

☆☆☆☆☆ **MARCH-- APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER** ☆☆☆☆☆

**AMBASSADOR ROBERT FORD ** LAST U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN DAMASCUS
GUEST SPEAKER FOR APRIL MEETING**

REPORTS ON VA REHAB CENTER BBQ & FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

REMEMBRANCES OF LCDR SHIRLEY ALGER AND CWO RICHARD JORDAN

MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING, APRIL 15, 2015 * MAKE RESERVATIONS**



Assignments in Izmir,
Cairo, Algiers,
Yaounde', Bahrain,
Bagdad, Damascus,
serving 1985-2014.

**AMBASSADOR ROBERT FORD**
Former Ambassador to Syria
Guest Speaker

Described as one of the best Arabists in the State Department. An expert on Middle Eastern affairs, actually serving in Damascus until 2012, later giving Senate testimony on strategy for defeat of ISIS.

Ambassador to Syria (2010-2014)
Ambassador to Algeria (2006-2008)

Some career highlights.

- Entered U.S. Foreign Service I 1985
- Posted to Izmir, Cairo, Algiers, Yaounde`
- Deputy Chief of Mission in Bahrain, 2001-2002
- Political Counselor to Embassy in Baghdad, 2004-2006
- Ambassador to Algeria, 2006-2008 (Bush Administration)
- Ambassador to Syria, 2010-2014 (Obama Administration)
- Visited Hama in Syria, giving visible support to protestors against Assad regime
- Recipient of multiple Department of State awards
- Profile in Courage Award in 2012 for Syrian service

NEWS ABOUT AMBASSADOR ROBERT FORD. Ambassador Ford has commented publicly on occasion since his resignation as Ambassador to Syria and his retirement last year. Chapter members might enjoy the interview for CNN by Christiane Amanpour in June 2014. See <http://amanpour.blogs.cnn.com/2014/06/03/former-u-s-ambassador-to-syria-i-could-no-longer-defend-the-american-policy-robert-ford/>

RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT. Clip or provide the information on Reservation Form on last page. Please mail with your check to arrive by 11 April 2015. The venue for the meeting is large enough for you to invite your interested friends. Please do!


SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER DINNER MEETING.....MARCH 26, 2015, 6:30 PM

Star Spangled Banner Chapter members are cordially invited to attend the **Susquehanna Chapter Dinner Meeting on March 26, 2015**. The meeting will be at **510 Johnny's**, 510 Marketplace Drive, Bel Air, MD 21014, <http://www.510johnnys.com>, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Guest speakers are Amy Dean and Brian O'Donnell, experts and managers at Aberdeen Proving Ground for chemical agent destruction and recovery projects at military facilities.

Cost of dinner is \$30 per person. Make reservations by sending email with names for badges to TJ Staffieri at tjs3tjs3@gmail.com. Checks made out to "Susquehanna Chapter, MOAA" will be taken at the door. More details at <http://Susquehannamoaa.com/SusquehannaChapterActivitiesUpcoming.html>.

CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR for 2015

EVENTS	MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS ON APRIL 15.
April 15, 2015 Wed., 6.30 pm 	Dinner Meeting, The Pimlico Room, Mount Washington Tavern, Baltimore, MD. 5700 Newberry Street, Baltimore, 410-367-6903, mtwashingtontavern.com Guest Speaker: Ambassador Robert Ford, former ambassador to Syria. After serving in Damascus for a year, with threats on his life, he closed the embassy in 2012 and headed the Syria Crisis team for the State Department. Before Syria he spent nearly five years within Baghdad, Iraq, as the senior political advisor and later deputy to Ambassadors Negroponte, Khalilzad, Crocker, and Hill. Retiring from State in 2014, he is a Senior Fellow at the Middle Easter Institute in Washington, D.C., and is on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University. He testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on U.S. Strategy to Defeat ISIS on September 14, 2014.
May 30, 2015 Saturday; Tour 1030, Lunch noon	Tour and Lunch at Inner Harbor. A special tour of the USS Constellation, guided by chapter member MAJ Glenn Williams, former Curator, beginning at 1030. Lunch will be at McCormick & Schmick's , Inner Harbor. Inviting Astronaut Reid Wiseman to speak at lunch.
July 25, 2015 Saturday	Lunch at Dry Dock Restaurant, on grounds of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis; and tour of the updated Naval Academy Museum guided by the Curator.
September 26, 2015 Saturday	Lunch and visit to Martin Aviation Airport and Museum. Expert Guides.
November 18, 2015 Wednesday	Chapter Annual Banquet at Mount Washington Tavern, Baltimore. Inviting a Key Political Figure, hopefully a Congressman!

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2015 -----Have you sent yours?



Annual dues remain \$15.00 for the year 2015. It turns out that "dues online" through National MOAA has some startup difficulties. Meanwhile, **please make out a check for \$15 to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter and submit the form on the last page or send a note with the information.** Advise if you require the Newsletter by regular mail. (See last page for the form.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Of particular note is the honor the Chapter has to host the former Ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford. He will be our guest speaker for our dinner meeting April 15, 2015 starting at 6:30 pm at the Mt. Washington Tavern. I would encourage everyone to advertise this event. Bring along prospective members and your friends to also enjoy a delicious buffet. Ambassador Ford is considered a "heroic statesman!" According to the Wall Street Journal he has recently participated in discussions with the new Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter advising him to be careful who the US empowers in the Middle East. He was the foremost State Department expert on Syria and Arabic affairs before retiring a year ago. Don't miss this unique opportunity and wear your new Chapter Lapel Pins! Pins will be distributed to those members who missed the luncheon last February. It promises to be an interesting, educational and exciting evening.

Our Chapter recently fulfilled MOAA's mottoes of "One Powerful Voice" and "Never Stop Serving." Several of us traveled to the Maryland State Legislature to show support for the state tax exempt retired military pay bills the new governor supports. Prospects of success are improving so your letters to state legislators are important. See Legislative Update or MD Council at www.starspan.org for assistance.

On March 7th, ten members supported the Morgan State ROTC Alumni that sponsored the "Tailgate Luncheon" for patients at the Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center. Kudos to LTC Annette Brown for planning and coordinating this outstanding event for both organizations. Volunteers brought the patients to the dining room, served them lunch and then returned them to their rooms with gifts. Our Chapter also made a monetary contribution to the event. The Center is a new and modern 110 bed facility with an experienced and caring staff. It is an excellent example of what good care the VA is providing. Enjoy the pictures.

In conclusion, here are seven good reasons to tell a prospect why he or she should join our Chapter:

- *Make yourself heard. MOAA's national legislative agenda to protect earned benefits.
- *Give back to the community. Support the VA, other veteran programs, ROTC, JROTC & charities.
- *Add value to member's lives. Interesting and educational Chapter programs.
- *Fellowship and Network with fellow officers. Meetings and events.
- *Stay informed. Newsletters, websites-- www.starspan.org, meetings, Military Officer Magazine.
- *Influence Maryland legislation. Tax free military retirement pay.
- *Camaraderie with a purpose. Fellowship at events and service projects with fellow officers!

Respectfully, Tom Seybold, 410-561-5377, tkseybold@hotmail.com

MOAA has *The Survivors Guide* under development

MOAA is developing a new publication, "*The Survivors Guide*," to assist surviving spouses. It is in the format of a worksheet for a couple to fill in before it may be needed. It includes information on both military and civilian agencies.

Most publications dealing with personal affairs for survivors, retirement planning, planning a military funeral, etc. are covered on MOAA's website and may be downloaded or mailed for free to those with a premium or life membership. See <http://www.moaa.org/infoexchange/>

Members and spouses should obtain the *MOAA Personal Affairs Action Guide*. Call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622 to request *Survivors Checklist* while the guide is in development.

TAILGATE LUNCHEON AT LOCK RAVEN VA REHABILITATION CENTER



George Wright & Bill Shea checking "Who needs seconds?" (Top Row.)
Annette Brown serves dessert. (Middle Row.)
Bill & Carol Shea enjoy rehab patient; Nancy & Bud Wanner relax from serving line. (Bottom.)



REPORT ON FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING



Thirty-five members and guests of the Star Spangled Banner Chapter met for lunch at Tark's Grill in Timonium for a luncheon meeting on February 4, 2015. Major General James K. Gilman, MD, USA (Ret.), who is now Executive Director, Military & Veterans Health Institute, Johns Hopkins University, was our guest speaker. General Gillman commented about the need to connect the military and veterans health systems more closely to the academic scientific world in order to more quickly solve the health problems that confront service members, veterans, and their families. He gave illustrations of how certain practical problems at a military hospital were solved by the inventiveness of engineering students from Johns Hopkins University, once his institute facilitated the meeting of the two units.

In the biannual ceremony the Chapter Officers and Board for 2015-2016 were installed. Our new President, COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.) announced a new customized Star Spangled Banner Chapter lapel pin and pinned the first new pin on the recent Past President, CAPT Mike DeHaemer, USN (Ret.)

Thereafter each Chapter member at the meeting was given the new pin, which has the crossed flags of MOAA and the United States with a banner below of "Star Spangled Banner Chapter." The remaining members will receive their chapter pins when they attend Chapter events later on.

MEET CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

US Air Force Board Representative: Lieutenant Colonel Edward R. Herbert III, USAF (Ret.)
(Ed is also the Chapter Legislative Affairs Liaison.)

Lieutenant Colonel Edward R. Herbert, III, served as an officer and aviator for over 35 years in the Maryland Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. He received his commission at the Air National Guard's I.G Brown Academy of Military Science, served as a traditional national guardsman, in various military capacities. After commissioning, he entered Undergraduate Navigator Training at Mather Air Force Base and received his Certificate of Aeronautical Rating on April 27th, 1982. Posted to Little Rock Air Force Base where he completed the C-130 Navigator Mission Qualification. He returned to Glenn L. Martin Air National Guard Base to serve in the capacities acquired from all of his training. Lt Col Herbert served primarily as a C-130 Combat Delivery Airlift Navigator as a drilling guardsman.

EDUCATION

- **1980** BS University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- **1985** Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center Course AATTC
- **1994** Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base Seminar
- **1997** MS University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- **1997** Air Command Staff College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base

Rating: **Master Navigator**; Flight hours: **More than 4,400**

TAPS

Our Chapter lost two longtime members during this past winter. Here are remembrances of LCDR Shirley Alger, USN (Ret.) and CWO5 Richard Jordan, USA (Ret.)

Lieutenant Commander Shirley Knott Alger, USN (Ret.)

LCDR Alger, a member of our chapter for several years past died January 4. He was born September 15, 1927 in Charles Town, West Virginia. He graduated from Charles Town High School ('46); enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and won an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy. He did not graduate from the Academy but went on to graduate from Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, taking a Bachelor of Arts degree (English). After finishing college, Shirley entered OCS and was commissioned in the Naval Reserve, from which he eventually retired as a LCDR. After retiring he took a position with the Social Security Administration as a systems analyst, retiring from this position in 1993. LCDR Alger continued his studies, receiving a Master of Arts (Public School Admiration) from the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia; and he was a dissertation shy from being obtaining a PhD from Cornell University.

He served one term as president of the Saint George's Society of Baltimore; and in addition to being very active in it was active in the Saint Andrew's Society of Baltimore; and several masonic groups, as well as Saint Andrews Christian Community Church in Roland Park. He was an ardent fisherman and an avid hunter – (Chesapeake Bay duck hunting and a winner of the Maryland Skeet Championship) - he had this past October returned from pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

LCDR Alger is survived by his wife, Ruth Matthews Alger, who we welcome as a new associate member, two daughters and a great granddaughter.

Chief Warrant Officer Richard F. (Dick) Jordan, Sr. USA (Ret.)

Chief Warrant Officer Dick Jordan served as our Chapter's Treasurer for most of a decade, only retiring from that office in late 2012. He was born January 19, 1925 in Hagerstown and passed away January 29, 2015 in his hometown.

Dick began his military career in 1942 when he enlisted in the United States Navy, and ended his Navy career on March 17, 1951. On March 18, 1951, he entered the Maryland Army National Guard and served until his retirement in January 1985. From 1985 to September of 2012, he was employed with the Maryland Military Department as Reservation Manager of an Army National Guard (Gunpowder Military Reservation). As of September 1, 2012, his overall years of service within the military were 70 years, 4 months, 12 days.

Dick's decorations include personal awards from the Army, the Navy, and the Army National Guard. In addition he was authorized more than 30 campaign ribbons, including multiple awards for service in WW II. He also received commendations and a certificate of thirty years' service from the state of Maryland.

He served as the Chairman of the Warrant Officers Association 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Community, organizing public displays and celebrations during the years 1991-1995, representing the Department of Defense, He served as Chairman of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Community. He was also a member of the Maryland World War II Memorial Commission and Department of Maryland Commander 29th Division Association. Dick was a member

of numerous military associations, a member of the Maryland Military Historical Society and other historical institutes, and a member of 32nd Degree Mason Masonic Order AF & AM.

Dick is survived by one daughter, Sherry Kirby of Williamsport; one son, Richard F. Jordan Jr. and his wife of Hagerstown; four grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter.

VIETNAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE, SPECIAL TO MARYLAND VETERANS	
	<p>MPT SALUTES VIETNAM VETERANS</p> <p>Maryland Public Television is leading in the production of a \$2.5 million undertaking to Salute the Vietnam Veterans of Maryland, culminating in 2016, the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. MPT will honor Maryland and regional veterans in complement to the Ken Burns series on PBS stations, appearing in 2016.</p>
<p>LZ PIMLICO— the EVENT June 11-12, 2016 Pimlico, Baltimore</p>	<p>Pimlico Racetrack will be the venue, which tens of thousands of people from the Mid-Atlantic are expected to attend. The event will include ceremonies and tributes to welcome, thank, and memorialize the veterans of the Vietnam War.</p>
<p>LZ PIMLICO -- the MESSAGE To Vietnam Veterans</p>	<p><i>This landing zone is secure from hurt and pain of the past; we have cleared you for safe landing; we welcome you home, and we thank you for your service to your country.</i></p>
<p>MPT DOCUMENTARY Of Maryland Vietnam Vets</p>	<p>MPT is producing a compelling documentary series for 2016. MPT is planning a multi-hour series allowing veterans themselves to tell their stories. Given its proximity to Washington, D.C., Maryland Public Television will also cover The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, the role of Walter Reed Medical Center, the U.S. Naval Academy.</p>
<p>PARTICIPATION, VOLUNTEERING and DONATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening session hosting or participation 410-581-4138 • Sponsorship 410-581-4080 • Contributions/donations/grants 410 581-4083 • General information/ event participation 410-581-4262

The Star Spangled Banner Chapter

<p>Newsletter Online: http://starspan.org Webmaster: LT George Wright, USN (Ret.) Geo@loyola.edu</p>	<p>Newsletter Production Editor: CAPT Mike DeHaemer USN (Ret) 443-695-4741, mike.dehaemer@gmail.com</p>
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RESERVATION FORM: APRIL 15, 2015, 6.30 PM, MT. WASHINGTON TAVERN

5700 Newberry Street, Baltimore, 410-367-6903, mtwashingtontavern.com

DINNER in PIMLICO ROOM on second floor of Mt. Washington Tavern. (Elevator available.)
Social Hour with Cash Bar at 6.30 pm.

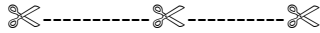
Buffet Dinner

- **Appetizers: BLT Cups, Crab Dip, Veggies and Cheeses**
- **Caesar Salad**
- **Main Courses: Pasta Dishes, Chicken Piccata, Shrimp Skewers, Sirloin Kabobs**
- **Assorted Desserts**

Directions and Parking at Mount Washington Tavern

- I-83 to Northern Parkway (east) exit
- Left at first signal onto Falls Road (north)
- At first traffic light, turn left onto the Kelly Avenue bridge
- Cross bridge, turn right at second light onto Sulgrave Avenue
- One block to 5700 Newbury Street

Valet Parking is available. Parking lot (25 yards from restaurant) to use is just West of the light rail lot and probably safer. You don't have to feed meters after 6 pm. There is street parking but on some evenings it may be crowded.



RESERVATION FORM APRIL 15, 2015
(Please mail to arrive by April 11, 2015)

FIXED PRICE Buffet Dinner @ \$35 per person.

Add Optional Donation for MOAA Scholarship.

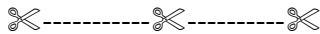
Name _____ Guest Names _____

Your email to receive confirmation _____

Total number for reservation _____ Luncheon Amount \$ _____

Add donation for MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Make out check to the **Star Spangled Banner Chapter**. Mail to: CPT John Baesch, Treasurer
301 Warren Avenue, #203
Baltimore, MD 21230



CHAPTER DUES FORM FOR 2015

DUES SUBMISSION FORM FOR 2015 CHAPTER DUES (\$15) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name: (last) _____ (first) _____ (middle) _____

Branch of Service _____ **Rank** _____ (ret)(act)(fmr)(aux)

Name _____ **Spouse Name** _____

Address: (street/apt no.) _____ (city/state/zip) _____

Preferred Phone _____ **Other phone** _____ **Email** _____

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