

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2025! SEE HOW BELOW!



Never stop serving!



Banner & client Eric

Join us at www.starspan.org

Star Spangled Banner Chapter of MOAA

March 2025 Newsletter

Contents: May 2025 Annual Dinner Meeting, April 22, 2025-Gettysburg Staff Ride, Jan Annual & 60th Anniversary Dinner Recap, paws4vets new pup name, ROTC news, Future Event Dates

Dinner Meeting

Pappas Restaurant, Cockeysville

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

"Preparing for Survivorship"



Cheryl Glang, MOAA MD Council Surviving Spouses Liaison

Cheryl Glang is the spouse of a retired NOAA Corps Officer. She began her advocacy work for military spouses and families in the mid 1990's as a part of the NOAA Officers Family Association, where she has previously served as President and Treasurer. She continued this work in the early 2000's as a Board Member of the National Military Family Association, serving 7 years. Currently she serves as the MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters Surviving Spouses Liaison. Cheryl and her husband live in Ijamsville, MD with their two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and are proud grandparents to a two-year-old granddaughter and two cats.

Losing a spouse is a traumatic event. Preparing yourself and your loved ones in advance provides security and comfort during a vulnerable time after a spouse's death, helping to avoid the added stress of dealing with the unexpected.

Whether you are in uniform, a veteran, a military spouse, or a surviving spouse, you will benefit from this special event to learn about the tools, publications, and resources available for you. Don't wait: Get the trusted advice you need.

THIS IS A GREAT MEETING TO BRING YOUR SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS!! CHERYL HAS A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AND RESOURCE PACKAGE TO SHARE!

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 **14 May**.

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 April 16 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 **10 May**. We need a firm count by **14 May**. 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 13 April.

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



MOAA Staff Ride Gettysburg PA



The Loyola ROTC “Greyhound Battalion” will be conducting their Annual MS4 Staff Ride and have invited members of MOAA and their Spouses to attend



Who: Members of MOAA Star Spangled Banner Chapter

What: Invited to accompany the Loyola ROTC “Greyhound Battalion” on their staff ride to Gettysburg Battlefield

Where: Meet at the Gettysburg Visitor Center (see attached map)

When: **22 April 2025 (Tuesday) Beginning at 9:00am (0900hrs)**

Why: A graded staff ride for the MS4 Cadets, experience the ROTC cadet run staff ride and view the various parts of the Battlefield with noted Historians

Uniform: Casual attire with consideration to weather conditions

Cost: Approximately \$50.00 – Visitor’s Center Movie and Cyclorama Tickets - Lunch

Transportation: Privately own Vehicle (POV) or Carpool

RSVP: No Later than **18 April 2025** to COL (Ret) William “Randy” Everett for all MOAA members (everettabn@gmail.com) or 443-910-0593

Additional Instructions: The ROTC cadets will be presenting at various locations on the Battlefield. This is a graded exercise, so MOAA members need to be aware of the Cadet requirement. A historian will be assigned to the MOAA group for a further understanding of the battle.

Helpful Read Ahead Info: Center for Military History booklet - The Gettysburg Campaign June – July 1863 (attached) – Various books on the campaign – View the Movie “Gettysburg” 1993 release

22 (Tuesday) April 2025
09:00 hrs (9:00am)
Assembly Point
1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg PA 17325
Gettysburg Visitor Center



Col (Ret) William "Randy" Everett
Contact Information
443-910-0593

RECAP- Annual Dinner Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration, 22 January 2025

The Annual Dinner & 60th Anniversary Celebration held at Pappas



Restaurant on Jan 22, 2025 and attended by 33 members and guests was a memorable event with many special toasts, presentations, awards, citations, memorials and an outstanding commemorative brochure.

Special thanks is due our Board Members who were each

responsible for some aspect of this event preparation: George Stakias-MC, venue & speaker selection, Frank Hilsher-ROTC Color Guard, Mike DeHaemer-brochure, Vickie Maas-cake & AF Toast, Randy Everett-Fallen Soldiers Table presentation & Army Toast, Mike Spencer-Navy/Marine Toast, John Dyer-delivering the AF Toast in Vickie's absence, Bill Gray-legislative report and Rita Kurek-newsletter, registration, secretary & treasurer's reports. As always, we sincerely appreciate our uplifting invocation & benediction by our Chaplain, Ted Knach.

The business portion of the meeting gave a recap of the 2024 Dinner meetings starting with our own President, George Stakias giving a Secret Service Update on Jan 24 at the Bowman Restaurant followed by meetings at Pappas Restaurant on April 10 (BG Adam Flash, Homeland Security), June 5 (Robert Finn, Veterans Affairs Update) and Sep 11 (BG Andrew Collins, Asst AG, Army). Our paws4vets event was held on Oct 26th at Columbus Gardens and netted

\$20,050 for the foundation and we have been invited to name another puppy ready to start in training. (See info on “Stella” later in this newsletter).

Treasurer Rita Kurek reported that the current account balance as of 1/22/25 was \$4961.94. Several checks were outstanding for this meeting’s expenses but dues were also being received today and online. All donations to the paws4vets foundation were paid to the foundation on 11/18/2024 and have been confirmed. All Board Meeting Minutes, Treasurer’s Reports and foundation confirmation letters may be found on the website. Rita encouraged members to use the website for information and meeting registrations.

Our guest speaker, MG Janeen Birckhead, The Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard, delivered a well-received presentation covering all phases of the MD Militia, it’s current campaigns and dual federal & state responsibilities, training emphasis and facilities upgrade status. She addressed our mutually rewarding relationship with our partner countries, Estonia & Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the newest acquisition of the DC Guard F-16 Flying Unit to preserve Maryland’s flying mission in the ANG. Her message regarding the F-16’s is that they will still fly out of Andrews AFB but will hold open the flying mission in the Maryland Air Guard so that other avenues for future aircraft may be pursued. She answered many questions including advice for our young Cadets in attendance.

The following photos will tell the story of the remainder of the meeting.

Annual Meeting Event Photos:



Speaker MG Janeen Birkhead (3rd from R) and the Loyola ROTC Color Guard Cadets



Loyola ROTC Color Guard Cadets post the colors to begin the meeting.



Randy Everett delivers Army, Mike Spencer delivers Navy/Marine and John Dyer delivers Air Force Toasts.



Randy Everett reads the description of the items on the Fallen Soldier Table memorial tribute.



Tradition dictates that the oldest and the youngest attending military members perform the cutting of the anniversary cake. This year's honor was performed by CAPT (Ret) John Backer, USNR and Cadet Rhea-Lee Thompson, Loyola ROTC, using the Navy sword donated by our late member, CDR (Ret) Wallace Dann, USN, whose contributions as a Past President and resurrector of the Chapter during thin years were memorialized in the meeting's brochure. Wally, as our oldest member, passed away in Oct 2022 at age 101. He

is credited with naming the Chapter the "Star Spangled Banner" Chapter.



MG Janeen Birckhead, The Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard, addressed the members, guests and ROTC Cadets. Her words of wisdom for the young Cadets included finding a good mentor, embracing leadership opportunities, and steadfastly pursuing their own career goals.



President George Stakias presents the Francis Scott Key Bust, commemorating the Star Spangled Banner, to speaker MG Birckhead.



Dave Paolucci, new member Angelo Catalano and Charles Blomquist



John Backer & Mike DeHaemer looking dapper in their Navy uniforms!



Jackie & John Dyer, Mike DeHaemer

George Stakias, Dave & Rob Paolucci



Pat & Bill Gray, Ann & Frank Hilsher, George Stakias with ROTC Cadet (front)



Elva & Randy Everett & Derald Jendersee



Surviving Spouses Karen Seybold, Mary Agnes Evans & Guest



MG Birckhead does the honor of placing the Chapter's latest 5 Star Level of Excellence Award for 2023 on the MOAA Flag's Banner.

paws4vets **NEW PUPPY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Service Dog In-Training
UPDATE
February 2025

provided to:



STELLA



Birthdate: 11/20/24

Current Training Phase:

Puppy Development

Current Location:

p4p Headquarters, NC

Training Update:

Hello! It's me STELLA! I have been hard at work training in Wilmington, NC at our Puppy Development Center. I have been enjoying working on my basic obedience skills, socialization, and confidence building. I love going on socialization outings in in our community! Some of my favorite outing locations I have been to are the Wilmington Fire Department, Target, and Lowe's Hardware. In my down time, I love playing with my friends and taking naps! Stay tuned to see what I learn next!



We were contacted by paws4vets due to our SUCCESFUL fundraiser to name another puppy. They had a few week-old female golden retriever that they needed to name sooner rather than later. In the interest of time, our Board members, in keeping with our Chapter name, suggested either “Star”, “Spangle” or “Stella” (which means star). They already had a Star and I guess they liked Stella better than Spangle. So we have two named dogs now, **Banner & Stella.**

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!!***

ROTC & JROTC News:

ROTC Chair Col Frank Hilsher, USA (Ret)

Col (Ret) Frank Hilsher has been in contact with Hopkins, Morgan and Loyola ROTC Cadres who are all tracking MS3 cadets for our MOAA Leadership Awards which will be presented at the end of the current semester. Spring break is approaching quickly on all campuses!

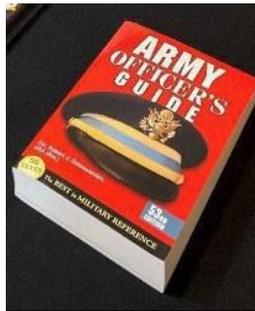
We are hopeful to have many high school JROTC MOAA Awards presented this year as well. We are still looking for a member to take over as JROTC Chairperson! Easy job, contacting HS JROTC POC's **once a year** for end of year awards and assigning presenters for each event! Many are willing to be presenters, you don't have to do them all yourself!!!! It's that time of the year to start soliciting for these awards so please let President George Stakias know if you are interested soon!!!! We already have one request from Franklin HS for an award.

DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Yearly Dues are \$30.00 and can be paid online on the website at <https://www.starspan.org>, or sent in with your dinner reservation, or mailed to Treasurer, Rita M. Kurek at 1231 Engleberth Rd, Essex, MD 21221. Thank you for paying promptly!

Many of you paid at the January meeting, thank you! If you're not sure of your status, log in online and it will show "Paid" in your Account if you are current for 2025!



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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER, Col (Ret) Angelo
Catalano, USA**

**New Members are always welcome!!
Recruit your colleagues!**

All of our dinner dates for the 2025 year have been set! Speakers for the September & November Meetings will be available as we get closer to those events 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. An event in June may be added in conjunction with the 250th Anniversary of the Army. More to follow.

Future Chapter Events for 2025/2026:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
28 May 2025 6pm	Dinner Meeting Speaker: Cheryl Glang, MOAA MD Council Surviving Spouses Liaison Venue: Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar, Cockeysville MD 21030 POC: George Stakias (410) 707-6947
22 April 2025	Staff Ride to Gettysburg with Loyola ROTC Venue: Visitors Center, Gettysburg National Military Park SSBC members may drive individually or Carpool to site POC: Randy Everett (443) 910-0593, everettabn@gmail.com
10 September 2025 6pm	Dinner Meeting Speaker: TBD 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 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.



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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.

**WE CELEBRATED 60 YEARS AS A
MARYLAND MOAA CHAPTER ON JANUARY
22ND, 2025! IF YOU MISSED IT, WE HAVE
EXTRA COMMEMORATIVE BROCHURES!**