



# The Granite Slate

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



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Pres Gary Terhune and April Guest Speak Edmund Johnson-cofounder of the Pease Greeters. Thanks Ed for a great presentation and all you do! ([www.peasegreeters.org](http://www.peasegreeters.org))



NH Veteran's Home Hosts April Board Meeting

Barry Conway (Commandant, front row in Blazer)

## Upcoming Programs for 2009

August 1st

Clam Bake—Portsmouth Shipyard  
(details on back cover)

Sep 26th Grand Summit Resort, Bartlett  
Phil Dyer-presenting on Retirement Financial Issues

Nov 7th Annual Meeting, Bedford NH

## 2009 MOAA ROTC and JR ROTC Award Winners

Each spring the NH MOAA recognizes two outstanding individuals in ROTC at UNH and Jr ROTC in high schools throughout the state. These are our 2009 recipients. Congratulations to them and their unit's leadership

### University of New Hampshire Army ROTC

Cadet Robert J. Howard, Senior  
Cadet John W. Kowalski, Junior

### West High School (Manchester) Navy Jr ROTC

Cadet Chief Petty Officer 3 Stephen Adekoya, Junior  
Cadet Senior Chief Petty Officer Nicholas Johnston, Soph

### Pinkerton Academy (Derry), Air Force Jr ROTC

Cadet Hans Vorsteveld, Senior  
Cadet Scott Sorensen, Junior

### Salem High School Air Force Jr ROTC

Cadet Derick Jones, Senior  
Cadet Tyler Hutchinson, Junior

### White Mountain (Whitefield) High School Army Jr ROTC

Cadet Tyler Driscoll, Senior  
Cadet Randall Ledoux, Junior

### Alvrine (Hudson) High School Air Force Jr ROTC

Cadet Christopher Hammel, Senior  
Cadet Ariel Robey, Junior

### Fall Mountain (Langdon) Regional HS Army Jr ROTC

Cadet Tucker Poitras, Senior  
Cadet William Malarich, Junior

### Winnacunnet (Hampton) High School Marine Jr ROTC

Cadet Matthew Fortuna, Senior  
Cadet Daniel Argue, Junior

## Chapter Officers

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Visit the Chapter's website at: [www.moa-nh.org](http://www.moa-nh.org)

## Stormin' the Hill—2009 Style

MOAA held the Annual Council President's Seminar in Alexandria, VA, 21-23 April 2009. Bancroft, former NH Chapter President and member of the National BOD MOAA and Gary, current President, attended. As always, the event's major objective was to meet with congressional legislators and staffers to solicit their support of legislation identified by MOAA national in the area of military defense.

Bancroft and Gary met with Susan Mayer, Rep Carol Shea-Porter's Military Legislative Assistant and Sarah Levin legislative assistant to Rep Paul Hodes, as well as, Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Judd Gregg's legislative staff. At each visit they urged support to protect against disproportional health care fee increases, to increase the 2010 pay raise from 2.9% to 3.4%, and to fix benefit inequities for military widows and disabled veterans.



*Sen Jeanne Shaheen met with NH MOAA delegation Bancroft McKittrick, Sen Shaheen, Gary & Judy Terhune*

Last year both of our US Representatives supported all MOAA issues which was excellent and they have assured us they will give careful consideration for this year's issues as well. Sen Shaheen is NH's junior Senator and is learning the ropes of Capital Hill. Her staff was enlightened by Gary and Bancroft on the issues.

As a part of the activities, Bancroft and Gary attended an awards reception on Capital Hill that recognized distinguished leaders that have been great supporters of national defense and the military as a whole. Some of highlights follow:

Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), The Honorable John McHugh (R-NY) and The Honorable Susan Davis (D-CA) received the Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Achievement Award for their work in championing legislation to protect national defense and the uniformed service community. Marix founded MOAA Feb 23, 1929 and was its first President until 1944.

MOAA's Distinguished Service Award is given to individuals or organizations who are not members of (cont) Congress but have been consistently strong supporters of national defense and the uniformed services community. Awardees were the Union Pacific Railroad, Tom



## President's Corner

*Gary Terhune*

Spring has finally sprung! As I write this article azaleas, lilacs, crabapples and phlox are in bloom; the Goldfinches have their new feathers; and the humming birds are looking for their nectar. Delightful! The stock market is even up a bit since the last newsletter was published. On the NH-MOAA front we had our Spring luncheon on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April at the Portsmouth Country Club. We had a wonderful turnout to listen to Pease Greeter Chairman and co-founder Capt Ed Johnson wow us with the story of how the Greeters got started and how grateful the troops returning home are when they see crowds of people on hand with cookies, hot chocolate, coffee etc not to mention smiling faces, high fives and hand shakes. Capt Ed did not want a repeat of what the troops returned to after Vietnam and he and others went out and did something wonderful about it. Hope you were there to hear him. If not you can go to their website at [Peasegreeters.org](http://Peasegreeters.org) or call 603-766-0502 for info on flights. Thank you Capt Ed for a great talk to us and the job your organization does for our troops!

For a very nice change of pace, we had our April Board of Directors meeting at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton on the 9<sup>th</sup> that started with a great tour of the facility by Director Barry Conway. This is a first class operation if I ever saw one. It is no wonder that this facility is paraded as the model for Veterans Homes all over the country. Great job Barry and staff. Keep up the good work!

Stormin the Hill was a rousing success yet again as Bancroft McKittrick and I, along with our wives went down to DC to participate. The summary of the weekend is in the adjacent column.

Finally, our summer luncheon will be for the birds as we will be going to Meredith's Hart's Turkey Farm in the Lakes Country. I understand they prepare an unbelievable turkey dinner. Well, what else did you expect. Our program will consist of a mid year report on the happenings of our great chapter by the Board; including the latest on our travel venture. I hope you joined us as it will be over by the time you read this.

Day, Founder of Bugles Across America and Mr. Toby Keith, singer, actor, and record producer. Accepting for UP was Mike Rock, Vice President External Relations.

Please go to our website, [MOAA-NH.org](http://MOAA-NH.org) to check on who is and who is not supporting our issues and contact them by e mail, letter or by phone to urge their support.

# New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

<p><b>William W. Buddenhagen</b> Lt Col ANG (ret) Spouse: Mary 2 Holman Ln Hampton, NH 03842 603-926-2799</p>	<p><b>William G. Compton</b> LTC USAR (ret) Spouse: Jill 1 Wheelwright Ave Exeter, NH 03833 603-772-3239</p>	<p><b>Maryann Parnell</b> LCDR, USN (ret) 42 Sunrise Terrace York ME 03909 207-363-2116</p>
<p><b>Peter W. Dawson</b> LCDR, USNR (ret) Spouse: Rosemary 916 Elwyn Rd Portsmouth, NH 03801 603-433-1357</p>	<p><b>Edmund Johnson</b> Capt, USMC (former) Spouse: Anne PO Box 178 Rye Beach, NH 03871 603-964-5929</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We hope to see you at the Clam Bake, and personally extend our greetings—welcoming you to the chapter</p>

## MOAA-NH Travel Program

Your Board of Directors has been considering the best way to resurrect the Chapter's long dormant travel program. The Board is currently exploring a relationship with Collette Vacations. Collette provides travel program services to several organizations including the Smithsonian, AAA and AARP. To learn more about Collette, visit their web site at [www.collettevacations.com](http://www.collettevacations.com). To ensure that we develop a travel program that best fits your needs and desires, the Board is developing a MOAA-NH membership travel program survey for release this Spring. The Board would appreciate your comments. The Board's point of contact for this is Bruce Avery at [bruceavery@tds.net](mailto:bruceavery@tds.net) or 603.526.2854. A decision is planned by early summer.

## No Tricare Fee Hike

The Fiscal 2010 defense budget does not contain a provision to increase the Tricare fees for retired military personnel, unlike the past three defense budgets in which the Bush Administration tried to raise fees as one means to offset higher healthcare costs. According to Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee, Defense Secretary Robert Gates intends "to fully fund military healthcare in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and then engage Congress in a dialogue about what comes next." (Davis opening statement) Congress shot down the three previous attempts to budget-in the Tricare fee hikes, but last year, Davis indicated that some increase may be inevitable, however she said it should not be the only means employed to cut military healthcare costs.

## VA MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC)—MANCHESTER

Tom Kyle; MOAA-NH Liaison to VAMC

VAMC-Manchester services over 21,000 veterans with a staff of 20 to 25 full time physicians, approximately 75 part time physicians, and a complement of physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed nurse practitioners, and nursing assistants. A \$4.2 million dollar third floor expansion of the Medical Center will be fully completed in June of this year and will provide 26 exam rooms for acute care subspecialties. Also, construction of a \$6 million mental health care addition will begin in about one year.

The full New Hampshire Congressional delegation, with the support of MOAA-NH, pursues the legislative goal of obtaining a full service veterans medical service capability for our state; either through upgrading the current Manchester facility, constructing a new facility, or contractual arrangements.

Your Chapter was pleased to work with the Medical Center to support the VA Supported Housing Program (VASH). VASH is a joint VA and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program to provide homeless New Hampshire veterans with Section 8 housing. A 50/50 raffle conducted at our January 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter luncheon meeting this year netted a total of \$280.00 for support of VASH. The money will be used by VASH program managers to purchase "move-in" kits (primarily house cleaning kits) for veterans settling into their new homes. The generosity of Chapter donors in support of our fellow veterans is truly wonderful!!

There are lots of opportunities for volunteer service at VAMC. Two top areas needing volunteers are (1) vehicle drivers for the disabled veterans being serviced at the facility, and (2) greeters for residents of the on-site nursing home. Persons interested in volunteer work at VAMC, or who desire other information about VAMC services should contact the Center at (603) 624-4366 ext. 6419 or 1-800-892-8384 ext. 6419.



