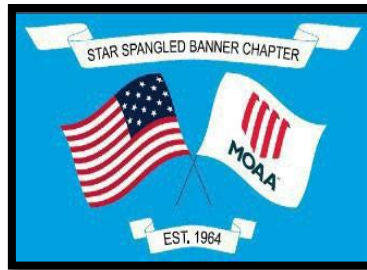




Never stop serving!



Banner & client Eric

Join us at www.starspan.org

Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA

August 2025 Newsletter

Contents: Sep 2025 Dinner Meeting, President's Message, May 28th Dinner Meeting Recap, JROTC & ROTC news, Legislative Update, paws4vets update, Future Event Dates

Dinner Meeting

Pappas Restaurant, Cockeysville

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm



"The Men of My Old Line!": Maryland Continentals and Beginning of the U.S. Army

***Glenn F. Williams, PhD,
Military Historian, Major
(Ret) USA***

Glenn F. Williams is a retired Army officer who entered public history as a second career. He recently retired from federal civilian service as a Senior Historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair, DC, where he facilitated staff ride exercises at historic battlefields for military units, developed and posted *This Day in Army History* features on CMH's social media platforms, and served as project officer for the Army 250th Birthday and Semiquincentennial of the Revolutionary War commemorations. He is the co-author of *Opening Shots in the Colonies 1775-1776*, first monograph in the commemorative monograph series *Campaigns of the Revolutionary War*. His other positions at CMH included Historian of the National Museum of the U.S. Army and Historian / Operations Officer of the Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration. Glenn also served as Historian of the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, Curator / Historian of the USS *Constellation* Museum, and Assistant Curator of the Baltimore Civil War Museum – President Street Station. Outside of CMH, he is the author of several books, including *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign Against the Iroquois* (Westholme 2005), recipient of the Thomas J. Fleming Award for the Outstanding Revolutionary War Book of 2005 and named among "The 100 Best American Revolution Books of All Time" by the *Journal of the American Revolution* in the spring 2017 issue. His book *Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era* (Westholme 2017) earned Glenn recognition for contributions to the study of 18th Century American military history with the Shelby Cullom Davis Award of the Ohio Society of Colonial Wars and the Judge Robert K. Woltz Award of the French and Indian War Foundation. In addition, Glenn is the author of *USS CONSTELLATION: A Short History of the Last All-Sail Warship Built by the U.S. Navy* (Donning, 2001). as well as several journal and magazine articles, a contributor to *Battles of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812: Two Interpretive Maps* (National Geographic 2012), and the essay "Let It Begin Here: the battle of Lexington and Concord" in *The 10 Key Campaigns of the American Revolution* (Regnery History 2020). In retirement he continues to research and author books, present lectures, advise filmmakers, and lead staff rides for military units and tours of battlefields and historic sites for general audiences. He holds a B.S. in History from Loyola University, a M.A. in History and Certificate in Public History from University of Maryland Baltimore County, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Maryland, College Park.

DINNER RESERVATIONS: **PAPPAS RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR**. 550 Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030. (410) 666-0030

\$50.00 per person, including three courses, coffee, tea, non-alcoholic beverages, gratuities, and tax. Cash bar is available for cocktails, wine, and beer.

Please make your reservation today. The final count is due on **5 Sep.**

SOCIAL TIME: 6:00 PM. DINNER: 6:30 PM. DRESS: Military Uniform or Business Casual.

MENU SELECTIONS (at seating)

Entrée Selections (Select 1 entrée.)

Pappas' Famous Crab Cake, eight ounces.

Orange Roughy, filet broiled in lemon butter sauce.

New York Strip Steak, eight ounces, Angus steak.

Chicken Marsala, chicken breast with sauteed mushrooms in Marsala wine sauce.

All entrees are served with garden salad, baked potato, a fresh vegetable, and dessert.

All members PLEASE register online for the meeting at:

<https://www.starspan.org/Chapter Info/Calendar/UpcomingEvents> and click on the Sep 10 Dinner Meeting, EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO PAY BY CHECK. (Our site is now secure, make sure you type in the https:// if you are having trouble)

Reservation Form: FOR MAIL IN ONLY

You MUST mail the reservation form below by **22 Aug.** We need a firm count by **5 Sep.** MAIL CHECKS TO TREASURER RITA M. KUREK at the address below. (410) 294-4913

For more information: Phone George Stakias, President. 443 707-6947; or email georgestakias@yahoo.com. Please call Rita Kurek if you have doubts about your mailed reservation arriving by 5 Sep.

RESERVATION FORM (mail in)

NAME _____

Number of Guests _____

DINNER RESERVATION at \$50.00 per person..... \$ _____

DUES FOR 2025 \$30.00 (if not paid already).... \$ _____

Donation for Army Officer's Guides (gift to ROTC Cadets) \$ _____

Donation to paws4vets (our annual fundraising cause) \$ _____

TOTAL.....\$ _____

Make Checks payable to: **Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA**

Mail check to: Treasurer, Rita M. Kurek, 1231 Engleberth Rd, Essex MD 21221



The Star Spangled Banner Chapter

COL (Ret) George Stakias, USAR

President's Message

I would like to take this time and hope all members had a very nice summer break spending it with loved ones and taking time off to enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation. As we are gearing towards the end of the year 2025, we have a lot to be grateful for as well as looking forward to the next couple of months of activities. I kindly request that you be an active member through this chapter, and if you ever need a ride to any of our upcoming dinner meetings, “we are here to help”. As we slowly and gradually are increasing our membership, we would like to hear from those of you who may not have been heard. Your voice is of great importance, and we desperately need your participation. We are actively pursuing new members and are looking for current and new members to take part in the chapter by volunteering their time for a committee assignment for the JROTC Chairperson vacancy or President of the Chapter. We actively encourage you to donate for our noteworthy causes of the **paws4vets organization and the ROTC gift of the Army Officer Guides and ROTC/JROTC Leadership medals. These donations can be made on our website at www.starspan.org under Chapter Info, drop down “Donations”, or added to any upcoming dinner reservation.**

Thank you so much! Looking forward to seeing you at our next dinner meeting and upcoming events!

RECAP- Dinner Meeting May 28th, Cheryl Glang, MOAA MD Council Surviving Spouses Liaison

Cheryl Glang gave a comprehensive and detailed presentation and



handouts on “Preparing for Survivorship” with important Estate Planning checklists, survivors guide, beneficiary and military funeral information and many more topics. For example, she recommended starting a binder now, and emphasized what documents to gather for your binder such Wills & Trusts, Marriage & Birth Certificates, SS cards, passports, the DD

Form 214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, and writing your own obituary ahead of time because you know best the military information that you may want published. She even included information about Burial at Sea! Cheryl provided this link below for easy access to the information presented. Those who were unable to attend last meeting may access this information as well, and if you have any questions, please contact Cheryl at glanghaus@gmail.com.

Here is the Google Drive link:

[Preparing for Survivorship Google Drive Link](#)

Preparing for Survivorship Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dn0_C4OcJtwS-4VFsYHLzK0N7Ox2veFM?usp=sharing

You may have to copy and paste the above links!

The following photos were from the 28 May 2025 SSBC Meeting



President George Stakias presents FSK Bust to Cheryl Glang



Ann & Frank Hilsher and Pat Gray



Angelo & Shelly Catalano



Linda Rishell and Mike Spencer

JROTC News:

We were very happy this year to award two JROTC MOAA Leadership Awards!!



CAPT (Ret) Chuck Rishell, USMC presented the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award to Marine Corp Cadet 2nd Lt Brenna Glessner on 14 May 2025 at Franklin High School.



CAPT (Ret) John Backer, USNR (2nd from R) presented the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award to AF Cadet Yabili U. Pembamoto on 24 April 2025 at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Col Backer is an alumni of BPI! Also pictured are Cadre Col Cristiano Marchiori (L) and TSG (Ret) Paul Smith (R).

ROTC News: Col (Ret) Frank Hilsher, Chairman



SSBC Member, LTC (Ret) John Davidson (Right), presented the Sons of the American Revolution Awards at the Blue Jay Battalion (Johns Hopkins) Awards ceremony at UMBC on 1 May 2025.



PMS LTC Brandon Thompson addresses the group and swears in cadets at UMBC 1 May 2025.



Cadet Solana Postma received the MOAA Leadership Award presented by Col (Ret) Frank Hilsher at the John Hopkins ceremony at UMBC on 1 May 2025.

As you can see from all of these ROTC photos, Frank has been very busy!!!

Many thanks to Frank and all our presenters!!



Col (Ret) Frank Hilsher addresses the cadets and presents the Army Officer Guides to the graduating class at Morgan State University on 15 May 2025. Nine LTS were commissioned: 4 in MDARNG, 1 in TXARNG, 1 in USAR, 3 Active Duty (2 in Army Nurse Corps and 1 in Quartermaster Corps)



(Pictured on left) Col (Ret) Frank Hilsher presented the MOAA Leadership Awards to Cadets Wright (left) and Meyers (right) at the Morgan State University ceremony on 1 May 2025. (Pictured on right) BG "Moe" Barnett, Command General of Cadet Command, Ft. Knox, KY, administers the Oath of Office at the same ceremony.



MOAA Award recipient rising MS 4 Cadet Reese Kropp (center) presents a thank you memento to Col Yesenia Garcia, Commander of the 704th Military Brigade, the largest Signal Intelligence Brigade in the US Army and the day's commissioning officer at Loyola University on 22 May 2025.



Thirteen 2LTs Commissioned at Loyola. Col Garcia addresses the group.



Ten new 2LTs from UMBC, JHU, U of Balto. and Stevenson Univ. pose with JHU PMS Brandon Thompson (L) and MG Antonio Munera (former US Army Cadet Command and the day's commissioning officer), Major Sylla and Captain Ospina, JHU Cadre (R) at the Star Spangled Banner Flag House on 25 May 2025.



MAJ Damon Knauss, PMS at Morgan State University prepares for ribbon cutting at new ROTC Training Lab on Campus 1 May 2025.

Legislative Update: LTC (Ret) Bill Gray

National Issues – Reach out to your Senators and Congressional Representatives

The first session of the 119th Congress is scheduled to conclude in January 2026. There are several pieces of legislation pending during this session that require action.

- **Major Richard Star Act:** Combat-injured veterans should receive full compensation. At present, the Department of Defense compensation is reduced by the amount of any VA compensation. With this change, Disabled Veterans will receive both their full Uniform Services retirement and their full VA disability compensation.
- **TRICARE Access to Care:** Servicemembers and military families can often face administrative barriers and red tape their counterparts covered by civilian health plans do not when it comes to reproductive health. By strengthening access to care, we can improve mission readiness and boost retention across the all-volunteer force.
- **Military Spouse Hiring Act:** Spouse employment is a critical component for the financial stability of military families, and adding military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit will incentivize more businesses to hire military spouses.
- The **Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R. 4768/S. 2448)** would allow military dependents to remain on a parent's plan until age 26, matching the requirement for civilian plans and saving military families the cost of more expensive coverage for children over 21 (non students) and age 23 (full time students).

State Issues – Notes from 2025 Maryland Legislative Session.

As we are all aware, the 2025 session was dominated by budget issues that impacted our legislative priorities.

- The proposal to ban companies from charging Uniform Services Veterans for disability claim assistance was not approved. With more careful wording and the experience of such legislation in other states, this proposal will stand a better chance in 2026.
- The fiscal concerns have continued to eliminate taxes on Uniform Services retirement pay but we will continue to push for the gradual increase in the maximum amount that is exempt from taxation.
- We have pushed for expedite licensure and certification for Uniform Service members, their spouses, and retirees. We will continue to advocate for the use of "Uniform Services" rather than "Armed Services".
- Increased availability for affordable childcare for Uniform Service families remains a sensitive issue but needs our attention.
- Legislation was introduced in both chambers to allow School Supervisors permitting dependent children of service members to enroll early and maintain enrollment until they complete the highest grade offered at the school. While both houses passed their versions, no final action was taken. As neither bill has a cost for the State, we can push again during the 2026 session.

Our Newest paws4vets sponsor dog, Stella, is nearly 8 months old and is in the “Public Access” Training Phase. See Update Below.

Service Dog In-Training
UPDATE
July 2025

provided to:



STELLA



Birthdate: 11/20/24

Current Training Phase:

Public Access

Current Location:

p4p Headquarters, NC

Training Update:

Hello! It's me STELLA! I am currently in Wilmington, NC working on my Public Access Skills. I have been perfecting many commands including "Alert" and "Anchor." My favorite command is "Fist Bump!" I am currently working hard on item retrieval and recalls. My favorite places to train recently have been the Fire Department, restaurants, and different pet stores! In my downtime I love to cuddle, play with my friends, and play with my toys! I can't wait to update you soon!



Donations Needed!!!! 2nd Request!!

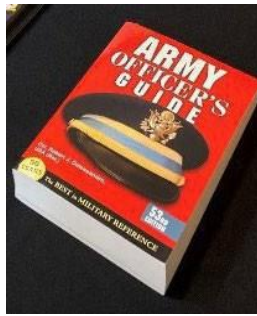
Since our next **paws4vets** major fundraising event is not until 2026, we are sponsoring a **“PUPPY SHOWER” for Stella in 2025!** There are several ways you can participate. You can make a donation either by check, made out to Star Spangled Banner Chapter with **paws4vets** in the memo, or donate online with PayPal at www.starspan.org under Advocacies, then click **paws4vets** foundation then scroll down to the “Donations” tab and follow the prompts. You can also add a donation to your registration for the current and all future meetings!

In addition, you can donate gifts for the dog, like toys, items for the care and grooming of the dog, training needs, etc. by visiting the **paws4people** website. Go to www.paws4people.org, click on “Get Involved”, then “Ways to Give”, then scan down to the last block “Give a Dog A Gift”, then click “Give Now”. That will take you directly to the Amazon link and their wish list where you can order and have it shipped directly to them. ***It’s a great way to donate things that the puppies need for their care while in training for 2 years!***

Lastly, you can continue to donate to our first named dog “Banner” and his client Eric Thompson, USMC, directly on the same website. New and refresher training is provided by the foundation via donations throughout Banner & Eric’s relationship. Their direct link is <https://paws4people.org/client/eric-thompson-usmc-veteran-banner/>

Please let our **paws4vets** chairperson, Rita Kurek, know of any contributions you make directly on the **paws4people** website (unless you wish to remain anonymous) so that we can count them in all our donations for the year!

THE PUPPIES THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!



Dues pay for the Army Officer Guides we present to newly commissioned 2nd LTs each year at our three supported ROTCs.

New Members are always welcome!!
Recruit your colleagues!

All dinner dates for the 2025 year have been set! The Speaker for the November Annual Meeting will be available as we get closer to that event but mark your calendars with the dates now! Our next paws4vets event will be 25 April **2026** to move it back to the spring timeframe. Tickets will be available at the November 2025 Meeting.

Future Chapter Events for 2025/2026:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
10 September 2025 6pm	Dinner Meeting Speaker: Glenn F. Williams, PhD, Military Historian Venue: Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar, Cockeysville, MD 21030 POC: George Stakias (420) 707-6947
12 November 2025 6pm	Annual Dinner Meeting Speaker: TBD Venue: Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar, Cockeysville, MD 21030 POC: George Stakias (410) 707-6947
25 April 2026 4-8pm	Paws4vets Fundraiser Venue: Columbus Gardens, Perry Hall, MD 21128 Band: Double Play POC: Rita Kurek (410) 294-4913

This letter is published by the Star Spangled Banner Chapter. It is a 501(c)19 nonprofit affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The Star Spangled Banner Chapter is one of more than 400-plus chapters affiliated with National MOAA. Our chapter is a non-partisan veterans' organization. MOAA and its affiliates are dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitment to currently serving, retired and former members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. Our chapter supports national MOAA's federal legislative actions and MD Council's State legislative priorities.



*** Newsletter Online: www.starspan.org Newsletter Editor and
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The Star Spangled Banner Chapter of the **Military Officers Association of America** is the oldest, continuously operating MOAA chapter in Maryland. Founded in 1964, we provide camaraderie with purpose and align with MOAA's national mission: a strong national defense, taking care of our country's veterans, and protecting the benefits of all who have served and currently serve. Our chapter membership is open to commission and warrant officers of all eight services.