



The Granite Slate

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



March, 2017

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Winter Season News and Events

**Granite State Warrior Awards Luncheon
Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland, NH
January 28, 2017**



Veterans vs. Non-Vets

The chapter held its first 2017 meeting on January 28, 2017 at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland. 102 members and guests were in attendance for our luncheon, and the venue was a presentation of sixth annual *Granite State Warriors Awards (GSWA)*. These awards are given to the New Hampshire resident or NH-based organization making the most significant contribution to the Armed Forces of the United States during 2016 calendar year.



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

The recipients of the awards were: **Joe Byron, Executive Director and Founder of Honor Flight New England** with the following citation:

Joe Byron, Executive Director and Founder of Honor Flight New England is awarded the 2016 Granite State Warriors Award. Founded in the spring of 2009 to transport America's World War II Veterans to Washington, DC for the purpose of visiting memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifices.

In the spring of 2016, Honor Flight New England began also transporting Korean War Veterans. These trips are provided at no cost to the veterans, and to date 42 flights have been launched serving 1,474 servicemen. Their motto: Honor Flight New England - one more tour with honor. (photo)

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With health care in the headlines almost daily, here's a look at our statistics versus those of non-veterans:

On Nov. 10, *America's Health Rankings* in partnership with MOAA and United Health Foundation released the 2016 *Health of Those Who Have Served Report*. The timing was tied to Veterans Day.

The report compares selected health measures of veterans with those of non-veteran civilians in **the same age** and demographic groups. The study reviewed data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) which is the world's largest annual population-based telephone survey system.

The sample included nearly half a million people, of whom nearly 60,000 **self-identified as veterans**. The analysis addressed 24 indicators of health behaviors, health outcomes, and utilization of key health care services. Key findings include:

- * Veterans are more likely to report being in **very good or excellent health** compared with civilians. However, men and women vets report higher rates of several chronic diseases and unhealthy behaviors compared with their civilian counterparts.
- * Veterans have a 13-percent higher rate of cancer, 62-percent higher rate of coronary heart disease, and 67-percent higher rate of heart attacks. Veterans 18-39 years of age have lower rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, but they sleep less and smoke more than non-vets. Men and women vets are more active at all ages. Physical

(continued on P.2 (bottom left))

Chapter Officers

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



President's Corner Pete Burdett

March, 2017

As your NH Chapter President I will soon be launching off to Washington DC to meet our NH Congressional Delegation at the MOAA Storm the Hill Day, 5 April 2017. These are the conferences that lead to change and protection of the values and budgets for our military, both active and retired. If you believe that a strong military is needed to protect America's Freedom, then belonging to this chapter, being a member of MOAA National, and helping to recruit others are key actions for FORT New Hampshire. Thank you for attending our events, and working hard to keep our numbers strong here in New Hampshire. Our well attended Granite State Warriors Award (GSWA) luncheon was recognized by Senator Jeanne Shaheen in a letter pointing out our advocacy for our veterans. In addition, our award program was sponsored by USAA. I also wish to mention that we have a Transition Liaison, COL R. Bancroft McKittrick. If you hear of an officer transitioning to NH from active duty or just moving here, ask them to call Bancroft: Tel: (603) 489-2429 Fax: (603) 489-2125 Cell: (603) 548-6558 or email at bancroftmc@aol.com. Bancroft and I still recall the day, many years ago, when he called me from HI when moving to NH.

We have an excellent Granite Slate for you this month. If you would like to contribute a story of one (or more) of your military adventures, please add to the history of the Chapter by being published on these pages. Sending a photo is also a GREAT idea.

If you've ever found yourself at a loss for words when a potential new members asks, "Why should I join MOAA?" then use the new "Why MOAA?" video. It is designed to help you easily share with colleagues and prospective members the value of MOAA membership. You can view the video at <https://www.moaa.org/whyMOAA/> or use the QR Code with your smartphone.

If you have any ideas for the chapter, just call me: 1-800-778-4251. My email is peter_burdett@ml.com. I would also be pleased to speak to any group that may have a large % of eligible possible members or would like to hear some of my stories! THANKS,
Pete Burdett

Health comparison,
continued from Page (1)

inactivity was 22 percent less prevalent among people who have served in the military compared with those who have not. Physical inactivity is 38 percent lower among 18-39 year old veterans than non-vets, and 21 percent lower among veterans over 80 years of age.

"The health of those who have served is a high priority for policymakers, health officials, and community leaders," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). "Insights from this report will help stimulate dialogue and action to better serve the unique health needs of uniformed servicemembers and veterans and their families."

2017 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

CDR DiJon (Dee) R Fasoli USN (Ret.) James 18 Saddle Hill Rd Amherst, NH 03031-1600	Capt Kennard E Goldsmith Jr USAF 500 Brackett Rd Rye, NH 03070-2233
Lt Col Richard W Jones USAF (Ret.) 98 Westchester Way Manchester, NH 03104-6496	LtCol Thomas R Reilly USMC (Ret.) Vanessa J 6 Memory Ave Nashua, NH 03062-1659

2017 Luncheon Schedule

04/ 29/2017	The Common Man Inn and Spa, Plymouth
06/10/2017	White Mountain Hotel & Resort North Conway
08/05/2017	Clambake, (PNSY)
09/16/2017	Wolfeboro (TBA)
11/4/2017	Annual Meeting, Nashua C. C., Nashua



COL Norman H. Bonenfant, USA (Ret.)	Dover, NH
Mrs. Daisy E. Cook	Rochester, NH
Mrs. Edna B. Frisbie	Hampton, NH
LCDR William F. Kenney, USN (Ret.)	Hampton Falls, NH
Mrs. Nancy R. Knapp	South Hampton, NH
Lt Col Charles E. McLean, Jr., USMC (Ret.)	Haverhill, MA
Mrs. Jean G. Smart	Windham, ME
Mrs. Ann Walsh	Dublin, NH
CAPT Philip H. Winter, USNR (Ret.)	Clarksburg, MD

Travel Update

We have the following trips scheduled for 2017:
Springtime Tulip Cruise, Dutch & Belgium Waterways, April 20 - 28

Southern Charm, USA, 26 Mar - 1 Apr

Canadian Rockies By Train, 26 Aug - 3 Sep

Pacific Northwest & California, September 17 - 24

Wonders of South America, 2-13 Nov.

For details contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106

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Harbor Homes with the following citation:

In recognition of the work done in direct support of New Hampshire Veterans under its Veterans FIRST Program, Harbor Homes is awarded the 2016 Granite State Warriors Award.



Joe Byron; Honor Flight New England
Photo by Peter W. Dawson / MOAA-NH

Veterans FIRST includes Veterans FIRST Transitional Housing, Veterans FIRST Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, Veterans FIRST Permanent Supportive and Affordable Housing Programs, and Supporting Services for Veterans Families Program including primary medical and dental care. Through the efforts of Harbor Homes, more than 1,000 veteran households moved from homelessness to independence and more than 650 homeless veterans have obtained employment.

The awards presentation(s) was followed by brief lecture by chapter member **COL Cal Hosmer, III, USA (Ret.)**. Col Hosmer is the Chairman of the Scholarship Loan Committee and he summarized the chapter's *Loan Program* from its beginning (1984) through today. Its opening value of \$750.00 has grown to over \$250,000 today. MOAA-NH has assisted more than 90 students with interest-free loans to date and Cal is stepping down this summer. In recognition of his years of dedication to the program he was presented with a plaque by his successor, **COL Joe DiChiaro, USAF (Ret.)**.

Chapter webmaster, **CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret.)** was called to the podium by the chapter president, CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret.), to receive a medallion signifying the chapter's website being chosen as a **Five Star Website** for 2015 by MOAA national in their Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award competition.

Prior to the luncheon, chapter member **CAPT F. Warren Coulter, USN (Ret.)** held a **50/50 Raffle** to support veterans organizations in New Hampshire. He collected **\$136.00** for the chapter's half by measuring people's arms. (scientific system of measurement). We were joined by **four** first time members: Hunt & Stephanie **Kerrigan** of Durham and William & Donna **Luti** of Hebron. We also welcomed **four** potential members as guests: Kennard **Goldsmith, Jr.** & his fiancé, Nancy Grimes, and Dijon & James **Fasoli** of Amherst. We are pleased that they have now joined the chapter as regular members.



Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland, NH



Honor Flight

TRICARE

Members, Express Scripts is the TRICARE program's pharmacy benefit manager. This benefit remains one of MOAA's key focal issues. Express Scripts fills close to half a million prescriptions through the Home Delivery program. More information can be found at the MOAA website.

SCHOLARSHIP LOAN APPLICATIONS REMINDER

MOAA-NH Chapter Scholarship Loan applications are due to Cal Hosmer NLT June 20, 2017.

News:

Military.com Feb 22, 2017

A U.S. airman in Virginia spotted a piece of intel thousands of miles away. Ten days later, warplanes



bombed 11 sites in the Middle East where American military officials say Islamic State militants manufactured deadly drones.

The operation -- detailed for the first time by Air Force officials to Military.com -- underscores a growing trend in modern warfare in which troops at their home bases are intimately involved in wars half a world away. It also highlights a new way of analyzing intelligence to find, track and kill enemies and their weapons.

The Distributed Common Ground System, a globally networked system that can process intelligence from MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper and RQ-4 Global Hawk drones, and U-2 Dragon Lady spy planes among other aircraft to visualize strikes and dissect the aftermath. The system also lets users monitor chats between pilots in any theater across the globe.

On any given day, the DGS teams observe more than 50 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sorties and 1,200-plus hours of motion imagery to produce about 3,000 signals of intelligence. Planning teams review information over time to establish a pattern of life.

There have been multiple examples of ISIS rigging small, off-the shelf drones and model airplanes as time bombs in both Iraq and Syria. In recent weeks, their tactics have escalated in areas such as western Mosul, where Iraqi forces have launched the latest offensive to diminish the ISIS stronghold.

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Washington DC. February 14, 2017
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) (*edited for space*)

The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act amending the 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) makes all veterans with a service-connected permanent disability eligible for a free, lifetime pass allowing entry to National Parks and other recreational lands.

An amendment to a 2004 bill will clarify eligibility for this benefit. "This new bill will ensure that the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country are able to enjoy many of America's most spectacular sights free of charge," Shaheen said. "New Hampshire is home to some of the most beautiful recreation spaces, and the least we can do for our wounded warriors is provide access without cost."

"From Acadia to Denali, and everywhere in between, our bill would allow disabled veterans to access more easily our country's national treasures for outdoor recreation, which can help heal both the visible and invisible wounds of war." (Senator Collins).

Shaheen and Collins have worked to support veterans throughout their careers. They first introduced the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act in the 113th Congress.



Paris Island
+ Carolina
Marine Training

Chapter Members,
We've all seen the daily press releases typically beginning with breakthroughs often introducing or modifying government policies. These have included finances, healthcare, new walls, closed borders, and (important to veterans), changing military initiatives. Each of these important developments have the potential to influence a wide range of people across the world, and the possibilities of both personal and organizational impact range from none through momentous (and many times simply unknown).

While pondering ideas for my *editor's corner*, a "world news" broadcast described an unannounced mission led by US forces in Iraq. This strike's obligations like other wartime activities are mostly shouldered by active duty personnel each filling a job assignment. Responsibilities range from those managing the war from the pentagon, ship captains at sea, commanders at mid-levels, and finally a trickle-down to teams on the ground and in the air.

During my aircraft carrier years it took weeks to get personal mail, strategies from the Pentagon and those of the President sometimes contradicted themselves within an hour, and we stood 15 min. alerts for an immediate launch on command. I consider that even in today's information-laden arena many of our military personnel are in circumstances similar to those of many years ago.

Unknowns today are mostly due to changing government ideas and not due to limitless computers, weapon systems, or satellites able to provide instant information to our leaders. 35 years ago at while at sea we assumed that immediate and accurate orders from Washington (like we have today) would solve many of our problems. At least we might have had time to clean the cockpit windshield. Many times, the only facts that we had came from our training alone.

As veterans, we can be proud that many of the educational ideas, protocols, "at the front" preparation requirements, and chain-of-command structures were started by us. When the green light glows, our servicemen KNOW that they have received the best training humanly possible to do their jobs even while surrounded by impossible circumstances. It's this kind of confidence that wins our campaigns and maintains comradery and specialized skills at all levels (even as MOAA members). We can all stand proud. Enjoy the spring weather, --editor--

Peter W. Dawson
LCDR, USNR

Marine Corp. training photo (left column)