



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013 * NEWSLETTER**

MOAA PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN (Ret.), President of the national association MOAA, will be our guest of honor and speaker at the chapter meeting on November 19, 2013. Admiral Ryan is noted for his work with the legislative and executive branches on behalf of veterans, active duty, and retired military. We expect to have the latest insights concerning the budget and national debt controversies. This event is our annual banquet celebration. Uniform or business suit...an event for ladies cocktail wear. See the announcement. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION SOON.**

Report of September 17th Meeting at Barrett's Restaurant in Hunt Valley.



Guest speaker, Matthew Seybold, NOAA, is presented with Francis. Scott Key bust in appreciation.

Obverse of newly minted quarter coin, U.S. currency. Coin commemorates Ft. McHenry "Bombs burting in air" and Star Spangled Banner. President, CAPT DeHaemer, presented one to each attendee at the September Meeting.

Below: COL Jim Shelley, USA recognized for his presentation last year.



GUEST PRESENTATION

Matthew Seybold, NOAA, Atmospheric Scientist, presented the history of NOAA, beginning with eighteenth century mapping and surveys. A small commissioned officer corps began so that surveyors supporting military operations would not be treated as spies by the enemy. Now about 300 officers command and operate NOAA ships and aircraft. NOAA's Mission is to observe and model the ocean, the atmosphere, and related ecosystems to understand the impact short term and long term of climate, weather, and natural disasters and give appropriate support globally through weather and water reports, forecasts and warnings, navigational charts, and a range of observations for use by public, private and academic sectors.

Matthew was animated with enthusiasm about satellite observations -- engaging the audience for interpretation of images of hurricanes, floods, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, tornado paths. He recounted a number of human lives saved through the satellite monitoring of emergency beacons from hikers, ships, and recreational boaters. Matthew is stationed at the NOAA Satellite Operations Center in College Park. A number of our members signed up for a visit in the near future.

CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR


- **NOVEMBER 19, 2013, ANNUAL BANQUET AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Brush off your uniform or business suit, enjoy a great speaker and banquet meal. See pages 5 and 6 for the description, menu and reservation form. (Send it before you forget.)
- **FEBRUARY 12, 2014. LUNCHEON MEETING AT TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION HISTORY MUSEUM; AND A TOUR BY NOTED WRITER/HISTORIAN JOSEPH BALKOSKI.** More details in next newsletter.
- **APRIL 2014** (date TBD). **DINNER MEETING.**
- **JUNE 2014** (date TBD). **Guided Tour: War of 1812 Battle of Baltimore.**
- **SEPTEMBER 2014. DINNER MEETING.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ... TO THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER CHAPTER !!!

CAPT Martin Petrillo, USN (Ret.), Emilia CAPT Jonathan Haun, USN, Susan LTC John F. Shettle, USA (Ret.), Joan COL Donald L Keldsen, USA (Ret.), Linda MAJ Benjamin F. Papoi, USA, Dana	LT Howard S. Koontz, USN (Ret.), Rosemary MAJ Richard C. Celeste, USA (Ret.) CDR Gregory Adinolfi, USN CPT Shawn Cobb, USA, Sheri CAPT Victor Hrehorovich, USPHS, Anne
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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CAPT Bud Wanner, USPHS, 410 439-9584, nanbud65@aol.com

The luncheon for the Maryland Congressional Delegation that was scheduled for September 17, 2013, had to be cancelled because of Congress' preoccupation with Syria at that time. The luncheon has been rescheduled for October 31, beginning at 1130 a.m., in the Sam Rayburn Building, in Washington, D.C. The Maryland Council of MOAA has organized the luncheon and hopes to have 100 representatives of the Maryland Chapters present. MOAA's national President, VADM Ryan, and a number of the MOAA staff plan to attend. There are a number of seats available now, because some of the original participants have schedule conflicts. If you wish to attend, please contact Chapter Legislative Affairs Chair or Chapter President.

	<p>MOAA Travel **** Important Membership Benefit! Judy and I have ordered three different cruises over the past few years from MOAA travel---two Viking Cruise Line cruises and one Star Clipper cruise. We got the discounts offered in the cruise line brochures plus an additional \$50 discount from booking through MOAA Travel. Now I have learned that if a customer mentions the name of their MOAA chapter, the chapter will receive \$50 from MOAA travel. So please give MOAA travel an opportunity to book for your next cruise or tour. Mike DeHaemer</p>
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Star Spangled Banner Chapter Officers

President, CAPT Mike DeHaemer, USN (Ret.), 443 795-4741, mike.dehaemer@gmail.com
 1st Vice President, Memberships: COL James Shelley, USA, 443 570-5775, james.m.shelley@gmail.com
 2nd Vice President, Programs: COL Randy Everett, USA (Ret.) 443 910593, william.r.everett@us.army.mil
 Secretary: MAJ Ernest W. Schultz, USAF (Ret.) 410 561-5911, eschultz_jr@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: MAJ Russell Allen, USA (Ret.) 301 677-2445, allenrussell@hotmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF MOAA SYMPOSIUM FOR CHAPTER LEADERS, SEPTEMBER 26-28, HERSHEY, PA.

Attended by CAPT Mike DeHaemer and COL Tom Seybold.

Overview. More than 300 MOAA council and chapter leaders and their spouses, members of the national staff and board of directors, and exhibitors attended Northeastern States MOAA's 2013 Chapter Leaders' Symposium, held Sept. 26-28 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa. The regional symposium drew council and chapter leaders from 14 states, 10 councils, and more than 70 chapters in MOAA's North East region. The purpose was to receive input from about 200 chapter members, relay information from MOAA Headquarters in Washington DC and develop three main subjects - Chapter Management, Membership and TOPS. Other key subjects covered were dependent benefits, especially the SBP/DIC offset, Veterans Administration claims backlog and Auxiliary members (surviving spouses) activities.

The Membership Numbers. A comparison with 10 years ago. Since strong chapters are a key to grass roots involvement in legislative affairs, something must be done to improve the viability and strength of chapters. While a new membership category "Basic", which is a free online membership, incentivizes younger, active duty members, chapters are also being incentivized with bonus contributions and modest grants to grow.

2004		2013
371,000	Total Members	385,000
155,000	Life	166,000
37,000 (16%)	Currently Serving (Penetration)	81,000 (20%)
1,300	Guard	10,200
555	Below Age 29	16,490
3,600	Age 30-39	18,800
73,000	Chapters	58,000
****	Auxiliaries	63,600

The Symposium Membership discussion focused on Chapter Recruiting and Retention Activities that could be adopted that would instill a sense of Mission to the Chapter that would enhance comradeship beyond just periodic social meetings. Community involvement to gain MOAA visibility is also important. Examples offered were utilizing the resources of the Chamber of Commerce, assistance with charitable or veterans organizations, interaction with the National Guard, assistance with the VA claims process, assistance with ROTC and JROTC awards (*a strong point for our chapter*), helping veterans secure jobs through the superbly organized MOAA TOPS program and emphasis on activities that involve spouses and Auxiliary members. *Our Chapter perhaps needs to identify and focus on a community MISSION.*

"Every Member Bring a Prospective Member" was a constant theme and one-on-one recruiting seems to be very effective! There are a lot of active and retired officers in our area who just don't know MOAA and the debt they owe it for the benefits they receive! Members should articulate this to prospective members and explain that it is the largest and most effective lobbying organization for veteran's benefits! Our benefits are under attack again in Washington and all relevant information is readily available on MOAA's website, moaa.org.

Legislative Activities. Including VADM Ryan, MOAA has a registered legislative lobbying staff of 10. The following was their report of success in the climate of the past decade.

10 Years of Wins

- Major Pay Raises for Currently Serving
- Manpower Increases

- Survivor Benefit Upgrades
- Defeated Major TRICARE Fee Hikes
- TRICARE For Life/TRICARE Senior Pharmacy
- Major GI Bill Upgrades (Transferability)
- Wounded Warrior Protections
- Caregiver Enhancements
- Repealed REDUX Retirement Penalties
- Concurrent Receipt
- Reserve TRICARE Coverage (& Premium Cut)
- NG/Reserves Retirement Age Credit for AD Svc (Prospective)

MAJOR ISSUES REMAIN with uncertain and difficult sailing ahead.

Defense against health care fees and pay cuts

- Means Testing Prime & Tricare for Life
- New TFL Enrollment Fees
- Hikes in Rx fees
- Proposed 1% Pay Cap

Continue push to eliminate DIC-SBP offset & disability-retired pay offset

TAKE-AWAYS FROM THE SYMPOSIUM

1. Membership numbers are vital. MOAA is by far the single most influential chartered veteran's organization. MOAA gets attention from both the legislative and executive branches because MOAA can speak for nearly 400,000 members plus the spouses of members. And more than any other group, MOAA can mobilize its membership to support important positions for National Defense, personnel issues, support of veterans, and promised pension benefits. E.g. diagram ...

380,000 MEMBERS-----→GET ATTENTION -----→GETS RESULTS
MAKING 700,000 COMMUNICATIONS
IN FIRST THREE QUARTERS
OF CALENDAR 2013

2. In conjunction with the Veterans Coalition of Organizations, substantial improvements in policies, for veterans, wounded/disabled veterans, veterans spouses and families, and survivors have been accomplished. HOWEVER, the outlook for next few years of fiscal tightening in government portend slower movement in a favorable direction, but the push should be continued.

4. In order to maintain numbers in view of lower numbers of future commissioned officers with high numbers of retirees, younger officers need to be recruited to maintain numbers overall; and middle-aged officers and newly retired officers will be needed to keep our chapters active.

5. **Spouses Benefit.** MOAA extends all the benefits of membership to the spouses of members. Spouses qualify for the discount benefits, counseling, job fairs and information brochures. Spouses are encouraged by National MOAA to participate as officers and chairpersons in chapter operations. Because of the legal charter of MOAA as a veterans organization, only veterans and surviving spouses of veterans may be the members. The only limit to spouses participation is as a national board member.

ANNUAL BANQUET & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, NOVEMBER 19, 2013

BLUESTONE RESTAURANT

11 West Aylesbury Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093.



Guest Speaker

MOAA PRESIDENT

VADM Norbert Ryan, USN (Ret.)

LEARN THE LATEST

**MOAA'S STRONG VOICE & HOW YOU HELP
MOAA'S WORK WITH CONGRESS & THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCHES**

- **MILITARY STRENGTH, RETENTION**
- **VETERAN SUPPORT, VA DISABILITY
PROCESSING**
- **SURVIVOR BENEFITS**
- **RETIREMENT BENEFITS, TRICARE
BUDGET & NATIONAL DEBT CONTROVERSY**

Admiral Ryan: Association Executive of the Year (2010), Top Lobbyist past six years.

VADM Ryan is a 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a graduate of George Washington University with a Master of Science Degree in Personnel Administration as well as the Senior Officials in National Security Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. VADM Ryan has commanded aviation units at the squadron, wing, and fleet levels and has directed the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. He served as the 52nd Chief of Naval Personnel before retiring and assuming his current position as MOAA President in September 2002.

RESERVATION REQUIRED. Clip or provide the information on **Reservation Form on next page.** Please mail to arrive by November 12, 2013.

Chapter members, MOAA members, spouses, and guests are invited at \$50 per person. **Fixed Price Menu.** See menu on registration form. Order when you are seated at table.

Cash bar with complimentary non- alcoholic beverages.

DRESS: Business suit or military Class A, ladies cocktail attire, suggested.

FOR INFORMATION, last minute reservations: COL Jim Shelley, 443 570-5775

PROGRAM: Banquet & Membership Meeting, 6.00 pm, 19 November, 2013

Terrace Room, Blue Stone Restaurant, 11 West Aylesbury Road, Lutherville-Timonium 21093

1800-1845 Social hour, cocktails. Cash bar. Complimentary sodas, ice tea, coffee.

1845-1915 Meeting call to order. Presentation of colors by Milford Mill Academy Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard. Introductions. State of the Chapter Report to the membership. Recognition of WWII and Korean War veterans in our Chapter.

1915-2000 Invocation. Dinner

2000-2100 Presentation of Service Awards. Admiral Ryan Speaks. Q&A.

2100-2115 Retire colors. Adjourn

RESERVATIONS FOR MEETING AT BLUE STONE RESTAURANT, NOV 19

FIXED PRICE BANQUET MENU @ \$50 per person. CASH BAR, complimentary soft drinks

Name _____ Guest Names _____

Your email to receive confirmation _____

Total number for reservation _____ Check Amount _____

<p>Make check to “The Star Spangled Banner Chapter” and send with your name and guest(s)’ names to:</p> <p>COL James Shelley, USA 142 Glyndon Trace Drive Reistertown, MD, 21136</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MENU</p> <p>Salad Selection: Bluestone House or Classic Caesar</p> <p>Entrée Selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twin Broiled Crab Cakes, red potatoes, veg.• Tenderloin Filet, <i>cooked to preference, bearnaise</i>• Atlantic Salmon, spicy teriyaki/balsamic glaze• Grilled Chicken & Chevre <p>Dessert: Hot Blondie, Crème Brulee, or Key Lime Pie</p> <p><i>Orders will be taken at your table.</i></p> <p><i>CASH BAR. Complimentary soda, ice tea, coffee.</i></p>
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BREAKING NEWS *** Congratulations COL Tom Seybold!**

Quoted from MOAA’s *The Affiliate* of October 2013

“‘Tip of the Hat’ to **Col. Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.), of the Star Spangled Banner (Md.) Chapter**, who worked hard to implement MOAA’s Gold Bar Program at three ROTC units in the Baltimore area.

“ We hear you met with unit commanders to convince them of the program’s value, arranged a luncheon between the chapter’s board of directors to let them know MOAA was there to help, and put a lot of miles on your car traveling to graduation and honor ceremonies. Thanks for all you do for MOAA.”

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To adequately serve our mission to the community, we need some assistance from members or spouses of members to take on the duties of several vacant positions. Please call me, Mike DeHaemer, 443 695 4741, mike.dehaemer@gmail.com, if you are able to help out.

<p><i>The Star Spangled Banner Chapter</i> Newsletter and Archives online: http://www.mdmoaa.org/Baltimore.htm</p>	<p><u>Newsletter Production</u> President, CAPT Mike DeHaemer USN (Ret) Editor and Producer, CDR Wally Dann (Ret) Distribution, LtCol: Charles R. Meyer USAF (Ret)</p>
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