



FEBRUARY-MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

Report on February 12, 2014 membership luncheon meeting.

OUR CHAPTER WINS \$1200 BONUS !

****MEMBERS TOUR MD MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM with J. BALKOSKI**

Maryland Military History Museum Tour



Joe Balkoski leads tour, here in Civil War exhibit, noting Confederate flag.

WWII Artifacts from 29th Division. Division Commander's Jeep, Maj. Gen. C. H. Gerhardt's "Vixen Tor"; German helmet trophy on front.



February 12 Meeting at Fifth Regiment Armory
Twenty-five members and guests attended. The chapter members were brought up to date on the treasury, ROTC support, and legislative affairs, as well as the outcome in our recruiting efforts for 2013. After a lunch catered by the SoBo Café of West Cross Street, our guest speaker, Joe Balkoski, treated us to a tour with insightful commentary of the Maryland Military History Museum. Joe is a member of the museum board, has served as historian for the Twenty-ninth Division, and is an expert historical author on WWII in Europe, particularly with respect to the Twenty-ninth Division.



CPT Monique Smith, USA with dress acquired in Afghanistan.

Notes on Introductory Remarks by Joe Balkoski.

Three times in the military history of our country, Marylanders were prominent in carrying out a military mission, which may be regarded as saving the nation in the first two instances, and saving the Western Democracies in the last instance. The museum seeks to remember all these events.

- The “Maryland Line” or the “Maryland Four Hundred” held the defensive line against the British troops at the Battle of Long Island in the Revolutionary War. This enabled General George Washington and his army, which was greatly outnumbered, to escape annihilation to fight another day.
- The Maryland Fifth Regiment, successor to the earlier Maryland Militia, fought to defend Baltimore and defeat the British in the War of 1812-14. As a consequence the British thought it wise to conclude a peace treaty with our young United States.
- Thirdly, the U.S. Army Twenty-ninth Division, Marylanders and other mid-Atlantic states' soldiers, fought from D-day 1944 to the end of World War II in Europe.

Check out “Joseph Balkoski” among authors at Amazon.com or at the Enoch Pratt Free Library to find the large number of historical works that he has authored.



CWO5 Dick Jordan, USA (Ret.)

Receives the Certificate of Merit for decades of service to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter as an officer, especially as the Chapter’s Treasurer.

Certificate was presented by VADM Jim Sagerholm, USN (Ret.) on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership at the February 2014 meeting.

CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR

Please note changes: April meeting date changed to Wednesday, April 9.

September meeting date changed to Tuesday, September 23. Some changes in guest speakers.

<p>APRIL 9, 2014 Wednesday 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Reservation required. Please send to arrive by 1 April. Dinner Meeting An Poitin Stil Restaurant (“the still”), Timonium, MD. Guest speaker will be LTC Paul Carroll, Commander of the award winning ROTC Unit, Johns Hopkins University. Reservation form is the last page.</p>
<p>JUNE 7, 2014 Saturday, 9 a.m. Until 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Luxury bus tour with expert guides to cover the Battle of Baltimore of September 1814. We will meet bus at a convenient location for parking. Estimated cost for tour is \$25 per person for bus tour. There will be a mid-day stop for a restaurant lunch (price not included). Reservation forms will be available in April and in next newsletter and check http://starspan.org.</p>

SEPT. 23, 2014 Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Dinner meeting. Details to be determined. We regret that a speaker from MOAA National is not available as we had planned.
NOV. 18, 2014 Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Star Spangled Banner Chapter's 50 th Anniversary Banquet. Guest of honor and speaker will be Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, USA (Ret.), former Chief of the National Guard Bureaus, President of the Maryland Military History Museum.

CHAPTER RECEIVES \$1200 BONUS FROM NATIONAL FOR RECRUITING MEMBERS IN 2013.

We received a congratulatory letter and the check as a result of recruiting 21 new chapter members last year. We received \$200 for recruiting at least 10 members and were awarded the additional \$1000 for recruiting the most new members for a chapter of our size. Most of the recruiting was through personal contact of individuals known in associations with current members, neighbors, churches, alumni associations. Lots of folks support the mission of MOAA and we should ask them to join us. Numbers will count for us locally and nationally.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT: CAPT Bud Wanner, USPHS (Ret.) Liaison, nanbud65@aol.com

*******SEE BREAKING NEWS AT END OF ARTICLE*****

**Action on State Tax Exemption for Retired Pay: DISAPPOINTING so far!
On national scene: MOAA email letter campaign effective.**

On the State scene, since 06 Feb14, there have been at least 14 different bills presented to Senate and House committees regarding income tax exemptions for retired military pay. Testimony has been presented by a number of different military organizations. MOAA has primarily been represented by LTC. Jack Fringer and MAJ. John Whitman .Their testimonies expounded the economic benefit to our state by making Maryland more attractive to active duty personnel who are preparing for retirement. They stressed that the income tax collected on post military service retirement employment, income tax on spouses' employment when added to property, sales, usage and other in sundry taxes will more than offset the fiscal note of the exemption to the state.

The most interesting and telltale testimony presented on 25Feb14 at the House Ways & Means Committee hearing was the very last one given that day. It was presented by a USNA graduate, who with his family, was in the process of preparing for retirement. They loved Annapolis and wanted to settle there. However, when he calculated the taxes on his military retirement income over his expected lifetime and compared that figure to states within which there was no or less taxation on military retired pay he would be able to live far more comfortably and be more able to afford his children's higher education. Sadly he was there to testify that his family's decision, while not what they wanted, had to be made on the cold, hard ,financial facts.

As of 17 March 14, House Bill 442 (exemption of all retired military pay) was not brought to a vote in the House Ways and Means Committee and will not be consider further. Meantime House Bill 353 and Senate Bill 143 have been voted out of committee and are still viable for voting by the full House and

Senate. These bills would raise the income tax exemption on retired military pay to \$10,000 but only for those 65 y/o and older.

BREAKING NEWS ON STATE TAX EXEMPTION: JOIN THE LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN NOW!

Recently the Maryland Legislature passed bills in both houses to: “alter the size of an estate required to file an estate tax return; altering a specified limit on the unified credit used for determining the Maryland estate tax; repealing a specified limit on the unified credit used for determining the Maryland estate tax for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2019; and altering a specified limit on the amount of the Maryland estate tax.” **The impetus for these bills is the emigration of Maryland's wealthy residents to more tax friendly states.** The article in the March 21st edition of the Washington Post makes it clear that the justification put forth by the key legislators for supporting these bills is the same justification that we have addressed in testimony in support of the exemption of military retired pay from state income tax for the past 10 or so years. **CALL TO ACTION.** Join all the MOAA members and their friends in sending emails to the key legislators and your own delegates. **See page 6.**

ROTC REPORT: COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.), ROTC Liaison, 410 561-5377, tkseybold@hotmail.com

Our Chapter will be presenting MOAA medals and certificates to cadets who demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership at three Army ROTC University programs and four or more JROTC High School programs this spring. Chapter members are requested to volunteer to assist with these presentations when schools request a presenter. Please contact Tom Seybold (410-561-5377) for further information and guidance. It is a fulfilling and rewarding experience to be among these young people!

The Army ROTC universities are Johns Hopkins, Loyola, and McDaniel. Johns Hopkins is an umbrella ROTC program that includes University of Maryland Baltimore County and the University of Baltimore. The other two umbrella universities are McDaniel that includes Mount St. Mary's and Hood College and Loyola whose program includes Towson and Notre Dame of Maryland.

Johns Hopkins was recently awarded the MacArthur Award which recognized the best ROTC program for 2012-13 of the 38 in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Award is based on outstanding performance of the unit's mission, the cadets' training performance and academic order of merit!

The ROTC Director and Professor of Military Science, LTC Paul Carroll will be the guest speaker at our Chapter Meeting, April 9, and will provide insight into the success of his program and cadets. He has an illustrious and highly successful career and will provide a colorful and informative evening talk, in which where we will learn about our new officer candidates in training.

All these universities together will commission about 45 new Army 2nd Lieutenants this spring. Our Star Spangled Banner Chapter has initiated a new program this year of a gift certificate from Marlow White to each cadet to upgrade their commissioning shoulder boards from nylon to gold bullion. These shoulder boards are presented by parents or other loved ones after they are formally sworn in as officers in the Army to defend the Constitution at their Commissioning Ceremony. It is quite a solemn and moving affair with their families, distinguished guest and speakers! This gift certificate is an appropriate gift that we hope will long be meaningful to them and also gives them a free, one

year online membership in MOAA. The program brings about 45 new members to MOAA for at least one year!

The JROTC high schools receiving MOAA cadet exceptional potential for military leadership medal and certificate awards this Spring are the Navy JROTC at Woodlawn, the Navy JROTC at Randallstown, the Marine Corps JROTC at Milford Mill Academy, and the Air Force JROTC at Kenwood. All these high schools have vigorous and relevant programs that deserve our support and hold Spring Awards Banquets.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER CHAPTER WEBSITE: <http://starspan.org>



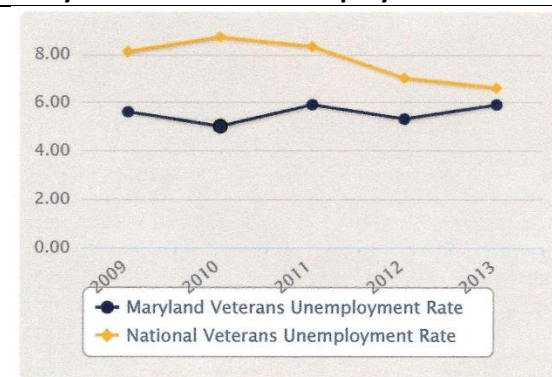
Although some of the buttons are for unfinished sections, thanks to the industry of Web Master George Wright, we are ready for some business. You will find the **dues form** there that you misplaced. So you can send it in. Likewise newsletters for the last year are there. Contact information for chapter officers and committee chairs are there. We will provide information of interest and links of interest to other sites. If you select an incomplete, not ready for business, section, you will be returned to the homepage, which has this introductory paragraph.

” Welcome to the The Star Spangled Banner Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, the oldest, continuously operating MOAA chapter in Maryland. Founded in 1964, we provide the camaraderie of service and align with MOAA's national mission: A strong national defense, taking care of our country's veterans, and protecting the benefits of all those who have served in uniform.”

TOPS LIAISON/TRANSITION: CPT Monique Smith, USA, monique.t.smith.mil@mail.mil

By mid-April we expect to have a useful set of links on <http://starspan.org> to help job search and provide assistance sites for transitioning veterans, transitioning spouses, recovering wounded warriors, etc.

Maryland Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 and Maryland Veterans Employment Goal



What act contained:

- Removal of certain barriers for veterans making transition to civilian employment
- Expedites professional licensing transfers for veterans and spouses
- Goal is full employment of vets by 2015...a level of unemployment of 3 percent

Find this and other interesting information at <https://data.maryland.gov>, then search “veterans” or other topics.

ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES ARE \$15.00. 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

Dues Submission for 2014 (\$15)		
Name: (last) _____ (first) _____ (middle or m.i.) _____		
Branch of Service _____ Rank _____ Spouse Name _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Former <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary (surviving spouse)
Address: (street/apt no.) _____		
Address: (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____		
Home Phone _____ Mobile _____ Email _____		

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.

EMAIL and LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIRED PAY EXEMPTION

A sample letter to be sent to our representatives in the Maryland legislature, which was composed CAPT Norm Taylor, USN (Ret.), Past President of the Maryland MOAA Council, is on the last page. Please send it to the leadership and to your representative. Please ask your spouse and friends to send the same separately.

If you received this newsletter by email, the sample letter to be sent to our legislative leaders is under separate attachment so that you may copy it, edit it and send it on. Please also send email to your local senator and delegates. The email addresses for the leadership is below. You may find emails for your local representatives at <http://mdelect.net/>

Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Senate: thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us

Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

edward.kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Michael Busch, Speaker of the House: michael.busch@house.state.md.us

Delegate Shelia Hixson, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee : sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Star Spangled Banner Chapter</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter and Archives online:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://starspan.org</p>	<p><u>Newsletter Production</u></p> <p>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 MEETING

6 pm, Wednesday, APRIL 9, 2014

AN POITIN STIL RESTAURANT

2323 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093.

To assist our planning, please send your reservation to arrive by April 1, 2014.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Lieutenant Colonel Paul L. Carroll, US Army

Director and Professor of Military Science, the Johns Hopkins University

LTC Carroll commands the JHU Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), which has just received the MacArthur Award for 2012-2013. The award recognizes the JHU unit as the best in comparison with the 38 ROTC units in the region, based on achievement of the unit's mission, cadets' performance and standing on the Army Cadet Command's national order of merit list.

After enlisting in 1992, LTC Carroll received his commission through Officer Candidate School in 1994. In his career as an Armor Branch officer he has served in Korea and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as the officer in charge of the current operations fusion cell for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq and U.S. Forces Iraq in 2009-10.

RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER MEETING AT Au Poitin Stil, April 9, 2014

The Star Spangled Banner Chapter will meet April 9, 2014, 6.00 pm at Au Poitin Stil Restaurant. Cocktail/social hour begins at 6.00, brief business meeting at 6.45, dinner at 7.30 with guest speaker.

FIXED PRICE MENU @ \$36 per person. CASH BAR, complimentary soft drinks, coffee & tea. MENU SELECTION to be made at the dinner. House salad; choice of entrée: Gaelic Steak, Crab Cake, or Chicken Marsala; bread pudding.

Make check to The Star Spangled Banner Chapter. Please consider a donation to the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Mail your check and the reservation form to:

COL James Shelley, USA
142 Glyndon Trace Drive
Reistertown, MD, 21136

Information or last minute reservations, call
COL Shelley at 443 570-5775

RESERVATION FORM FOR APRIL 9, 2014 MEETING AT AN POITIN STIL RESTAURANT

FIXED PRICE MENU @ \$36 per person.

Name _____ Guest Names (for name tags) _____

Your email to receive confirmation _____

Total number for reservation _____ Dinner Cost \$ _____

Donation for MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ Check Total \$ _____

SAMPLE LETTER FOR MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Dear

I read with great interest in a recent Washington Post article that both the House (by **90%**), and the Senate (by **78%**) passed legislation with the stated goal..."to keep the wealthy in state". My congratulations on obtaining such unanimity on such a worthy goal. I would encourage you to maintain that unanimity on another equally worthy goal: the exemption of military retired pay from state taxes.

The retired military (past, present, and future) in Maryland may not fall into the "wealth" category according to their net worth, but rather they possess all the traits and attributes that make good citizens; i.e. educated, highly skilled, law abiding, property owners, etc. that are being driven out of our state to escape ever increasing taxes. Military retirees, many of whom accept post-retirement employment in Maryland, elect to live in a neighboring state...it's so much easier to commute to their job in Maryland while the lower taxes (in their new state) more than offsets the commuting costs. As a result, Maryland loses the income that would result from the retirees' second career income, spouse and dependent income, property taxes and various other sales and use taxes. In fact, of the 7 billion loss referenced in the Post article, 3.1 billion (44%) of that amount is actually going to three neighboring states: Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, with only 4 billion going to Florida. (Same source 'howmoneywalks.com')

Having now justified the "wealthy" legislation, the very same justification quoted by legislators in the Post applies to military retirees; i.e. "**...tax burdens were prompting people to move out of state**", "**...many...move elsewhere when retirement approaches...to avoid...tax**", "**...taxes that would be generated if more of those residents stayed in Maryland would compensate for the expected loss of...tax revenue**". And miracle of miracles, both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House supported the justification! The fact is, based on the Post article; the legislature has articulated the precise reasoning for justifying the passage of this legislation that the various veteran service organizations have been presenting for the past 10 years in addressing the exemption of military retired pay.

My question is: Why is the loss of retirees a sufficient justification for supporting and passing SB 602/HB739 and ignored when considering SB 278 and HB 442? **I would appreciate a response explaining the rationale for this inconsistency.**

Sincerely,