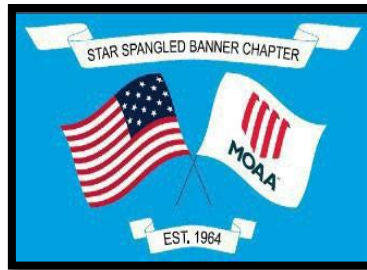




Never stop serving!



Banner & client Eric

Join us at www.starspan.org

Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA

October 2025 Newsletter

Contents: Nov 2025 Annual Dinner Meeting, President's Message, Sep 10 Dinner Meeting Recap, JROTC & ROTC news, Legislative Update, paws4vets update, Future Event Dates

Annual Dinner Meeting

Pappas Restaurant, Cockeysville

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH A. MUCCI

Commander, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry



Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Mucci was born in New Jersey and entered the Army through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Drexel University. He was commissioned as an Armor Officer into the New Jersey Army National Guard in 2004.

LTC Mucci served as a Scout Platoon Leader in 5/117th Cavalry, where he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006 to 2007. He then completed a branch transfer to the Infantry and served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Training

Officer, S4, Assistant S3, and Company Commander in the 1-114th Infantry Regiment. He served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Loyola University Maryland's Army ROTC Program and then completed an interstate transfer to the Maryland Army National Guard. He served as an Operations Officer and Assistant S3 in the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Plans Officer in the 110th Information Operations Battalion, Chief of Collective Training and Evaluations in Maryland's Joint Force Headquarters, Deputy Chief of Operations for the 29th Infantry Division, where he deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield in 2016 to 2017, S3 and XO for the 1-175th Infantry Regiment, where he was activated in support of COVID operations, and S5, S3, and acting XO for 58th Troop Command.

LTC Mucci's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal (w/ two Campaign Stars), and the Combat Action Badge.

LTC Mucci's military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Maneuver Captain's Career Course, FA30 Information Operations Officer Qualification Course, and Command and General Staff College.

LTC Mucci resides in Towson, Maryland with his wife, Emily, and children, Charlotte and Joseph. He works for the Department of Defense and is working toward a master's degree in Transformational Leadership.

LTC Mucci, as the Commander of the only Infantry unit in the State of Maryland, will give an update on the last few missions of the unit and the plan for the coming year in these challenging times. Our President, George Stakias, will be focusing on assisting with the award ceremony & celebration for the 175th Infantry on Dec 6th.

This is our "Annual Meeting" for the year. The Loyola ROTC will present the colors to open the meeting; we will have a 61st anniversary celebratory cake cutting and the commemorative Fallen Soldier's dedicated table. We will conduct a traditional business meeting with a YTD treasurer's report, recap of the 2025 year's events and accomplishments, and nomination of officers for 2026. This is a perfect meeting to bring a spouse or significant other!! Tickets to next year's **paws4vets** event will be available at this meeting. See the flyer later in this newsletter!

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 **7 Nov.**

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 Nov 12 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 **31 Oct.** We need a firm count by **7 Nov.** 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 7 Nov.

RESERVATION FORM (mail in)

NAME _____

Number of Guests _____

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

DUES FOR **2026** \$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

As our year ends with our upcoming Annual Meeting in November, I am pleased to announce that I am willing to continue in the role of President (if approved by the membership, of course), as are most of our existing officers, individual service representatives and committee chairpersons, including our Chaplain. We will need a volunteer for The JROTC Chairperson, which we urgently need to fill, especially considering the possible restructuring that Frank Hilsher mentions later in his ROTC/JROTC Notes section. Please consider volunteering for this position which facilitates recognition of our stellar JROTC cadets with deserved leadership MOAA Awards!!! We will also need to elect a new Surviving Spouse Representative, which can be filled by any member or spouse, not necessarily "surviving". All our other Board members are committed to stay, let's add this chairperson and representative to make our Board complete! Volunteers????? Call me!

We have had another splendid year starting off in January with our milestone "60th Anniversary Celebration" and speaker MG Janeen Birckhead, Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard. We had two additional dinner meetings in May and September with outstanding and informative speakers, Mrs. Cheryl Glang, MD Council Surviving Spouse Liaison and Glenn Williams, PhD, Military Historian. The SSBC Chapter and Maryland MOAA was represented at the "Our Community Salutes" event in April at the Greentown Square Center with attendance by me, Col (ret) Rita Kurek and the MD Council President, Maj (ret) Cathy Hampton. This event, held yearly, is always an outstanding tribute and send off for our new enlistees joining the military right out of High School. You can

find out more about this program and/or donate to this cause at www.ourcommunitysalutes.org.

Increasing our membership is how we will sustain this outstanding Chapter. Please consider inviting a colleague to our next meeting and encouraging them to join our organization. CAPT (ret) Mike DeHaemer did just that and I am happy to welcome new member, BG (ret) Bill Bilo.

We actively encourage you to donate for our noteworthy causes of the **paws4vets** organization and the ROTC gift of the Army Officer Guides. 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.

Our major fundraiser for the **paws4vets** foundation is soon approaching and I encourage every member to attend this very fun event for such a worthy cause and I’m hoping many members once again will sell a table of ten for which you will receive our superb event coin.



Front



Rear

Please see the **paws4vets event flyer in this newsletter. Tickets will be available at the November Annual Meeting!! SAVE THE DATE!!!**

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

RECAP- Dinner Meeting Sep 10th, 2025.



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

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

Dr. Williams provided an informative and entertaining presentation on the Maryland Militia and Army beginnings. His major points were these:

The seven regiments of the Maryland Line were arguably among the best troops of the Continental Army during the American War for Independence: from 1776 to the final peace treaty in 1783. Troops of the Maryland Line served in the toughest battles, including most of the major engagements in both the Northern and Southern theaters of war. Their valor and sacrifice at the battle of Long Island led General George Washington to remark "what brave fellows I must lose this day." When the reconstituted 1st Maryland Regiment marched into the camp in Morristown in the spring of 1777, Washington greeted them by calling, "Here are the men of my old line!" Their enduring legacy is why Maryland is known as the "Old Line State."

The following photos were from the 10 Sep 2025 SSBC Meeting



President George Stakias presents FSK Bust to Speaker Dr. Glenn Williams



Glenn Williams, PhD fields questions

Ann & Frank Hilsher



John Backer and Chaplain Ted Knach



K. Seybold, M.A. Evans, M. Spencer



Mike Butler & Rita Kurek



John & Jackie Dyer, Jim Shelley



Dave Paolucci



Rob Paolucci asks poignant question.

ROTC & JROTC News: Col (ret) Frank Hilsher, **Chairman**

As many of our members know, the Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA supports 12 Colleges & Universities in our area.

As of this writing, the Cadres of our “umbrella” and allied ROTC UNIVERSITIES are settling into their training programs as Cadet Command prescribes for the current semester.

In recent months, Cadet Command, Ft. Knox, KY experienced a reduction of 168 DA CIVILIAN POSITIONS, spread among 900 SR ROTC teaching campuses. Changes are to be finalized by Summer 2026.

Recently, there was restoration of Six universities teaching ROTC that had been slated for reduction.

We also recently learned that BG Maurice “MO” Barnett, CG, USARMY Cadet Command desires a shift to “One ROTC” with a blending of the best practices of SR ROTC included with JROTC (high school) Cadets.

This means that STARSPAN CHAPTER will be increasing our awards program for JROTC and will need all service members to help make presentations of MOAA LEADERSHIP Medals and citations to appropriate HIGH School level Cadets. This will occur in the Spring semester next year.

I will keep you posted as to changes coming to our Senior ROTC force structure and Manning Documents.

Restructuring ROTC between now and advanced ROTC Camp next year, can be considered major or minor. The devil is in the details.

Frank Hilsher
COL (r) USA
MOAA ROTC CHAIR

Legislative Update: LTC (ret) Bill Gray, Chairman

**Below is a copy of recent email correspondence from Lynn Nash,
Communications Director of the Maryland Military Coalition**

Dear MMC Member (and Friends of the MMC)

It's that time of year when the Coalition begins discussing what legislative issues we'll pursue in the upcoming session. Please mark your calendars and join us on October 20th for our 4th Annual Listening Session. Meet with key Legislative Leaders and other veterans and veteran organizations to learn what is on everyone's mind. We realize that in our current fiscally constrained environment

there will not be enough money in the budget to go around...which is why ***YOUR VOICE*** and ***THOUGHTS*** are so important. Come and tell us what your priorities are!

We know how busy everyone is. Here's a Save the Date so you can block your calendar - a more formal invite will follow shortly.

Thanks in advance.

Lynn

SAVE
the
DATE



Serving Veterans Through Legislative Advocacy

4th Annual Legislative Listening Session
October 20, 2025 1:00 P.M.
Michael Busch Library, Annapolis
Formal invitation to follow

Maryland Military Coalition Goals Going In.

1. Protect Maryland Veterans from Claims Predators by Regulating Claims Companies
 2. Eliminate the Tax on Military Retired Pay
 3. *Expedite Professional Licensure, Certification & Registration
 4. *Expand the Eligibility of the Maryland Veterans' Trust Fund
 5. *Support the Establishment of a Maryland Women Veteran's Museum
- * No or low-cost bills



Star Spangled Banner Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Find us at www.starspan.org

"Never Stop Serving"

Presents our

Annual paws4vets Fundraiser

Bull, Shrimp & Oyster Roast

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

4-8pm

Columbus Gardens

4301 Klosterman Ave, Nottingham, MD 21236

Music by: "Double Play"

Delightful Buffet, Cash Bar, Raffles, Auctions, Wheels of Chance

Tickets are \$60.00 per person or \$550 for a table of ten.

Call Colonel (ret) Rita M. Kurek, chairperson for tickets.

410 574-5330 (H) or 410 294-4913 (C)

or mail order form below with check

Name: _____

#Tickets @\$60 _____ or Table(s) of 10 @\$550 _____

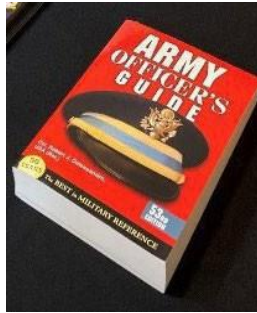
Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like tickets mailed _____ or pick up at will call _____

Make Checks Payable to: Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA

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



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!

Welcome New Member BG (ret) William (Bill) Bilo

Our next paws4vets event will be 25 April 2026 to move it back to the springtime frame. Tickets will be available at the November 2025 Annual Meeting!!

Future Chapter Events for 2025/2026:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
12 November 2025 6pm	Annual Dinner Meeting Speaker: LTC Joseph A. Mucci, Commander 1 st Battalion, 175 th Infantry Venue: Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar, Cockeysville, MD 21030 POC: George Stakias (410) 707-6947
21 Jan 2026	Dinner Meeting Speaker & Venue: TBD 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
Distribution: COL Rita M. Kurek, USAF (Ret) [C: 410 294-4913](tel:4102944913) [H: 410 574-5330](tel:4105745330) rmkurek@aol.com

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.