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Banner & client Eric

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Welcome to the **Star Spangled Banner Chapter** of the **Military Officers Association of America**. We are 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.

March 2024 Newsletter

Contents: April 2024 Dinner Meeting, January Meeting Recap, ROTC news, Legislative News, Paws4vets event info, Future Events.

Dinner Meeting—Pappas Restaurant, Cockeysville
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Make Your Reservation Today



Guest Speaker-BG Adam Flasch, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety and Homeland Security

Adam Flasch is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety and Homeland Security. Responsible for the Departments of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSC), Department of State Police (DSP), Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHS). Mr. Flasch coordinates the Public Safety Portfolio and is the Homeland Security Advisor to Governor Wes Moore. He leads the development of policies, priorities, and strategies for public safety and assists state agencies and local government in the implementation of core homeland security initiatives through executive order, policy and the state/federal grants process. Adam serves as a liaison with the United States Department of Homeland Security and serves on multiple advisory councils including the National Governor's Association Homeland Security Advisory Council and Cybersecurity Policy Advisors Council, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Homeland Security Executive Council, the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC), Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council, and the Maryland Cybersecurity Council. Before joining the Moore/Miller Administration, Adam served in the Maryland National Guard where he recently retired after thirty-four years as a Brigadier General. In his most recent assignment, Brigadier General Flasch served as the Director Joint Staff where he oversaw the integration of National Guard capabilities in both federal and state missions including cybersecurity support for Maryland State Board of Elections, coordination of statewide COVID19 response – including assignment by Governor Hogan as Maryland's first ever Dual-Status Commander overseeing both federal mission partners under federal declaration and National Guard effort during the pandemic. Prior to his joint military assignment, Adam served as the Maryland Army National Guard's Chief of Staff where he oversaw the combat readiness of over 4,500 Soldiers. He managed an annual budget of \$240 million with \$900 million in real estate holdings and executed ground and aviation maintenance/logistics activities throughout the State of Maryland. Prior to his posting as Chief of Staff, Adam held multiple positions of increasing responsibility including multiple echelons of command and staff assignments and overseas training/deployments to US Central Command and US European Command. Adam has multiple awards including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal. He holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College, a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems from the University of Baltimore, and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Towson University

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 available for cocktails, wine, and beer.

Please make your reservation today. Our final count is due **4 April**.

SOCIAL TIME: 6:00 PM. DINNER: 6:30 PM. DRESS: Business Suit 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 must register online for the meeting at

www.starspan.org/Calendar/UpcomingEvents even if you plan to pay by check.

Reservation Form: FOR MAIL IN ONLY

You MUST mail the reservation form below by **27 March**. We need a firm count by **4 April**. MAIL CHECKS TO PRESIDENT GEORGE STAKIAS (see form below)

For more information: Phone George Stakias, President. 443 707-6947; or email georgestakias@yahoo.com. Please call if you have doubts about your mailed reservation arriving by 4 April.

RESERVATION FORM (mail in)

NAME _____

Number of Guests _____

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

DUES FOR 2024 \$30.00..... \$ _____

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

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

TOTAL..... \$ _____

CHECK \$ Checks payable to: Star Spangled Banner Chapter,

Mail check to: President, George Stakias, 2 Forge Crossing Ct.,

Perry Hall, MD 21128

Recap-Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 24 January 2024



**“Secret Service Update and
Vision for Our Chapter”**

**Col George Stakias, USA (ret)
President, Star Spangled Banner
Chapter and Cyber Capacity Building
SME**

Col (R) George Stakias discussed the history of the US Secret Service as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the country with its dual mission protecting our nation’s leaders and the financial infrastructure of our country. Since its inception, it was first created to combat heavy counterfeiting during the civil war then picked up the protective duties when President McKinley was assassinated in 1912. The agency is relatively small compared to the FBI with approximately 7000 agents and 4000 admin staff. He also distributed an interesting set of handouts on how to detect counterfeit money and spotting and avoiding identity theft. Col (Ret) Stakias assumed the Presidency of the Star Spangled Banner Chapter on 1 January 2024 and is enthusiastic about recruitment of new members and increased involvement of the Chapter in community Veterans events.

Photos from the January dinner meeting



Capt (Ret) Mike DeHaemer transfers the Presidency to Col (Ret) George Stakias



(Left) Members Derald Jendersee, Vickie Maas and spouse Clay Maas and Rita Kurek's spouse Mike Butler. (Right) Members Mike DeHaemer (immediate past president), Jim Shelley and Rob Paolucci



(Left) Members President George Stakias & Randy Everett (Right) Members Frank Hilsher & spouse Ann and George Linthicum III & spouse Dorothy



L-R Augie Miceli (guest), Members John Backer, Ted Knach, Patrick Mangin & spouse Teresa

Several business items were discussed at the meeting and *approved*:

Secretary Rita Kurek proposed to postpone the paws4vets fundraising event until the Fall to give the newly elected officer's time to learn about the event and to have more time for planning and donations. The event is now rescheduled for 26 October 2024. See more details below.

1st VP Frank Hilsher proposed that we institute a Raffle drawing at each dinner meeting to raise funds for the Chapter to support Officer's Guides, etc. Tickets would be 6 for \$5.00, 50% of proceeds to the Chapter and two 25% winners. We will start this raffle at our April dinner meeting! ***Bring your cash!***

ROTC News:

ROTC Chair Col Frank Hilsher, USA (Ret)

All ROTC Cadres are in the process of determining the 3 MS 111 cadets and our MOAA AWARDS.

April is remarkably busy on the prime campuses with an upcoming JOINT FTX (field training Exercise) among the 3 main Universities.

Plans are being finalized for selection of GENERAL Officers to Address and Commission our Army's newly "pinned on" 2LTs.

Venues are being finalized for the next 2 months for Military Balls, award presentations, Commissioning and Commencement venues and events. Photos to follow next newsletter.

Legislative News:

Legislative Chair LTC Bill Gray, USAR (Ret)

The 2024 Maryland General Assembly session is in full swing! Monday March 18th is a significant date, as it is the usual deadline for proposed legislation to be sent from one legislative body to the other.

Please note that the www.starspan.org Legislation page under 2024 Maryland legislative Session has been updated to reflect current information. The attached list of bills before the 2024 session has been updated to reflect those pieces that meet that goal. There also are a few that passed in one house on March 15th and should meet the deadline as well. Please note that any bill that has nothing in red on the chat to the right may not be passed this session.

Information will be sent to all members who are signed up to receive alerts from the Maryland MOAA Council that will alert all MOAA members in our state by email concerning legislation introduced that will have special interest for all Uniform Services members and dependents.

The Legislature is presently wary of any change that could affect tax revenues, but they are working hard on legislation that enables professional certification in our state for relocated Active Uniform Service members and their family members as well as retirees and veterans.

The list of bills introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session is updated periodically. We are all in favor of lowering taxes on uniform services retirement income and property tax rates for disabled veterans, but please note the proposed bills that favor interstate licensure and preferences in hiring for veterans as well as spouses of Uniform Service members and retirees.

In addition you may have received an email asking you to reach out to your Representatives on the Federal level to back the Major Richard Star Act. This proposed legislation seeks to enable combat injured service members to receive their full pension as well as their full disability benefits. The House Bill is H.R.1282 and the Senate Bill is S 344.

paws4vets Event News:

Chairperson Col Rita M. Kurek, ANG (Ret)

Save the New Date: Saturday October 26th, 2024, from 4-8pm

Our next major event for the paws4vets foundation will be a fantastic *Bull, Shrimp & Oyster Roast* at the *Columbus Gardens Hall* in Nottingham MD, off Belair & Klosterman Aves. on Sat, October 26th, 2024, from 4-8pm. Music will be provided by the duo band “Double Play”.

There will be auctions, raffles and wheels of chance at the event, and we will be selling Grand Raffle tickets prior to and at the event. You will be sent these to sell in the mail.

We now have our 3 larger prizes for our Grand Raffle-**First prize**-A 13-Game Ticket Package for the Orioles 2025 Season for two persons with O’s Memorabilia Basket. **Second Prize**-4 Club Level Tickets to a Ravens Game with Parking Pass and Ravens Memorabilia Basket. **Third Prize**-\$200 Gift Card to Morton’s Steak House. Tickets will be \$10 each for a chance to win all three Prizes.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW: We will need prizes for the auctions: themed baskets; tickets to venues like museums, theatres, botanical gardens, sporting events; certificates for golf T-Times; jewelry; electronics; artwork; power tools, plants, alcohol and gift cards to restaurants, stores etc.

If you would like to provide the items for a “themed basket”, I can assemble it for you. If you have contacts at golf clubs, liquor stores or retail stores, etc. that would donate items, I can provide you with a letter about our organization and the event to solicit the donation if needed.

Most of us have “rewards” credit cards and you can use your rewards to get gift cards to Amazon, restaurants and retail stores using your rewards and donate them to the cause! Just an idea! **Start soliciting these things now and let me know what you have obtained so we can start building the auction prize list.**

This event is open to the public-we encourage you to invite family & friends that are willing to help us support this great cause. We are committed to 250 people with the venue, but this hall has a capacity of 375 so SELL THOSE TABLES!!! Tickets will be \$60 per person or \$550 for a table of 10 (a \$50 savings!) and will be available at our next meeting in April 2024.

As always you are encouraged to make a monetary donation to the paws4vets foundation (a tax deductible 401c3 organization) through our website, www.starspan.org, Advocacies/paws4vets/donations or adding a donation whenever you register for a meeting or event.

AT THE EVENT: I will need lots of volunteers to work on the registration table, the auction tables, wheels of chance tables and raffle sales. My intention is to have enough volunteers so that you will only have to work one hour during the event. Anyone can help-you, your spouse, adult children & friends and responsible teens are welcome! More info on this as we get closer to the event.

My contact information: Col (R) Rita M. Kurek, rmkurek@aol.com, cell # (410) 294-4913. Please feel free to contact me with prize suggestions/donations, volunteering or ticket information.

Future Chapter Events for 2024:

10 April 2024 6pm	Dinner Meeting Speaker: BG (ret) Adam Flasch, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety and Homeland Security Venue-Pappas' Restaurant, 550 Cranbrook Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 POC: George Stakias (410) 707-6947
26 October 2024 4-8pm	paws4vets Fundraiser -Bull, Shrimp & Oyster Roast Columbus Gardens Hall, Nottingham MD Music by: Double Play POC: Rita Kurek (410) 294-4913 Tickets: \$60 pp or \$550 for Table of 10

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 commitments 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. You may access your MOAA's Legislative TAKE ACTION CENTER at www.moaa.org/takeaction.



*** Newsletter Online: www.starspan.org Newsletter Editor and
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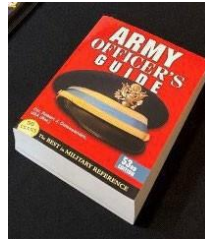
MEMBERS Pay Your Dues Now!!!!

Our chapter's \$30 Dues are payable by April 1 or within three months of the new year.

You can pay online (and register as a new member) at www.starspan.org or Mail your \$30 check to: President George Stakias, 2 Forge Crossing Ct., Perry Hall, MD 21128, georgestakias@yahoo.com , (410) 707-6947

New Members Always Welcome!!!

Welcome new member Major (Chaplain) Ted Knach, USAR (Ret) !!!!



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