



The Granite Slate

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



March, 2014

Published quarterly for the information of members of the NH Chapter of MOAA
P.O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821

Volume 36, No. 1

In the news:

Taken from Marine Times, Feb 10, 2014

The Senate cleared a key procedural hurdle on a bill that would undo the cuts to military retirement pay introduced by the Bipartisan Budget Act. Senators voted unanimously, 94-0, to advance the bill which, if passed in a final vote this week, would repeal a section of the Ryan-Murray budget deal that reduces annual cost-of-living adjustment increases by 1 percentage point for "working age" retirees, starting in late 2015.

Before the procedural vote, bill co-sponsor Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, expressed hopes his colleagues would pass the final measure and not be deterred by the fact that it contains no proposals to pay for the \$6 billion the cuts would save. "Honestly, I'm sick of [hearing about the offsets]. The bill has no 'pay-for' because the men and women this bill addresses have already paid with their service," Begich said.

With the vote, senators can now propose amendments to the bill, S. 1963, written by Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., to cover the cost or pass it as is — a move that would contribute to the federal deficit. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., one of the first lawmakers to oppose the Bipartisan Budget Act because it contained the COLA reduction, said money must be found to offset the bill's cost. Sessions supports legislation proposed by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., which would close a tax loophole that allows undocumented workers to receive tax credits for their children. Ayotte's proposal would require a person filing taxes or the child who is claimed to have a Social Security number in order to receive the \$1,500 credit.

Undocumented immigrants often file income taxes using tax identification numbers instead of Social Security numbers.

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MOAA Honors two NH based Organizations



L to R: Cmdr. Bruce Avery, USN (Ret.), President of the NHMOAA; U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH); and award recipients Dr. Gerald and Delores Carrier, founders of Christmas Can Cure

GREENLAND, NH- Commander Bruce Avery USN (Ret.), President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (NHMOAA), and the Board of Directors was pleased to honor two NH based organizations for their service to our military at the third Annual Granite State Warriors Luncheon on Saturday the 25th of January 2014. The luncheon and ceremony was held at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland, NH.

The NHMOAA's Granite State Warriors Award is presented annually to individuals or organizations who have gone above and beyond in their service to the men and women of the U.S. Military and the State of New Hampshire. Honored at this year's ceremony were the New Hampshire Easter Seals Veterans Count and Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Carrier founders of the Christmas Can Cure organization of Jackson, New Hampshire.

Veterans Count (VC) was created by Easter Seals to ensure New Hampshire's veterans and their families do not have to endure personal and professional struggles after sacrificing so much for our country.

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

President's Corner



Bruce Avery

President's Corner March, 2014

2014 has gotten off to a roaring start between the MOAA-NH Granite State Warriors Award Luncheon in January and a flurry of activities regarding the misguided attempts to cuts to military retirement pay. Much of this edition of *The Granite Slate* is dedicated to covering both of these.

I am pleased to report that COL Tony Burdo, USA (Ret) is now your Travel Program Coordinator. Not wasting any time, Tony has opened up a dialogue with Avalon Waterways, a member of the Globus Family, and is evaluating three different European river barge trips for September 2015.

First, is a 10 day Danube river cruise from Prague to Budapest at an approximate cost of \$3910. Second is an 8 day Rhine River cruise from Zurich to Amsterdam at an approximate cost of \$3250. Third is a river cruise from Vienna to Munich at an approximate cost of \$2950.

The approximate airfare costs for each of these trips is \$1500. We need to make a final decision of which of the trips to offer in the next couple of weeks, and we would greatly appreciate hearing from you about your preferences. The trips can be checked out on the Avalon Waterways web site (www.avalonwaterways.com). Tony can be reached by email at tonyajjb@gmail.com or by phone at (603) 391-7106.

Thank you for your continued support.

VETERANS HOME IS SEARCHING FOR SOME SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

The New Hampshire Veterans Home is looking for a few good men - or women - to volunteer for a special mission to serve some of the Home's most challenged residents.

A special group of volunteers to be called the "Highlanders" is being sought to spend some hours with the veterans in the Home's Highland Hall unit, an area where many of the residents are in the end stages of various forms of dementia or have other severe health challenges that may limit their ability to respond and communicate.

The home depends heavily on the kindness and generosity of many veterans' service organizations and individuals who give their time to support the veterans here.

Communication and support at these times can take various forms - reading, playing familiar music, sometimes just a smile or a simple caring touch. The important thing is just being there for these men and women who have served our country. Volunteers for this special service would be trained by the Home's staff to engage those veterans through a wide variety of techniques proven to be of greatest value in this setting.

If you feel called to and suited for this special volunteer service, please contact NHVH Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Punderson, 603-527-4449, or Social Worker Kristen Griffin, 603-527-4812 for more information. Any time that you can provide will be very much appreciated by the staff at the Home.

2013 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

COL James C Allard USA (Ret.) Gail S 540 Tilton Hill Rd Pittsfield, NH 03263-3114	CPT Eric D Barricklow ARNG Alison 19 Beaver Ln Bedford, NH 03110-4608
Col Richard P Greenwood ANG (Ret.) Joan 34 Kinloch Dr Stratham, NH 03885-2138	Col Walter P Havenstein Sr USMC (Ret.) Judith P 112 Dewitt Dr Alton, NH 03809-6022
1LT Donald J Klug USA Margarita C PO Box 208 Hancock, NH 03449-0208	Mrs Mary Ann Krueger USN 32 Cricenti Ln New London, NH 03257-0000
COL Robert J Landry USA (Ret.) 1059 N Main St Laconia, NH 03246-2673	Lt Col Richard L Matthews USAF (Ret.) Jackie 1 Nevins Dr Londonderry, NH 03053-3576
LTC Peter F Schillinger USAR (Ret.) Jacklyn J 45 Old Gilmanton Rd Canterbury, NH 03224-2723	

In the News:

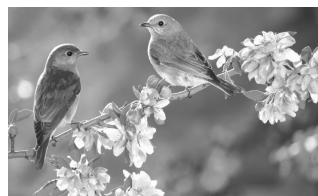
DoD Budget Plan Targets TRICARE

According to columnist Ton Philpott's recent Military Update, the DoD is proposing to merge the three options into a single fee-for-service insurance option, similar to the current Standard option. The proposed changes to TRICARE military dependents and working-age military retirees would face higher out-of-pocket costs, which could include a share of medical expenses and perhaps a new annual enrollment fee, set initially at \$285 for individuals and \$569 for families.

The full article is available on at <http://www.military.com/veterans-report/dod-budget-plan-targets-tricare?ESRC=vr.nl>



3 Generations



- Soon -

All,

Please add your comments to the MOAA-NH web-site (moaa-nh.org), and send possibilities for our next edition to "poko@comcast.net." All submissions including news items will be considered for inclusion,

-editor-

(Continued from page 1 left)

Ayotte originally had proposed eliminating the tax credits for all undocumented workers. Her new version would allow credits if the child being claimed has a Social Security number. According to Ayotte, the proposal would save \$20 billion over 10 years.

--Marine Times Staff writer--

See a summary of Sen Ayotte's press conference (Feb. 18) regarding COLA issues (next article this page)

MOAA-NH news: Vice President (COL) Chad Chadwick spoke at a news conference held in Merrimack, NH held by Senator K. Ayotte (R-NH) on 18 Feb regarding military compensation. Her agenda included the COLA issue. The following are comments taken from COL Chadwick's presentation on behalf of MOAA:

"Our mission is to promote a strong national defense and protect the benefits earned through service and sacrifice in the uniformed services. Our nation can only appreciate those who have served by fulfilling the promises made to them.

Senator Ayotte's continued support has helped us strengthen our collective voices on Capitol Hill and with other government officials.

The senator was against these unfair cuts right from the start. She stood up for military retirees when she voted against the budget deal, and she kept the pressure on to make sure that these benefits were restored.

From the beginning, while others in Congress let these cuts arbitrarily become law, it was Senator Ayotte who led the charge in Washington to make sure that congressional action was taken to restore benefits for our military retirees. - Foresight and determination that resulted in the passage of last week's legislation.

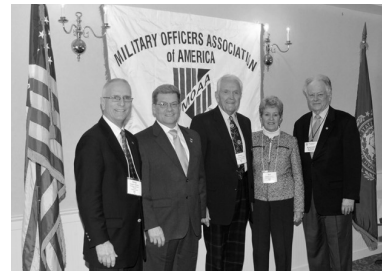
She is a tireless leader on behalf of New Hampshire's veterans and our military, and we applaud her energy, commitment and dedication to our national defense, and to the men and women who have served.

MOAA believes any compensation changes should be proposed by the Congressionally-mandated [Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission](#) (MCRMC). The commission should make recommendations that take into consideration all aspects of recruiting, retention and readiness - not piecemeal changes.

We are grateful for the outpouring of Bi-partisan congressional support from so many leaders and especially **Senator Ayotte's** for her direct and vital leadership efforts to correct these wrongs. It's an old military saying "that all good leaders lead from the front" Well, Senator Ayotte, again, we thank you for continuing to "lead from the front."

"On this and other important issues that directly affect our national defense, our service members, their families, and the widows of the fallen."

- Col Chad Chadwick -



L to R: Greg Whalen and COL Rick Greenwood, NHANG (Ret.), representing Veterans Count; Dr. Gerald and Delores Carrier, founders of Christmas Can Cure; and CDR Bruce Avery, USN (Ret.), President of the NHMOAA

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Veterans Count provides financial assistance to veterans and their families

need of emergency services. This financial support may include, but is not limited to transportation, housing, rent, fuel assistance, utilities, vehicle repair, gasoline, food, child care, and tuition and medical expenses.

A care plan is developed for each client to ensure that veterans, service members, and their families receive the assistance they need to become self-sufficient. Since 2007, VC has raised and distributed over \$1.409 million dollars and help in over 2,292 cases. Gregory Whalen and Colonel (Ret.) Rick Greenwood, NHANG, Chair and Vice Chair of the Seacoast Chapter of VC, received the Granite State Warriors Award on behalf of their organization.

VC also helps in the care and coordination of personal contact with service member helping to prevent suicides, increases readiness, and reduces family stress for those service members dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Carrier are the founders of the Jackson, New Hampshire based 501(c) 3 organization called Christmas Can Cure. Their mission is to bring wounded warriors and their families to Jackson for an old-fashioned New England Christmas covering costs for travel, gifts for the children, local activities such as horseback riding, Polar Express tickets, admission to Santa's Village, and skiing at Attitash.

Starting as a Carrier Family endeavor, Jackson Christmas Can Cure now has 22 area partners and works with the Wounded Warriors Foundation to select recipients. "We decided to make Christmas part of the healing process to our wounded veterans," Carrier said, adding participants can meet Santa on a scenic train ride, enjoy winter sports, and visit North Conway. "We had no idea it would become such a tradition," Carrier said, adding that 97 area residents volunteered their time or services in the past year.

This past December was the sixth annual Jackson Christmas Can Cure season with opening and closing ceremonies held at the Jackson Town Offices. More information can be found at their website www.christmascancure.org

PAO Ken Lull, 25 Jan, 2014 (edited for space)

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11th YEAR



MOAA Travel update (see web site for all details)

Three wonderful trips still available for 2014. First is Paris and the Normandy Beaches in June. Next is Spain in early October. Finally, we have a Seine River barge trip from Paris to the Normandy Beaches in late October.

News for All retired Vets:

MOAA member Dave Houde offered advice to all retired members possessing "old" ID cards. A recent visit to Hanscom AFB proved difficult for Mr Houde: "Although my card had an indefinite expiration date and a bar code, it was issued in 1998. Apparently they didn't put ID cards into the system back then and mine showed as invalid." if you have an old ID card, you may just need to get a new one...and getting an appointment will probably move things along a little better." Delays can be expected w/o an appointment.

New ID cards can be at Pease AFB, or at the Portsmouth Navy yard. Notices have recently been sent out asking retirees to update their old ID cards



CAPT James C. Alosi, USN (Ret.)	Atkinson NH
LTC Raymond E. Closson, USAR (Ret.)	Manchester, NH
LT Robert J. Hess, USNR (Ret.)	Sanbornville, NH
CAPT Edmund E. Johnson, USMC	Rye Beach, NH
MAJ Mary E., Koyutis, USAR (Ret.)	Dracut, MA
COL James A. McDonald, USAR (Ret.)	Manchester, NH
Mrs. Louise Nowik	Portsmouth, NH

2014 TENTATIVE Schedule

- April 12 Promises to Keep, Derry, NH
- June 14 The Eagle Mountain House, Jackson
- August 2 Clambake (PNSY)
- Sept 27 TBD
- Nov 8 Nashua C.C., Nashua, NH

Speakers: Mary Behnke from the VA, and CSM Speltz of the NH Air National Guard
 "Sexual Assault within the Armed Forces and NH Military Community"