



The Granite Slate

The Official Newsletter for the
New Hampshire Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America



December, 2015

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Autumn News and Events



Fall Luncheon Eagle Mtn. House Jackson, NH, Sept 12

It was a beautiful, sunny day when the Chapter held its Fall Meeting and Luncheon at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson on September 12, 2015. The trip was scenic, even without the trees in their full autumn colors. The 71 members and guests enjoyed the drive north and many of us only see this more sparsely populated area of NH during our fall functions.

This was the second time we have visited the Eagle Mountain House, and it was as delightful as the first. The food was delicious and the staff friendly and helpful as they were last year.

A number of our members checked in a day early on Friday to avoid the Saturday morning tourist traffic. There were several rounds of golf played by the avid golfers of the chapter, and the weather was perfect for enjoying the course.

We were pleased to have US Representative Frank Guinta as our guest speaker for this event, and he outlined his views of both NH and national politics currently being addressed within our government. He was also able to provide some well thought-out answers to several rather pointed questions following his presentation.



Award Presentation



(Photo by Peter W. Dawson/MOAA-NH)

Annual Meeting Nashua Country Club Nov 7

We were again fortunate to have a classical bright fall afternoon for the chapter's annual meeting at the Nashua Country club.

During the Members' business meeting,



(Photo by Peter W. Dawson/MOAA-NH)

our chapter spouses and friends received a briefing from Matt Vaccola of Collette Vacations on upcoming chapter "group travel" trips for 2016. Prior to the luncheon, a 50/50 raffle was run to raise money to support the NH Veterans Home and other chapter charities. Over \$260.00 was raised by the raffle, \$130.00 for the chapter!

Former chapter president CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret.) pointed out the Battle Streamer that he received at the MOAA Annual Meeting in recognition of our thirteenth consecutive year being selected as a **5 Star Chapter**. We can all take pride in this achievement only made possible by our members' ongoing commitment to the organization (see pg 3).

We were pleased to have as our guest of honor **MG Harry E, Miller, Jr, ARNG**, Commanding General, 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow Division). MG Miller presided over the installation of this year's officers and Board of Directors for the chapter. We were also honored to have the wife of chapter



(Photo by Peter W. Dawson/MOAA-NH)

board member Lt Col Joseph Daley, USAF (Ret.) **US Senator Kelly Ayotte** join us for the luncheon.

General Miller gave an in-depth slide show on the history and current

(continued on page 3 (top left))

Chapter Officers

President	COL H. Allen Chadwick, USA (Ret)	(603) 379-2147, achad21396@hotmail.com
Vice-President	CDR Pete Burdett, USN (Ret)	(800) 778-4251, Peter_Burdett@ml.com
Treasurer	CDR James R. Day, Jr. USN (Ret)	(603) 642-7956, fuzzbutthall@comcast.net

Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org



President's Corner

Chad Chadwick

When we began our Military Lives, we took an oath of office and began a solemn obligation to support and defend the Constitution. We have taken this obligation freely and have never regretted it. Our service to this great nation and its people has been and continues to be an honor.

To continue leading from the front, it is essential that we take every opportunity to address those issues that affect our military community "head on" with all of our elected officials. Our emails, letters and personal visits to our elected representatives at both the local and national levels have and continue to make a positive impact. Equally important is our active involvement in opportunities created as current presidential candidates pursue both our votes and support in the Granite State.

Now more than ever, we need to act as a "one team". Our strength in New Hampshire stems from having everyone on the team battle focused. The MOAA-NH 2016 Goals and Objectives are structured to give us that mission focus and clarity of purpose. I truly understand the impact of competing priorities in the military and its budgets but we who have served and the currently serving have sacrificed as Vice Admiral Ryan says is "our up-front payment for the benefits we have earned"

Let us make sure our voices are heard and that our actions on behalf of the entire military community speak louder than words.

-Chad-

— MOAA News —

Alexandria, Va.

Dec 3rd, 2015 – MOAA news

The president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), retired Navy Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, testified before the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee today urging Congress to do no harm; preserve what's working, and fix what's not working in current military health care programs. Representative Joe Heck, subcommittee chairman and a U.S. Army Reserve physician, opened the hearing on military health care reform by stating, "This process is not being driven by budgetary concerns ... we're driven by what will produce the best possible benefit to be able to recruit and retain the best and brightest."

Later in the hearing he emphasized the primary goal of the military healthcare system is to maintain military readiness. During the hearing, Ryan highlighted areas MOAA considers effective, including combat casualty care, the overall quality of health care once delivered, TRI-

Continued next column (below new members)

2015 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

CDR David E Lewis
USN (Ret.) Dolores
86 Brandy Lee Ln
Colebrook, NH 03576-3030

Lt Col Glenn W Michael
USAF (Ret.) Barbara
55 Pearson Rd
Merrimack, NH 03054-2811

MOAA news (continued from left column (bottom))

CARE For Life, pharmacy and mail-order pharmacy programs and TRICARE Standard.

Ryan discussed the following list of problem areas in current military health care programs:

- * TRICARE Prime's access to appointments and specialty care referral processes
- * Inconsistent Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage
- * Provider capacity management in military treatment facilities
- * Inadequate case-management of the highest-cost or at-risk health care users.

Ryan emphasized one of the major problems is the disconnect between rhetoric and reality on DoD health care costs. "Every year, defense leaders offer dire budget projections of health costs they assert are spiraling out of control," Ryan said. "But actual cost history shows those projections have been consistently wrong."

Chapter Members,

In our Autumn edition, we look back at a wonderful summer and fall with events including one of the largest annual Clambakes ever, and two fall luncheons with beautiful weather for our members to enjoy. We have welcomed several new members to our chapter this year, and hope they have also benefitted from our organization's outings both indoor and sea-side.

We hope that you were able to take advantage of these warm seasons spending time with family, friends, and possibly some of our veterans home on summer leave. Rosemary and I were lucky enough to white-water raft in the Rocky Mountains of Montana during August, and we're also pleased and honored to have met Rear Admiral Craig E. Steidle last August. We look forward to having him attend our Granite State Warrior's award ceremony on January 30th, and welcome him into our MOAA-New Hampshire chapter.

Admiral Steidle brings with him a prestigious background including senior Naval and NASA scientific and aeronautical commands, and has won awards in several program management positions.

Please join us in welcoming him into our chapter alongside each of our new members,

Peter W. Dawson
LCDR, USNR,

Nashua Country Club luncheon (continued from page 1.)

role of the 42nd Infantry Division following our meal. After the General's presentation, Senator Ayotte spoke briefly on the current state of various legislative issues affecting the US military and our veterans. We were collectively disillusioned at the comprehensive outline she provided regarding some of the current and ongoing legislation with decisions and outcomes that directly affect our military forces.

Our thanks again to both General Miller and Senator Ayotte for their time and dedication to our chapter and its members.



Senator Kelly Ayotte (R.NH) discusses legislative issues affecting veterans currently under discussion in Washington, DC.

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS)

With the holiday season now in full swing, C-130 Hercules aircrews and support personnel from Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force and the 374th Airlift Wing at



Yokota Air Base, Japan, began spreading cheer and joy while practicing critical humanitarian aid/disaster relief (HA/DR) training by delivering donated goods via C-130 to more than 56 of the Pacific's most remote and populated islands. The 2015 Operation Christmas Drop officially kicked off Dec. 8 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, with a celebratory "push ceremony."

Ongoing since 1952, Christmas Drop is the Defense Department's longest running humanitarian airlift mission and impacts more than 20,000 islanders annually. C-130 aircrews will deliver nearly 40,000 pounds of supplies by executing more than 20 low-cost, low-altitude airdrop (LCLA) training missions to islanders throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau.

Addressing the RAAF and JASDF, Col. Douglas C. DeLaMater, the 374th AW commander, said "Operation Christmas Drop is a prime example of the depth airpower brings to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region." "In addition to delivering critical supplies to those in need, Operation Christmas Drop provides specific training to U.S. and allied aircrews, enabling theater-wide airpower."

Liberty House / Manchester

The Liberty House in Manchester provides a safe, supportive, substance-abuse free housing community for American veterans who are homeless and need help transitioning out of that existence. This time of year Liberty House particularly needs coats and other clothing for men and women, and MOAA-NH wants to help. At our January 2016 luncheon we will be collecting donations. Please check their Wish List at www.libertyhousenh.org for their list of needed items. Though not stated the clothing items pertain to women as well. Monetary donations are also welcome, but should be made directly to Liberty House. Questions? Contact Sharon Day at cimice89@comcast.net or 603-642-7956.



CDR P. Burdett accepts 5 star ribbon

**MOAA 2015 Annual meeting - Orlando, FL
CDR Pete Burdett, USN, Ret.**

This year I was again able to attend the annual meeting to receive our recognition for obtaining the 5 Star ranking for the 13th year. This is a key ranking and one which all of the 411 MOAA Chapters should be working to obtain.

So, how does the NH Chapter get this award? By working very hard to meet the subjective and objective scoring, a reflection on the hard work of all the volunteers that run this chapter. This includes our OUTSTANDING influence on veteran affairs within the state and also nationally.

For example, I had the pleasure of meeting the new national president for MOAA, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (ret). He takes over in 2016 and was interested in our efforts to keep the A-10 fighting, flying and protecting as he has flown the A-10! The NH Chapter has had an impact, not always in a headline, but effective where it counts because of our members involvement on many levels!

So, keep asking friends to join the chapter, write emails and make phone calls to state and national leaders, keep volunteering to make the events we sponsor GREAT and we should see another award next year. THANKS to you all.
Never Stop Serving!

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
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13th YEAR



Mrs. Barbara O. Ambrose	Portsmouth, NH
LTC Raymond A. Beupre, USA (Ret.)	Sanbornton, NH
COL John P. Chandler, USA (Ret.)	Meredith, NH
Mrs. Ruth K. Drinkwater	Newfields, NH
LT David G. Eastman, USNR	Somersworth, NH
Mrs. Alice M. Ellingwood	Center Harbor, NH
Mrs. Doris I. Fonden	Milford, NH
Lt Col Walter W. Kangas	Wilmot, NH
Mrs. Patricia D. Kelsey	New London, NH
ADM George E. R. Kinnear, II, USN (Ret.)	York, ME
LT Alexander Loika, USNR (Ret.)	Kennebunk, ME
Lt Col Earlan L. Seawards, USAF (Ret.)	Dover, NH
Col Leslie A. Smith, USAF (Ret.)	Concord, NH
Lt Col William A. Trotter, USAF (Ret.)	Nashua, NH

2016 Schedule

1/30/2016	Portsmouth CC, Granite State Warriors Award
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CHAPTER ANNUAL DUES INCREASE

At the MOAA-NH chapter Annual Meeting on November 7, 2015, the membership present voted to increase the annual dues for regular members to \$19.00. The surviving spouse (auxiliary) member rate remains at \$10.00. This is a heads-up for those regular annual dues paying members that the letter you may receive in January 2016 (if you owe dues) will reflect that increase. The Board of Directors is also considering raising the life membership dues rates for regular members to reflect the increase in annual dues.

MOAA Travel: Please apply early for your desired trips to take advantage of discounts!
Tropical Costa Rica, 16-24 April 2016; **The Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota**, 22-28 May 2016; **Italian Lakes, Greek Islands and Venice**, 31 August - 12 Sep (Includes 7 day cruise); **Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria**, 14-23 September 2016; **Treasures of Northern California**, 23-31 October 2016. If you are interested in these trips or any other trip offered by Collette, contact Tony Burdo at 603-391-7106 or email at tonyajib@gmail.com.