



The Granite Slate

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



March, 2016

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Winter Season News and Events

Granite State Warrior Awards Luncheon Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland, NH



Award Presentation (Photo by Peter W. Dawson/MOAA)



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

Our 2015 awards were given to:

The Veterans Law Project which utilizes highly experienced, veteran legal professionals, attorneys and paralegals who understand the unique needs of New Hampshire veterans was presented with the following citation:
Since January 2015, the Veterans Law Project has provided legal assistance to over 500 New Hampshire veterans and families of veterans. Legal assistance provided to veterans covers family law issues, housing and finance problems, criminal law, Veterans Administration benefits, estate planning and probate, discharge upgrades, Social Security disability and Workers Comp, and other legal matters throughout the State of New Hampshire. They also provide emergency access to legal professionals, offer in-house legal services and referrals at no cost to the veteran, reaches veterans and active duty service members both in New Hampshire and around the world, and

(continued on page 3 (top right))

Matthew Albuquerque as the Founder and President of Next Step Bionics & Prosthetics, Inc. with the following citation:

Matthew Albuquerque is awarded the 2015 Granite State Warriors Award as the Founder and President of Next Step Bionics & Prosthetics, Inc. Having founded the human helping company to provide and fit high quality prosthetics for amputees of all ages over 25 years ago, he has been a leading consultant particularly for special use limbs tailored for veterans. He has provided DARPA level development of artificial limbs and specialty fittings for unique needs and uses, and has a strong veteran focus. Matthew has also served as the Chair for Easter Seals Veterans Count Advisory Board. As an American Board Certified Prosthetist and Orthoptist, his emphasis is on serving those who have served.

(continued on page 3 (right center))

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
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Secretary	CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret)	(603)-692-4648, mamclean@comcast.net

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



President's Corner

Chad Chadwick

Let me start by expressing my sincere gratitude and "Thank You" to all our members who contributed donated clothing and/or monies to the Liberty House effort. A special thanks goes to CDR Sharon Day for organizing and executing this great effort for our NH Veterans. Also, a special thanks to Gary and Judy Terhune and Roby Day for their assistance in making this event a success.

I was honored to present a MOAA-NH check for \$400.00 dollars to the NH Veterans home for their recreational activities fund. This was made possible in large part by your donations to our 50/50 raffles.

The 2015 MOAA NH Granite State Warriors Award luncheon was held at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland, and I was pleased to honor this year's award recipients for their service to military members and their families. Our selectees for 2015 were Matthew Albuquerque, president and founder of Next Step Bionics & Prosthetics, Inc, and Tara Sue Myers, executive director, along with Larry Vogelmann, legal director, of the Veterans Law Project. The Veteran's Law Project is commonly referred to as "Legal Boots on the Ground."

We veterans are part of a uniquely American collective. Whenever America or its interests have been threatened, men and women from across this great nation have risen to its defense. If our freedoms or countrymen come under assault, we have always responded with strength, purpose and resolve. Each of us as veterans, along with our families, have sacrificed many times to serve that sacred pact between the warrior and the American society with its principles.

We have over many years and in many wars and conflicts upheld our end of the bargain and we have not betrayed the respect, trust and confidence the American people have placed in us.

MOAA-NH needs a strong membership to ensure that our message – to do the right thing on behalf of those in uniform – is heard loud and clear at the State capital and on Capitol Hill. I ask you, as a MOAA-NH member, to encourage fellow officers, active, former and retired, to join our ranks. There is power in numbers!

-Chad-

Travel Update

We have the following remaining for 2016:

Italian Lakes and Greek Island Cruise & Venice
Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria
Treasures of Northern California

Two firm trips for 2017:

Southern Charm
Hawaiian Adventure

Negotiating the following with Collette for 2017:

Wonders of South America,
Pacific Northwest and California
Canadian Rockies by Train
Springtime Tulip River Cruise, The Netherlands and Belgium

For details contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106, email tonyajjb@gmail.com

2016 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

CAPT William D Carroll
USN Sheilah
PO Box 2134
Portsmouth, NH 03804-2134

Col Joseph P Spataro
USMC (Ret.) Heidi M
13 Checkerberry Ln
Concord, NH 03301-6940

LT John K Leatherman
USN Luci
6 Gagnon Cir
Nashua, NH 03062-3607

Maj Charles R Register
USAF (Ret.) Virginia L
PO Box 625
New London, NH 03257-0625

1LT Herbert P Garbarini
USA Helena
24 Harborview Dr
Rye, NH 03870-6108

RADM Craig E Steidle
USN (Ret.)
37 Pepperell Rd
Kittery Point, ME 03905-5109

Maj Steven J Gorman
USAF (Ret.) Anna T
76 Village Place Dr
Barrington, NH 03825-3747

CAPT James P Spotts
USCG (Ret.) Rebekah L
47 Century Ln
Litchfield, NH 03052-1095

Thank you letter to Mr. Keith Howard, Executive Director, Liberty House, Manchester, NH, 12/15/15

Greetings Keith,

Sharon (Day) and I were very happy to meet you today and get a first-hand glimpse at the excellent work you are doing at Liberty House. The story behind the Paczosa family's house, today the Liberty House, was fascinating and informative.

The SS *Dorchester* that sank on 3 Feb, 1943 was a wartime tragedy and of the 904 soldiers and seamen on board only 230 were rescued from the freezing waters of the Labrador Sea. The ship, torpedoed by *U-boat* 223, sank in 20 minutes, and the crew were unable to send distress signals for lack of power.

The stamp (see below) was issued in 1948 by the USPS to memorialize the four chaplains who gave up their life jackets (2 Protestants, 1 Catholic, 1 Rabbi) to others on the ship. Army PVT Harold C. Paczosa was one of the unfortunate 674 who lost their lives. We are all grateful to the Paczosa family for their continued support with Liberty House. My wife and I thank you for your service and dedication.

– Sharon and Roby Day –



1948 memorial stamp

Chapter Members,

Rosemary and I hope that each of you and your families enjoyed the winter season, and maybe some of you found a place away from the 30 below zero wind chill factor last month. With another spring then summer era on the front porch maybe it's time to get out and do some traveling this summer.

Our advice is to visit somewhere you've always wanted to see, and let your neighbors take care of your house. Stay on a base by the ocean on any coast; our most distant was Elmendorf AFB, AK (twice). Enjoy the sun,
Peter W. Dawson

LCDR, USNR
– editor –

The Granite State Warriors Award Requirements and Selection Criteria

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH) established the Granite State Warriors Award in 2011 to annually recognize the superb contributions of a New Hampshire based organization and/or a New Hampshire resident that have:

- Enhanced the war fighting capabilities of US military forces through the development and introduction of weapon systems and/or subsystems that have led to the strengthening of our national security or
- Improved the health, morale, welfare, and recognition of US military personnel and their direct families through the creation and delivery of unique services either in the US or where are military forces are deployed. Such unique services are specifically designed to improve the



*Granite State Warrior Award winner
Matthew Albuquerque
(see text for details)*

— MOAA News —

Alexandria, Va. - The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) released today its report, a comprehensive review of the military compensation and retirement systems. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has begun to evaluate the MCRMC report and provides the following statement:

"We respect the hard work that went into the MCRMC's findings and recommendations, and MOAA looks forward to giving the report a thoughtful examination," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, president and CEO of MOAA.

"We'll have to evaluate the 15 MCRMC recommendations to determine what recommendations we can support and which ones require greater scrutiny, such as retirement and health care changes," said Ryan. "The devil's in the details. Our concern is the health and welfare of the all-volunteer force. The most important element of the AVF is the retention of the experienced, high-quality mid-grade NCO and officer," he continued.

"Anything of this magnitude of change should be looked at through the lens of the viability of the AVF," said Ryan.

"Our No. 1 concern continues to be the sustainability of the AVF, and our members say they cannot support reforms that negatively impact recruiting, retention and overall readiness." Ryan concluded, "MOAA is encouraged that the armed services leadership have already voiced their plan to thoroughly review the findings and recommendations through a deliberate process."

Granite State Warrior's Awards cont. from P. 1

Veteran's Law Project (cont. from P. 1)

encourage collaboration with community agencies and local resources. To provide these services, the Veterans Law Project utilizes highly experienced, veteran legal professionals, attorneys and paralegals who understand the unique needs of New Hampshire veterans.

Portsmouth Country Club Greenland, NH



Matthew Albuquerque (cont. from P. 1)

Letters of congratulation were read from representatives of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Sen. Kelly Ayotte. In addition to the Granite State Warriors Awards as the theme for the luncheon, chapter member CDR Sharon Day, USN (Ret.) organized a drive to collect items of clothing for homeless veterans who utilize Liberty House in Manchester, NH. Liberty House has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness.

News

BATH, Maine — Bath Iron Works has received an \$18 million modification to the contract for the first DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class guided missile destroyer.



The modification is part of an original \$3.1 billion contract according to Chris Johnson, a public affairs officer at Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C. This will allow work to continue on the three DDG-1000 ships, BIW spokesman Jim DeMartini said Wednesday.

The funds will allow Bath Iron Works to support construction and maintenance of the ship design even as design changes are taking place by engineers.



The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
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Mar, 2016 Taps

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Ruth A. Alford | Charlestown, NH |
| LTC William W. Bush, USA (Ret.) | Nashua, NH |
| Mrs. Dolores M. Degnan | Concord, NH |
| Mrs. Marion A. Drozdowski | Portsmouth, NH |
| LTC Walter J. D. Hewitt, USAR (Ret.) | Windham, NH |
| Lt Col Leo P. Mackey, USAF (Ret.) | Portsmouth, NH |
| CAPT William D. McDonough, USN (Ret.) | Kittery, ME |
| Col Robert L. L'Ecuyer, USAF (Ret.) | Portsmouth, NH |
| Col David S. Penniman, USAF (Ret.) | Tucson, AZ |



U.S. Special Operations Forces soldier(s) in the Afghanistan mountains.

August, 2015

2016 Luncheon Schedule

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 4/23/2016 | Common Man Restaurant, Plymouth, NH |
| 6/11/2016 | White Mtn. Hotel & Resort, N. Conway, NH |
| 8/6/2016 | Clambake (PNSY) |
| 9/17/2016 | Bistro Nouveau at the Center at Eastman, Grantham, NH |
| 11/5/2016 | Annual Meeting, Nashua C. C., Nashua, NH |

—MOAA News—

Oct, 2015

Alexandria, Va. - After months of threatening to reject the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act upon its arrival at the White House, President Obama wasted no time in vetoing the defense bill. Retired Navy Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), issued the following response to the president's veto.

"We are deeply disappointed by the president's veto of this bipartisan defense authorization bill. It sends the wrong signal to our troops and their families at the wrong time. Though the bill contains provisions that give MOAA concerns for future readiness of the all-volunteer force, it represents the best efforts of legislators in both chambers after long and contentious deliberation. The fact is, we are still a nation at war, and this legislation is vital to fulfilling wartime requirements. This is not the time to add to the already extremely daunting burden of legislative challenges."