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Results of Elections at 2009 Annual Meeting
NH MOAA Officers Elected to one Year Term
President LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret)
Vice-Pres CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR
Secretary MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret)
Treasurer CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN (Ret)

Board of Directors (Three year term)
Col George C. Arvanetaki, USAF (Ret.)
CAPT Gary W. Lovgren, USN (Ret.)
Col Kenneth L. Weyler, USAFR (Ret.)
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Upcoming Program for 2010
Jan 23 Maj Gen Kenneth Clarke (NHANG ret) former Adjutant General, NH National Guard
Veteran Issues of the Day Promises to Keep, Derry NH

Save the Date for 2010
March 27 Portsmouth Country Club June 5th “North Country”
Aug 7 Clambake Sep 18 Grantham
November 13 Annual Meeting-Bedford

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President LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret), (603) 570-4885, schoonergst@yahoo.com
Vice President CPT Jim LeFebvre, USAR (603) 356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net
Secretary MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret), (603) 644-1630, smowcy@comcast.net
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As I sit back on the day after Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday, and reflect over what our chapter has done over the past year, I see that we have accomplished some very worthwhile things (but there is still much to be done). Highlights include having Morrill Worcester of The Worcester Wreath Co and CPT Ed Johnson, founder of the Pease Greeters as guest speakers; and celebrating our 30th Anniversary. We had hoped to hear Rep Carol Shea-Porter speak but due to the vagaries of being a politician, she was unable to make it. The chapter officially received the 5 Star Level of Excellence award at the MOAA Annual meeting in San Diego, and we were honored to have our 7th straight award presented by COL Bancroft McKittrick as a representative from National. It doesn’t get any better than that.

We have some new people that have joined our team, but we first say goodbye to our longtime and dedicated servant Mary Beth Moran, who has been on the Board of Directors (BoD) or an Officer since 2000. In addition, Bancroft McKittrick, a past President and a member of the BoD will be leaving. George Arvenetaki, BoD member, has re-upped for next year and will take over as the Public Affairs Officer. We welcome back Patricia Graham who will replace Mary Beth as our Secretary and BoD Member as well as Gary Luvgren and Ken Weyler who are joining us as Board members for the first time. Thanks Mary Beth and Bancroft for your dedicated service and we warmly welcome Pat, Ken, Gary and George.

Our Fall luncheons up in Bartlett at the Grand Summit Hotel and the Annual Meeting in Manchester were bittersweet in results. Let me explain. The September luncheon had a very disappointing turnout which is very unusual for us at the fall luncheon. This was our 4th time in Bartlett and we had been averaging well over 140, but this year we came in with well under 75. We are not sure of the reason(s) but many people missed a very enjoyable day along with the magnificent weather. Our speaker, Phil Dwyer from MOAA National, gave us an enlightening talk about financial matters pertinent to our membership. The Annual Meeting had our usual good turnout, but was disappointing because our speaker couldn’t be there. Our “Spouses and Friends” speaker from the morning, Christian Leibl-Cote filled in at the annual meeting and spoke to us about Collette Vacations. We also celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a new challenge coin designed by Bob Jaffin, our Recruiting Coordinator. These coins, available from the chapter for a nominal fee, can be used for recruiting purposes. Our Dec BoD meeting is going to be replaced by an envelope stuffing party and holiday cheer at the Holy Grail in Epping for those interested in joining us. Contact one of the officers if you would like additional information. This is a follow-up to a similar mailing we did last year at this time with a different target audience.

In September, our Chapter Vice President, Jim LeFevbre and I, along with our wives, attended the Chapter President’s Symposium in Hershey, PA where we learned about the secrets of recruiting and retention as well as TOPS utilization in recruiting and other good ideas. My wife and I also had the chance to attend the Annual Meeting of MOAA in San Diego where the Chapter was formally presented the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award by MOAA’s Chairman of the Board, Gen Richard “Butch” Neal, a picture of which appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

In case you haven’t already heard, our first luncheon of 2010 is 23 Jan at Promises To Keep in Derry. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, MG Ken Clark USAF (Ret), the former Adjutant General of NH, who will speak to us about the role of the NHANG in Homeland Security and in the War Against Terror among other topics of interest to the chapter. You will not want to miss this luncheon. Let’s hope we don’t get another foot of snow like we had a few years ago at this venue. Look for your flyer in the mail shortly. Our Spring Luncheon will again be at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland on the 27th of March, speaker announced shortly.

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON EVERYONE! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
Stopping the Bleeding?
The Army and Marine Corps have added forces in the last two years, and more are planned for 2008. However, it’s important to keep things in perspective. Even with overall increases since 2000, the Army has only recovered 31,000 of its nearly 250,000 losses from 1990 levels. Similarly, the Marines have only regained about 8,500 members compared to a loss of a little over 23,000 since 1990 levels.
MOAA applauds that long-overdue reversal and strongly supports those services' renewed recruiting and retention efforts. But the recent increases replace only a fraction of troop cuts since 1990. Meanwhile, Navy and the Air Force manpower levels continue to decline, with more cuts coming. Under current law, the Navy and Air Force continue to tumble in numbers losing a cumulative 233,000 and 190,000 respectively since 1990.

Information from MOAA.org

Defense Budget Future: Bleak?
Last week, the House Armed Services Committee heard a depressing defense budget forecast from representatives of the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and think tanks.

During the hearing entitled “Resourcing the National Defense Strategy: Implications of Long Term Defense Budget Trends,” witnesses said steep increases in defense spending will be needed to continue a two-war effort despite the current competing federal deficit, but that may be difficult to achieve.

Dr. Matthew Goldberg of the CBO cited four main factors that will increase costs:
- Continued real growth in both servicemember and DoD civilian pay and benefits
- Projected increases in operations and maintenance costs for aging weapon systems and newer, more complex equipment
- Development and fielding of advanced weapon systems to replace worn-out systems
- Investments in new capabilities in areas to meet emerging threats (such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems)

Chairman Ike Shelton (D-MO) characterized the future defense budget picture as “not a pretty one” in view of growing deficits and competing requirements.

Skelton said that two Pentagon documents owed to Congress in February 2010 will dominate next year’s budget discussions.

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) will outline national defense strategy and policy changes required to implement the strategy. The Administration’s FY2011 budget will be the primary vehicle used to apply the QDR’s recommendations.

Because of the burgeoning federal deficit and the potential for an expanded war effort in Afghanistan, Congress may be left struggling to find ways to fund future military needs. CBO estimates that current budgets envision defense spending dropping to 3.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (total national output of goods and services) in 2015 and to 2.6 percent of GDP by 2028.

Researchers told the Committee that weapon spending may lose out if the Pentagon continues to incur rising personnel and operations costs without a significant increase in the Department’s budget.
The Veterans History Project, which is sponsored by the Library of Congress, is a nationwide effort to collect the first-hand accounts of US veterans. Although the project has been in existence since 2000, fewer than 150 of New Hampshire's almost 130,000 veterans have recorded their stories.

The Veterans History Project also accepts collections of original wartime photographs or artwork, letters, memoirs, diaries, or official military documents. The Veterans History Project welcomes the stories of any veteran or civilian support worker (war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, defense contractors, etc.) from any war. There is a particular urgency to obtain interviews from World War II and Korean War veterans.

- For more information about the Veterans History Project, please visit the official website at

  www.loc.gov/vets

Dec 2009 Taps

Mrs Cameron B Wagner
Maj Kenneth Webb USAF (ret)
Lt Raymond Kimball USNR (ret)
LTC Ernest Loret USAR (ret)
LTC Stephen Robbins USA (ret)
Col John Hammond, USA (ret)

Contoocook, NH
Clearwater, FL
Berlin, NH
Manchester, NH
Freedom, NH
New London, NH

Mary Beth Moran accepts a small token of appreciation from President Gary Terhune for her significant contributions to the MOAA Chapter since 2000. Thanks Mary Beth!