
- The impact on operations and maintenance funds means that in order to keep front line deployed and mission essential units of each service at full fighting capability, all the reduction in expenditures must come from maintenance and training. So ships, aircraft, and vehicles that are scheduled for repair will not be. Buildings and bases and training facilities will not be upgraded nor given any significant maintenance. Personnel training, ship and aircraft exercises, ground exercises, ship ops and aviator flying hours will be significantly reduced. Several thousand contract civilian maintenance and repair personnel will be laid off.
- Deployed units will have to be extended. There will be no ready back up.
- Recovery time to full strength, ready and deployable units will be 9 to 12 months.
- In a few months the Iranians, the Chinese, and terrorist organizations will figure this out.

So...isn't NOW a good time to write your favorite legislator and your newspaper editor!

MARYLAND INCOME TAX: EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY PENSIONS

As a result of a lot of effort from MD vets organization, there is now a \$5000 exemption for military pension income. Veteran's groups are working the current legislative session to improve the exemption to \$10,000. Our case is as follows:

- The idea of the exemption is a **tax incentive** to encourage uniformed services retirees to take up their residence in Maryland. New retirees have earning power well beyond their pensions (estimating average above \$50,000). Maryland will get the tax revenues from that additional income, plus property taxes and sales taxes. In addition our state will get a high performing, active, and frequently entrepreneurial, citizen in one of its communities.
- Nearby states offer competitive tax advantages. Pennsylvania exempts \$20,000 from military pensions and Delaware has no income tax. All of us know retirees who commute from out of

state, especially to Aberdeen, Fort Meade, and Fort Dietrich, because of tax advantages. Maryland needs a comparable advantage.

- The direct reduction in the tax revenues for our state will be modest. A study a couple of years ago, showed that the increased revenue from attracting retirees was at least enough to cover the reduced revenue and likely to be significantly more.

The tax exemption case is taken up by House Bill 503 (HB 503) and Senate Bill 103 (SB 103). More than 40 reps of state veterans' organizations attended the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee hearings on February 6th. CAPT Bud Wanner USPHS and I were among them. Testimony was given by COL Jack Fringer of the MD MOAA Council, and by reps of Retired Enlisted Association, Marine Corps League, American Legion, and Annie Brock*, spouse of MOAA Susquehanna Chapter, speaking from dependent/survivor perspective. Our veterans who are working with the legislature say that there is support by members of the Senate B&T Committee, but the Committee Chair Sen. Ed Kasenmeyer (Dis 12, Baltimore and Howard County) and Vice Chair Nathaniel McFadden (District 45, Baltimore) are not yet on board. They are essential to get a vote in the B&T Committee. Friendly legislators encourage the veterans' community to **not let the issue go away. You never know when political issue stars will align.**

The House Bill (HB 503) will be heard on March 12 at 1PM in the House Office Building at the House Ways and Means committee hearing room. I invite you join me there. Goal is to fill the room. **See the back of this page for a sample letter to send to your legislators.**

*Annie Brock is interested in hearing from spouses about how to use extra funds from the \$5,000 exemption. Annie Brock: annie_brock@verizon.net, 443 686 1484.

Help Please!! With correcting or updating your email address. If you did not receive by email the flyer announcement for the March 24 Brunch, the chapter does not have your correct email address. Please email the correct one to the Chapter Secretary at eschultz_jr@yahoo.com and the President at mike.dehaemer@gmail.com.

Interesting Note from VADM Michael Connor, USN, Commander Submarine Forces, address to Submarine League Annual Symposium 2012 concerning value of maintaining nuclear deterrence. "So let's talk about the good old days—before those nasty nuclear weapons came on the scene. On average—during the 400 or so years prior to nuclear weapons, major power war killed about 1% of the population—the world population—every year!!

"In a bad year that number approached about 3%" From *the Submarine Review*, fall 2012, p.29.

His point: nuclear deterrence is valuable (of course, emphasizing missile submarines) preventing major wars and tens of millions of lives lost.

2013 Chapter Dues, Send check for \$15 to
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The Star Spangled Banner Chapter Newsletter online: <http://www.mdmoaa.org/Baltimore.htm>

Information Sources for Maryland Legislation

Chapter Legislative Affairs Chair: CAPT Charles “Bud” Wanner, USPHS, 410 439 9584.
Nanbud65@aol.com

Maryland Council of MOAA: <http://mdmoaa.org>

- **Summary of Committee Action: SB 103,**
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=SB0103&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS>; **HB 503,**
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=HB0503&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS>
- **Finding your Legislators and your District:** <http://mdelect.net/>
- **Emailing your State Legislators:**
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>

Delegate Letter (May be modified appropriately for state senator and SB103)

Honorable X----- (D), District XX
House Office Building, Room xxx
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate X-:

I am writing to ask for your support for House Bill 503 (HB 503). HB503 would exempt \$10,000 of military retirement pay from Maryland State Income Taxes beginning after Dec 31, 2014 if passed into law. The legislation will not only recognize the service of uniformed services retirees but, very importantly, will encourage hundreds to choose Maryland as a retirement domicile. The study done by the Military Retired Veterans Task Force showed the bill is revenue neutral in a worst case situation and provides positive revenue flow for the state otherwise. In spite of this similar bills have failed to get out committee.

Based on Maryland’s projected revenue of gambling revenues this year the fiscal note is very affordable and it will not impact the \$103,000,000 in projected gaming revenues fenced for education. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) FY 2011 numbers show there are 52,019 military retirees living in Maryland and the fiscal note for the bill would be \$15,605,700. This is minor when looking at the remaining gambling revenue after paying for education and HB 503. If passed, the bill would not be effective until 1 January 2015, making this a controlled fiscally responsible bill that is affordable.

This for House Ways and Means Committee Member.(Omit sentence in parens otherwise.)

(As a key member of the House Ways and Means Committee it is my hope you will support this bill with a favorable recommendation and urge Chairwoman Hixson to move this bill out of committee for a vote by the entire House of Delegates.) Finally when the bill clears the House Ways and Means Committee I would ask for your affirmative vote to pass the bill into law.

Sincerely,

I would be glad to email sample letter to you. Email me at mike.dehaemer@gmail.com

URGENT RSVP NEEDED!!

We need to lock in our reservation. Please call/leave message with Col Randy Everett 443910 0593 or CAPT Mike DeHaemer 443 695 4741, if your check may not make it by February 23. We also hope to add after that time.

SUNDAY..MARCH 24, 2013

MOAA “The Star Spangled Banner Chapter” is hosting the Brunch Matinee at Toby’s Dinner Theater featuring “The Wiz”. You are cordially invited.



Who: Members of MOAA , active, retired, and former officers and guests

What: Attend a Sunday Dinner Theater Brunch Matinee featuring “**The Wiz**”

Where: 5625 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore, MD 21224 (in the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center)

When: 24 March 2013 – Doors Open: 10:30 AM Buffet Served: 10:30 -11:50 AM, Sunday Matinee Begins: 12:30 PM

Why: Enjoy great food, a great show, and the company, and meet new folks in the Baltimore officer community

Reservations: Seating Limited. Recommend reserve by February 23. Space A after.

Cost: \$46.00 per person (a discount of \$5.50) – **Make Check** out to “**BAMOA**”

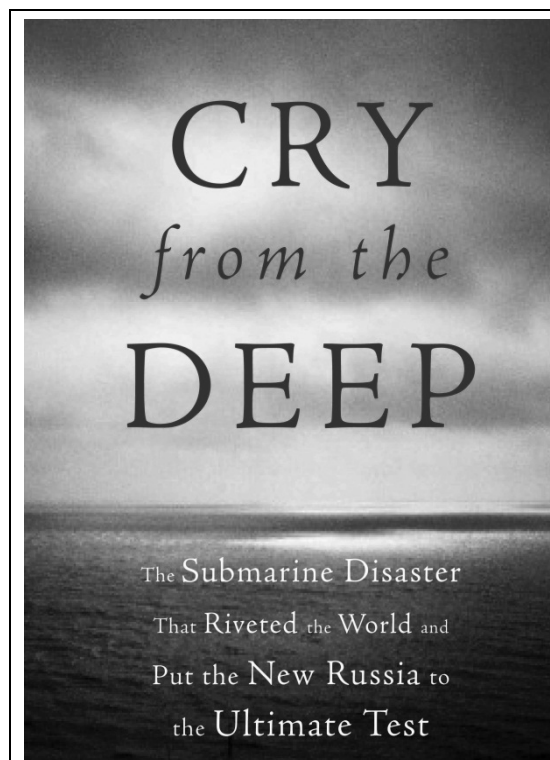
Mail check with names of attendees to:

COL (Ret) William “Randy” Everett

1205 Hidden Stream Court, Abingdon, MD 21009

Further Info: E-mail: weverett1205@comcast.net Cell: 443-910-0593

Brunch Menu (subject to minor change): Scrambled Eggs, Home Fried Potatoes, Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Bacon Strips & Sausage Patties, Scrambled Eggs w/Tri-Colored Peppers, Pancakes & French Toast w/ Assorted Toppings, Steamship Round, Oven Roasted Turkey , Baked Virginia Pit Ham, Baked Tilapia w/lemon butter sauce, Spinach "Phunque" Casserole, Fruit and Salad Bar, Bagels, Danish and Muffins, "Make-your- own" Sundae Bar, Coffee, Tea and Iced Tea, Full Service Cash Bar.



Special Program
Author **Ramsey Flynn**
on
The Sinking of the Russian
Nuclear Submarine **KURSK**,
with loss of all hands.

**Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013, at
1800**
Christopher Daniel Restaurant
Forrester Room

106 W Padonia Rd Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093



RESERVATIONS, PRICING, AND MENU WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NEXT NEWSLETTER.
Mark your calendar now!

Meanwhile we recommend that you read Ramsey Flynn's book from the Public Library or buy it from Amazon.com (available in hard cover, soft cover, and Kindle). Ramsey will be pleased to autograph your copy.

REVIEW “On August 12, 2000, an explosion aboard the 14,700-ton Soviet submarine *Kursk* sent the vessel to the bottom of the southern Barents Sea, with 118 crewmen on board. There were no survivors. Flynn provides a minute-by-minute account of what happened aboard. To get what he labels "the Russian side of the story," Flynn spent more than three years conducting hundreds of interviews during five trips to Russia. His research included forensic data, recovered tape of dialogues, notes found on the crewman's bodies, and ships' logs..... This meticulously researched book offers a compelling account.” George Cohen, American Library Assoc.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact COL Tom Seybold, 410 561 5377, tkseybold@hotmail.