



NOVEMBER 2013- JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Report on November 19th Banquet and General Membership Meeting

**CDR WALLACE DANN, USN (Ret.) receives
MOAA LEADERSHIP AWARD**

VADM NORBERT R. RYAN Jr., USN (Ret.), President of MOAA
Speaks on
Importance of MOAA Chapters and
Appreciation for Local Leadership and Activities

Special Recognition



MOAA President VADM Ryan pins leadership award on CDR Wally Dann.



VADM Ryan presents Certificate of Merit to LTC Burt Meyer and Jane Meyer for outstanding chapter support.



The Star Spangled Banner Chapter recognized the steadfast contributions of LTC Burt Meyer and Jane Meyer, especially with respect to distribution of this newsletter, by awarding a Certificate of Merit.

VADM Ryan gave special recognition to CDR Wally Dann in presenting the MOAA Leadership Award with lapel pin. CDR Dann was cited for “your dedication and persistence of effective and enthusiastic leadership which led to the revival of the chapter. Your exemplary leadership and selfless devotion were critical factors, contributing to the chapter’s name change—*The Star Spangled Banner Chapter*, which promotes enthusiasm as it imparts to the membership.” CDR Dann responded with brief remarks about the three most important accomplishments of the chapter—strong support of the ROTC, work on legislative affairs, and shared camaraderie.

Our guest speaker, who came to MOAA from a distinguished naval aviation career, last visited us in 2002. In the interim he has become recognized as an able, factual, and most capable spokesman for all who have served in uniform. The themes of his motivating and engaging talk emphasized the importance of membership in national MOAA and the activities of chapters. The number of MOAA members, letter writing, more than 380,000, and their letter writing

provide access to both the legislative and executive branches. And access provides the opportunity for the uniformed services community to be heard on important issues of concern...national defense, support of veterans and wounded warriors, and protection of benefits. Chapters are important as direct constituents of the legislators, who will respond to the unified requests from their home districts. With anecdotes VADM Ryan related examples of how the officer corps is being effective and through MOAA is leading and should be leading all the military and veterans organizations in common purpose.

TWO TALES COME TOGETHER --- COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret)



The SBP/DIC Offset fix issue has been a major objective of MOAA for several years. For the dependent survivor of those killed on active duty, for every \$1 in SBP (survival benefit plan, a contributory plan) received by the survivor, \$1 is deducted for every DIC (dependency indemnity compensation) payment received from the VA! This is a gross injustice.

At the MOAA Symposium in September at Hershey, PA, VADM Ryan told the story of the widow of a West Point officer killed in Afghanistan who joined him in making the

rounds of the halls of Congress to lobby all the key leaders as to this SBP/DIC Offset issue and how important it was to fix it. She was a lawyer and willingly and effectively assisted him in telling these leading Congressmen and Senators the effect of this legislation and the need to fix it now! At the end of the day they had probably walked miles and her feet, from high heels were bloody. However, she never winced and was determined and dedicated to see the effort through!

At our Chapter Banquet in November, LTC Jim and Melissa Riely were our guests. Jim is the ROTC Commander at Loyola and Towson University. Jim and Melissa told me that the widow that lobbied with VADM Ryan was their friend; and her husband who was killed in Afghanistan was a classmate and in the same company with Jim at West Point. Melissa relayed many comments how her widow friend had pointed out how effective VADM Ryan was at the lobbying effort---knew all the right politicians and all the issues and positions to include staffers and she was going to continue to support MOAA any way possible. We are indeed lucky to have such loyal support and such a talented leader at MOAA Headquarters!
 (Photo: COL Seybold, VADM Ryan, Melissa Riely, LTC Riely)

CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 12, 2013, LUNCHEON MEETING

1130 a. m., at the Fifth Regiment Armory

219 W 29th Division Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

(Parking available on site)

LUNCH and TOUR with Joseph Balkoski, noted author and historian, and curator Maryland Military History Museum

Joe Balkoski has published numerous books on U.S. forces in Europe from D-Day to the end of WWII. His major opus is a five volume series that details the operations of the 29th Infantry Division. Volume IV has been published. The author will sign copies. See author Balkoski at www.amazon.com.

The museum covers the military history of Maryland and Marylanders after 1634.

RESERVATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12TH ARE REQUIRED. See the last pages of the *Newsletter*.

**APRIL 8, 2014
 Tuesday, 6 p.m.**

Dinner Meeting An Poitin Stil Restaurant (“the still”), Timonium, MD.
 Guest speaker will be Lt.Gen. Steven Blum, USA (Ret.) former Chief of the National Guard Bureau and Deputy Commander U.S. Northern Command, President Maryland Historical Society

JUNE 7, 2014 Saturday, 9 a.m.	Guided battle field tour of the Battle of Baltimore. This will be a bus tour to several important sites with mid-day stop for lunch. The Susquehanna Chapter of MOAA will be joining us.
SEPT. 9, 2014 Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Dinner meeting with guest speaker Lt Col Shane Ostrom , USAF (Ret), MOAA's expert on benefits, to discuss survivor planning. Location TBD.
NOV. 18, 2014 Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Star Spangled Banner Chapter's 50th Anniversary Banquet.

ROTC REPORT: COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.), ROTC Liaison



Milford Mill Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard with unit commander Gunnery SGT Samyra Rogers, USMC, and CDR Edward Mills USN (Ret.).
(Photos are from the November 19th Chapter Meeting.)

We have been working with MOAA for the past several years to register the newly commissioned army lieutenants in our area as MOAA members. An incentive for joining has been a set of gold bars for the uniform. Since the Army has gone to the Blue Dress Uniform, gold 2nd Lt. bars are no longer a part of ROTC commissioning ceremony. We have been seeking an appropriate replacement to encourage the new officers to join MOAA at a free "basic" membership level.

We have proposed a chapter and MOAA joint sponsorship gift certificate to a uniform supplier so that the Army Blue Dress uniform shoulder boards might be upgraded to real gold thread. However, at least for the year 2014, the issue is not resolved. In any case our chapter will remain very active to encourage the new officers to join MOAA.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT: CAPT Bud Wanner, USPHS (Ret.) Liaison

At the national level, retirement benefits for military retirees under age 62 have been unfairly reduced in the course of the bi-partisan budget bill. Although some legislators promise remedial action, it remains important to keep email and phone pressure on all of our representatives and senators to correct this and to pay attention that promises for benefits are kept in the future. Take Action section of the MOAA website will assist:

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Take_Action.html

The Maryland Council of MOAA Chapters and other veteran organizations will again **for the 14th session support bills to increase the income tax exemption** for uniform services retirees. Although the state senate passed the bill last year, the legislative session ended before House of Delegates action. SB 143, authored by Senator Peterson, is under consideration this session. Please let your legislators know of your interest. The bill improves the state tax exemption of military retirement from \$5000 to \$10,000 for those over 65 years old. We hope to get tax exemption for early retirees. The point is to get the proven younger leaders to choose Maryland for their domicile.

AUXILIARY LIAISON: Mrs. Karen Seybold

Many thanks to Karen Seybold for taking this role. She reports successful contact with auxiliary members and encouragement that they will participate in chapter activities. The chapters September program should be of keen interest.

NEW VOLUNTEER LIAISONS:

TOPS LIAISON/TRANSITION: CPT Monique Smith, USA

PERSONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER: CAPT Victor Hrehorovich, USPHS,

MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS are fully deductible. We sent a modest amount of \$200 to the scholarship fund in 2013 from extra amounts members sent with dues and reservations to events. Our Board of Directors encourages further contributions through the chapter and we will show the opportunity with each of our submission forms this year. The chapter treasurer will issue receipts for tax purposes at the end of 2014. Send amounts anytime to our treasurer.

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

CDR Thomas Maclin, USCG (Ret.), Anne LTC Wayne Hunt, USA, Louise LT George Wright, USN (Ret.), Pat MAJ Alvin Newton, USA (Ret.), Karen	PLEASE INVITE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS TO CHAPTER EVENTS *****
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VOICES FOR AMERICA’S TROOPS: a charitable subsidiary organization of MOAA because many family members of MOAA members, friends, and the supporting public wish to be informed about military affairs and lend voice in support to the legislative and executive branches. Voices is a 501(c)4 lobbying organization for the benefit of all who serve in uniform. Join online at voicesfortroops.org.

MOAA Membership Benefits

New Premium Members will receive a voucher for one year of chapter dues. New or upgrading Life Members will receive a voucher for two years of chapter dues.

Benefits beyond the obvious support of critical legislation for the military community

- Electronic updates of MOAA news
- Discounts on products and travel
- Career transition resources: career fairs, resume critique and more
- Expert advice on pay and benefits
- Financial planning advice
- *Military Officer* magazine
- MOAA-exclusive publications
- Scholarships, student loans, grants for undergrad children of members

<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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Star Spangled Banner Chapter Officers

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 1st Vice President, Memberships: COL James Shelley, USA, 443 570-5775, james.m.shelley@gmail.com
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 Treasurer: MAJ Russell Allen, USA (Ret.) 301 677-2445, allenrussell@hotmail.com

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2014 using form on next page.

“The Star Spangled Banner Chapter”
BALTIMORE – MILITARY OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Membership Application and Dues Submission for 2014 (\$15)

Name: (last) _____ (first) _____ (middle or m.i.) _____

Branch of Service _____ **Rank** _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Former
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary (surviving spouse)

Address: (street/apt no.) _____

Address: (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____

Date of Birth _____

Home Phone _____ **Mobile** _____ (**Other Phone**) _____

Email Address _____ **Spouse Name** _____

Membership in national Military Officers Association of America

I am I am NOT a member of MOAA. MOAA Membership Nr _____ (optional)

Newsletters: I prefer to receive by email Only send regular mail Either way is okay

I can help as a volunteer. Please indicate your interest among: veterans support for medical problems, veterans support for jobs and transition to civilian life, support for state and national legislation, for producing and editing newsletter, for producing website, for finding interesting programs, for support of the MOAA scholarship fund, for assisting ROTC and JROTC units, for assisting the needy in our communities, for promoting needs of widows and surviving spouses and children. OR however you skills and interests might help out.

I know someone we should invite to join. Name and contact information are: _____

ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES ARE \$15.00. See next page to combine with lunch registration.

Please make checks out to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter

Please mail completed form with check for 2014 Dues to:

MAJ Russell Allen, USA (Ret.)
301 Warren Avenue, Apt 306
Baltimore, MD 21230

To fully support programs of strong national defense and support our active duty and veteran personnel, we urge you to join the national organization. BASIC ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP IS FREE. Premium Membership is \$37 per year or less. Check out www.MOAA.org/join/

NOTE: If you join at the PREMIUM LEVEL you will receive a voucher to cover chapter membership dues for one year. If you upgrade to LIFE membership you will cover two years of chapter dues.

MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2013

at Fifth Regiment Armory

219 W 29th Division Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

PROGRAM

1130 Wine and Coffee

Noon Lunch

1245 Chapter Business Meeting

1330 Remarks & Tour

The Maryland Military Museum

- The Heritage and Military History
- Of Maryland & Marylanders

Remarks and Interpretation by

Joseph Balkoski, Historian of the 29th Infantry Division, prize winning author of numerous volumes on the American Experience on D-Day and the 29th Infantry Division in World War II.

CW4 Ivan Dooley, USA (Ret.), Vice President, Maryland Military Historical Society

*Both Joe and Ivan are Star Spangled Banner Chapter members.

LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Casual lunch will be from So Bo Café, West Cross Street, a “Best of Baltimore” restaurant.

Menu: Carrot Soup, Sandwich on Homemade Bread or Roll, Caesar Salad and Potato Salad, Carrot Cake Square. Indicate your sandwich selection on reservation form below.

Price is \$29 per person. (If you make it \$30, we will send a dollar to the MOAA scholarship fund.)

For more information contact CAPT Mike DeHaemer 443 695 4741, mike.dehaemer@gmail.com, or MAJ Russell Allen, 443-388-8745, allenrussell@hotmail.com

Clip and mail this section. Please mail to arrive by February 5, 2013. Seating is limited.

Names and ID required for admission and parking.

Make check out to **Star Spangled Banner Chapter** for \$29 or \$30 per person. (Extra dollar for scholarship fund.)

Mail form and check to: **MAJ Russell Allen, USA (Ret.)**

301 Warren Avenue, Apt 306

Baltimore, MD 21230

Names for Reservation (Member and Guests) _____

_____ Number of Persons at \$29 per person	Amount for Feb. 12 Luncheon _____
	Dues for 2014 (\$15) _____
	Scholarship donation _____
	TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT _____

Please select sandwich preference (Indicate number for each choice.)

- _____ Roast Beef with tiger sauce, lettuce tomato on a house roll
- _____ Smoked Chicken Salad with lettuce apricot on house bread
- _____ “Hot Smoked” Salmon with caper spread, pickled onions, lettuce on house roll
- _____ Brined & Roasted Turkey with provolone cheese, spiced apples, lettuce, mayo on house bread