



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821



December, 2019

Autumn News and Events

Volume 41, No. 4



MOAA-NH Chapter's Mission

- To promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the By-Laws of that Association
- To further legislative goals and objectives of MOAA
- To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among our membership
- To provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents, and survivors

MOAA-NH held its 2019 Annual Meeting at the Nashua Country Club

It was a *very* cold November 9, 2019 when the chapter, once again, held its Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Nashua Country Club. It was also a celebration of the chapter's fortieth anniversary!



As always, the country club's staff, led by Clubhouse Manager Scott Hobden and Marilyn DiFillipo, was extremely helpful. There was always someone present to assist with every eventuality. We are sad to note that Marilyn will be retiring at the end of this year. We will miss her!

There was no spouses and friends meeting this year in conjunction with the members' business meeting due to several factors. Prior to the luncheon, chapter Board members, Andrew Breuder and Wayne Balcom, raised \$131 to support New Hampshire veterans organizations. Also during the social hour, Senator Maggie Hassan stopped by to meet and greet chapter members.

Prior to the start of the luncheon, chapter member, LTC Brenda Pennells, USAR, of Martin's Point Health Care, gave a briefing on their new health care plan for those members who are currently enrolled in TRICARE for Life (TFL).

A total of 103 members and guests participated in the traditional playing of all the service marches. Unfortunately, this year no one was present from NOAA or USPHS to stand up for their marches.

Chapter President Coulter announced the chapter's *seventeenth consecutive year* being recognized as a **5-Star Level of Excellence Chapter** recipient by MOAA.

Outgoing Chapter President Coulter presided over the installation of this year's Officers and Board of Directors for the chapter. The results of the annual elections can be found on the "Chapter News" page. Once again, we acknowledged the passing of chapter members who



passed away since the last annual meeting. A list of those members can be found on the chapter's website. **TAPS** was played for them.

Everyone delighted in a delicious meal excellently prepared by the staff of the club. In addition, people enjoyed a piece of the anniversary cake after it was ceremonially cut by first-time chapter attendees at the luncheon.

We were pleased to have LTC Shawn Buck, USA (Ret.), Director of the NH State Veterans Cemetery, as our guest speaker. LTC Buck provided an interesting and informative dialog about the cemetery at Boscawen. He also fielded a number of pertinent questions from members. As a speaker's gift, LTC Buck was given a one-year membership in the chapter!



We were joined by four first-time attendees: Emile & Mary Ann Anderson of Nashua and Fran Tannian & Neal Brown of Lebanon.

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
MOAA-NH Secretary

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SECRETARY

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

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President's Corner

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)



I would like to thank everyone who attended the November Annual Meeting and chose to elect me president. It is yet another opportunity to excel.

During my tenure, these are just some of the issues I would like to address:

- Reduce the number of Board of Director (BOD) meetings to six, each one to precede one of the six events we plan each year
- Restructure the chapter's scholarship program
- Formally invite neighboring chapters to appropriate MOAA New Hampshire events. For the Granite State Warrior Awards, formally invite the southern Maine Chapter to attend. For the early fall event, invite MOAA Vermont; and for the clambake, formally invite multiple chapters to join us.
- Work with the congressional delegation to see if we can set up two formal events each year where MOAA and other veteran service organizations meet directly with the entire congressional delegation (I have already opened discussions with Sen. Hassans' staff.)
- Inquire about less formal, purely social events for members in various regions of the state
- Explore a ridesharing program for our six events
- Establish the creation of our own speakers bureau allowing us to interface with more communities and community organizations
- Create a chapter "history" focusing on profiling our members.

I would also like to comment on the quarterly council and chapter leadership webinar MOAA conducted just a couple days ago. MOAA National conducts quarterly webinars for chapter and council leadership, and I was fortunate to attend this quarter's webinar on Thursday, November 21. I need to learn a great deal about MOAA National and how the chapters and councils function, but the bottom line is that these are extremely valuable webinars with a tremendous amount of information given out. From my perspective, these are a few key areas I would like to share with you:

MOAA has three programs that should be of particular interest to every chapter: scholarships, grants under the foundation, and sponsorship. Each has limitations, and all are competitive. To me, continuously engaging the public is the most important aspect of the grant and sponsorship programs. How do we engage our members' families? More importantly, how do we engage the community and provide an opportunity for our members to give back to the community? This meshes with my own thoughts and some of the discussions I have had with younger officers who are considering becoming members: Why should I join the chapter? Many of them wish to contribute and engage with the community. If you look at the demographics for MOAA New Hampshire, you quickly recognize that we are both aging and shrinking. To combat that, we need to recruit younger officers earlier in their careers and offer them opportu-

nities to build their life experience through MOAA New Hampshire and the chapter's outreach efforts. I consider this whole concept one of the two areas we need to address now, regardless of the outcome.

- The other major point brought up in the webinar was "legal." While much of the focus was on councils having responsibility for multiple chapters, the point was made repeatedly that, conceptually, this applies to the chapters as well: liability — both how the individual organization is structured and what kind of liability insurance the organization carries. The primary points covered were that
 - (a) more chapters should be incorporated as nonprofits, either 501(c) 19 or 501(c)(3);
 - (b) it is necessary to carry some form of liability insurance; and,
 - (c) the more public facing activities a chapter or council engages in, the more critical the organizational structure and liability insurance become.

I look forward to hearing from more chapter members as well as Board members as we continue moving MOAA New Hampshire forward.

Bob Jaffin

MOAA-NH's Fall Meeting Held in Grantham

It was a beautiful Indian Summer day when the chapter held its fall meeting and luncheon on September 21, 2019. A total of 75 chapter members and their guests made the trip, once again, to Bistro Nouveau at the Center at Eastman in Grantham, NH. This has become a regular stop for our September luncheons. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and good company.



After the repast, they listened to the guest speaker, FR Jeff Pavaglio, Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, and a Captain in the NH National Guard, talk about his experiences serving as a Chaplain in today's National Guard. He covered several topics, such as suicide and the problem of honesty in the military citing the problem of NG and Reserve units not having the same time to complete training requirements as regular units. He indicated that some commanders end up doing some of the training but report that they did it all. After his presentation, there were a number of questions from those present.

We were joined by two first-time attendees: Lee & Anne Cheshire of Belmont.

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret), MOAA-NH Secretary

Let's Welcome Our New 2019 Chapter Members!

LT Arthur R. Beauchesne, USN (Ret) — Nottingham
LTC Shawn P. Buck, USA (Ret) — Bow
LTC Bruce Elliott, USA (Ret) — Henniker
MAJ F. Gavin MacAloon, USAF (Ret) — Nashua
CPT Constance A. Morrison, USAR — Plymouth
COL Bruce S. Packard, USA (Ret) — Bedford
COL Robert E. Paddock, Jr. USA (Ret) — Campton
2LT Frances C. Tannian, USAF — Lebanon
Mrs. Barbara H. Palmer, USAF — Venice, FL



Reflections . . .

In Service to My Country

Editor's Note: *Imagine yourself being thrown into these four harrowing POW experiences — just the fact alone that at this time these men were only in their late teens or early 20s. If you don't get goosebumps, there's something wrong!*

Herbert C. Streitburger "Herk"

Born: 1919 in Philadelphia, PA
Grew up in: Brooklyn, NY
Current Home: Bedford, NH
Spouse: Jacqueline
Inducted: February 14, 1941
Branch: US Army Air Corps
Rank: Technical Sergeant



"Herk" started out with an anti-aircraft unit in Texas (C Battalion 69th Coast Anti-Aircraft). Then, in December 1941 after Pearl Harbor, he was sent to San Diego (Balboa Park). While there, he tested for aviation cadet, passed the exam, became part of the Army Air Corps, and learned to fly. He soloed on a PT-19A; but during the next course, he "washed out." He still wanted to fly; and since he had gone to a gunnery school, he was able to join a bomber crew of ten men on a B-24 Liberator and trained in New Mexico; Charleston, SC; and Mitchel Field, Long Island, NY. There they picked up a new B-24 and flew the Southern route: NYC-Miami-Brazil – Dak Kur, South Africa- Tunisia- Marakesh-and finally to Lechte, Italy where they were based as part of the 343rd Bomb Squad, 90th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force.

Circumstances of capture: Herk was flying a B-24 Liberator bomber plane on a mission to Vienna, Austria, when anti-aircraft guns took out two of the plane's engines. *"We couldn't keep up with our formation. The plane was shot down, and two men were killed. The other nine of us were immediately captured by Nazis."* They were put on a train to Budapest, Hungary where they were held in a prison for 18 days. They were then taken by train to Vienna, Austria arriving mid-July, then marched three miles to a prison camp. The camp had four compounds, each having ten barracks that held 240 men each. During the winter, the Russians started closing in on their location. On February 6, they started an 86-day march north to Camp Falling Parcel 11B, spending many nights sleeping in the snow covered fields when a barn couldn't be found. They arrived in early May. After awhile, the Americans and British began closing in. They were put on the march, again, this time in columns of 200 men, separated by a horse and wagon, which was filled with straw and driven by a German soldier. This was called the "sick wagon" for those who couldn't walk.

Escape: Herk and two other men escaped by having one man pretend to be sick, while the other two tended to him. When the column went around a bend in the road and before

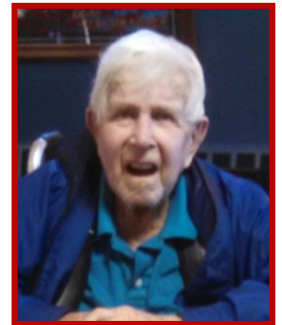
the wagon came into view, Herk and the other two soldiers ran into the woods and hid for six days before meeting up with British soldiers, who returned them to the American forces sometime in June 1944.

They were first taken to Brussels, Belgium where they were able to get cleaned up and properly clothed. Then, it was on to La Havre, France and a slow boat to New York City. After some much-deserved R&R, Herk was discharged from active service. He later went on to use his GI Bill to earn a degree in marketing and sales from St. Johns University. He then went to work in NYC marketing beer for Rheingold Brewery working his way up to Director of Marketing for the Northern New England region.



Wesley Wells

Born: Bradford, NH in 1923
Current home: Hillsboro, NH
Spouse: Irene Demag since 1971
Enlisted: January 10, 1941 in the
US Army Air Corps
Boot Camp: Savannah, GA
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Served with: 48 Matl. Sqd. 27th
Bombardment Group
Deployed overseas: Ft McKinley, PI



On December 13, 1941, Wesley and his group were sent to establish an emergency landing field at the southern tip of Mindoro Island at San Jose, 140 miles south of Manila. After Bataan and Corregidor fell, he and about 50 others started hiking east through jungle and rough terrain to the east coast of Mindoro to the village of Mansalay. They commandeered three outrigger canoes and managed to make it to the island of Tablas. From there they went south to the island of Panay following the west coast to Pandan. Because of increased pressure from the Japanese, they travelled to Cuyo Island in the middle of the Sulu Sea covering about 175 miles in two-to-three weeks.

It was there on May 20, 1942 that they were finally captured by the Japanese. The Japanese Navy loaded them on a sea plane tender and sent them to Manila Bay and then to Bilibid Prison. Knowing the conditions in the prison weren't conducive to a long life, he volunteered to work on a farm. He was sent to a place called Clark Field, which was actually one of the better prison camps. He spent two years there until late summer 1944 when he was moved to Cabanatuan then subsequently onto the Nissyo Maru, a ship in Manila Bay and transported to Moji, Japan, what he called 19 days on a hell ship. They were then transferred to a train and sent to prison camp Fukuoka III. For the next year they spent every day traveling from the camp to the Yawata Steel Mill. The order was given near the end of the war that when the invasion began that the Japanese were to kill all the prisoners. Wesley said that if it were not for the atom bomb, they would have all been killed. The A bomb actually saved lives — the lives of the prisoners, the allied troops that would have invaded, and the Japanese who would have fought to the death of every man.

(continued on page 4)



Reflections . . . In Service to My Country

Wesley Wells

(continued from page 3)

The soldiers were repatriated on September 13, 1945 when the Marines under Col. Davis took over Fukuoka III. They were taken by train to the docks in Nagasaki where some were put onto a hospital ship and others were put on the aircraft carrier Endeavor and taken to Okinawa. A couple days later they boarded a B-24 bomber and flew to Clark Field where they changed planes to a cargo plane for a quick flight to Manila. Two weeks later they boarded a Dutch transport ship back to Seattle, Washington and then on to Ft. Lewis.

After medical check-ups and treatments, the soldiers were put on troop transport trains back across country to Ft. Devens.

After 110 days leave, Wesley had to report back to Ft. Devens where he was given a choice: Go to a new base for assignment or go to Ft. Dix, N.J. for discharge processing. He chose discharge, went to UNH, and graduated with a BS in Occupational Therapy.

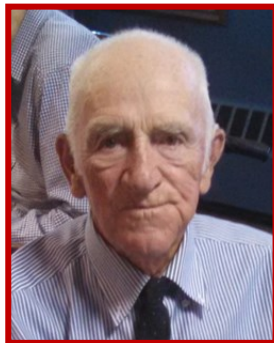
After a few years he felt the need to enlist again but in the new Air Force and went through boot camp again! However, when they told him he would have to go through *survival school* he *vehemently protested*, and won! He retired from the Air Force in 1966 as a Staff Sergeant. *A true survivor!*

Deby Jo Ferguson chronicled Wesley's story in her book titled "A Walk Through Hell."



Raymond Brunelle

Enlisted: November 3, 1950
US Army Infantry, Ft. Devens, MA
Boot Camp: Camp Cooke (now Vandenberg Air Force Base)
Rank: Private First Class
Overseas Deployment: Korea 1951
Captured: Last part of March 1952
Ray believes he is the unofficial record holder for the quickest escape for a POW!



Circumstances of capture: Ray was a lookout on a hill across a valley from the rest of his unit. An enemy soldier with a white arm band attacked Ray from behind engaging him in hand-to-hand combat. His attacker yelled for help, and two more soldiers came over the hill to help his attacker. Ray flipped the first one away; and was in the midst of fighting the other two, when the first one pointed a rifle at his head and in English told him to stop or be shot. The one with the arm band appeared to be the leader and started leading them up over the hill while other two each held an arm and escorted him up the hill. When they got close to the top, he could see more soldiers in the distance, so he decided he had to do something right away. He made a quick shake of both arms at the same time and managed to knock both captors

off their feet into the snow. He was able to dive over a bank and run back down the hill and get away. Ray estimates he was a captive for about five minutes. Later, upon debriefing, he found out the soldier in the white arm band was a Chinese first lieutenant.

A few weeks later on April 5, 1952, he and four others were out on patrol when the man next to him stepped on a mine. Ray was blown into the air, taking shrapnel to the head, chest, stomach, and almost totally amputating his left arm. Bleeding profusely he managed to stumble and crawl his way back to the corpsman's bunker where he received some quick first aid treatment, was put on a stretcher, and carried down a hill to where they could put him on a truck to the first aid station. When he got there he remembers meeting the Chaplain and receiving Last Rites. He was then sent to "Tent City" where he underwent his first operation, during which he went unconscious.

When he came to, he was blind and in pain and started yelling until a nurse came to check him out. The nurse told him they thought he had died on the operating table. He was then flown to a hospital in Japan where the doctor told him he had been unconscious for seven days at Tent City and that his bandages hadn't been changed in that whole time. It took the nurses ten hours to remove the old bandages to discover he was so full of gangrene and that antibiotics weren't working. It took quite a while to get a handle on the gangrene; but once that was under control, a doctor from New York flew over to do the surgery to reattach his left arm.

The next six months were spent in a wet bed where he had to have fluids poured over his arm several times a day and no movement of the arm. After about 15 months in the hospital, he was to be sent back stateside to Ft. Campbell, KY for more surgeries.

The first flight to Hawaii went well with a checkup there by a doctor before continuing on to San Francisco. Part way into the flight to San Francisco, the plane lost operation of two of its four engines, necessitating an emergency landing in Frisco.

He was put onto a different plane for the next leg of the flight, where again they had engine problems and had to land in a field in Texas. The crew was able to make a temporary fix and get back in the air again. They were able to get as far as Alabama before they were forced to land again. He was finally put on another plane and flown to Ft. Campbell. He was there for about six months receiving several more surgeries, during which time his enlistment ran out and was put on indefinite extension. He was then bounced between several other hospitals until a medical board determined him unfit for military service and subsequently retired from service.

In an interview he had done with a reporter he was quoted as saying "I did what I had to do." . . . "They think I'm a hero. I don't think so. I just did what I had to do."

. . . and that seems to be the view that most service men and women have about themselves.



(Another story on page 5)



Reflections . . .

In Service to My Country

Edward Parker

Home: Groveland, MA

Branch: US Army Infantry



Edward was a rifleman in the 3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regiment. His unit was in Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Edward was working point when he was shot in the leg and captured by Hermann Göring's SS troops. He was lined up with 15-18 other guys. The Germans shot all of them except for two men — Edward and one other. He stood with the other man in line and thought he was going to be shot as well. They were then taken to a slave labor camp (in Italy), where they worked from sun up until the job was done. He was in the camp with several other soldiers from other countries as well as civilians. Edward lost 43 pounds while in captivity. He was finally released when the war was over — a total of seven months in captivity.

Credit for all four POW stories: Bob Stevens (YouTube -- Veteran Forum Interviews) & Thomas St. Pierre, FTC/SS, USN (Ret)

MOAA-NH Needs Your Help

Please consider volunteering for one of the following positions and being part of MOAA-NH's nationally recognized excellence.

Back-up Recording Secretary: fills in if the regular Recording Secretary is unavailable for a Board meeting. Takes notes/records the conduct of the meeting and prepares written minutes for distribution. Monthly Board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday at the Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with a break for dinner. Chapter membership is not required — spouses are welcome! Contact Michael McLean, at 603-692-4648 or mamclean@comcast.net

Treasurer: The Treasurer's role within the framework of the Board of Directors is to prepare periodic treasury reports to the Board and membership, keep our books, write checks, make deposits, and complete reports external to the organization (e.g. IRS, State of NH, etc.). Your current treasurer, Roby Day, will be retiring from the position in November 2020, and is willing and able to assist a Vice Treasurer be prepared to step into the job as an elected officer of MOAA-NH. If you are interested in being a part of our leadership team, please contact Roby Day at 603-642-7956 (fuzzbutthall@comcast.net) or any member of the Board.

Chairman, Scholarship Committee: This is an appointed position open to members and their spouses. The Chairman is responsible for administering MOAA-NH's Scholarship Loan Program. The Committee ensures the program is well-publicized, oversees the application process, selects individuals to receive loans, determines "forgiveness" and repayment schedules, and manages loan and Scholarship Trust Fund Accounts. The Chairman reports periodically to the Board of Directors on the program's status and to the Chapter's general membership at the annual meeting. If interested, contact Peter Burdett at 603-738-0168 or peter_burdett@ml.com or Bob Jaffin at 207-850-1009 or email robertjaffin@gmail.com.

Is travelling on your bucket list? Maybe this list will help . . .



2019 MOAA Travel Program: (Additional information on the available 2019 and 2020 trips are posted on our website under "Group Travel")

- Magical Christmas Markets, Austria and Germany. December 7 — 14, eight days, (\$2,899 with air)

2020 MOAA Travel Program:

- ***The travel event of the decade! Book early! Some of the tours are already sold out. All the trips listed below include the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany.***
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, June 6 — 16, (\$6,499 with air)
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, Aug 30 — Sept 10 (\$6,999 with air)
- Austrian Delight, (***almost sold out; call Tony for dates***), 10 days, (\$4,999 with air)
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, (several dates available), 10 days, (\$4,999 with air)
- Imperial Cities, (several dates available), 11 days, (\$4,199 with air)
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, (several dates available), 13 days, contract pending

The following 2020 trips do not include The Passion Play:

- Memorials of World War II, (featuring the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landing), 10 days, 15 - 22 April 2020 (\$4,349 with air)
- Spotlights on the French Riviera, 9 days, 18–26 April 2020 (\$3,399 with air)
- Maritime Coastal Wonders (featuring the Cabot Trail) — Canada, 11 days, 7—17 July (\$3,799 with air)
- Mackinac Islands (featuring the Grand Hotel and Chicago), 8 days, August 2020 (\$3,599 with air)
- Treasures of Europe (from London to Rome), 12 days, 3-14 September 2020 (\$4,499 with air)

The following trip has been contracted with Collette; however, we have not received the brochures:

- Heritage of America, October 4-12, 2020, 9 days, 12 meals, (\$3,049 per person with air from Logan)

Look for our "Trip of the Month" email blasts sent out periodically. Log into our website "moaa-nh.org" and click on "Group Travel." **For reservations or additional information, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email: tonyajjb@gmail.com.**

I would like to partner our travel program with a community organization such as the Kiwanis, the Elks, a religious organization, etc., so we can increase our customer base. Please furnish me with the name and phone number of a point of contact for any of these organizations, and I will accomplish the coordination process.
~Tony B.

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
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17th YEAR



www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

December 2019

Taps

COL Richard B. Aldrich, USAF (Ret)
CDR Raymond L. Belanger, USN (Ret)
LTC Joseph M. Boucher, USA (Ret)
CW3 Ronald W. Coble, USA (Ret)
Mrs. Dorothy C. Corcoran
COL Louis Datillo, USMC (Ret)
LTC William E. Day, USAF (Ret)
Mrs. Irene L. Graf
LCDR William L. Halleck, USN (Ret)



2020 MOAA-NH Luncheons & Annual Meeting

January 25 — Portsmouth Country Club (GSWA)
April 25 — Common Man Inn & Spa, Plymouth
June 20 — White Mountains/North Country
August 1 — Clambake, PNSY
September 19 — Bistro Nouveau, Grantham
November 7 — Nashua Country Club (Annual Mtg)



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that MOAA-NH has a Facebook page? We do . . . at <https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH-403462326493407/> Check out all the latest pictures and information about the chapter. While you're there, be sure to "like" us.

Cut and paste or type the link below into your browser. It will take you directly to National MOAA's "Take Action" tab. There you can learn about current legislative issues and voice your opinions about their efforts.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

FOR LINKED-IN USERS

MOAA-NH members: We have established a group on LinkedIn for the purpose of helping members find employment in the New Hampshire area. If you have a LinkedIn account, please request to join the "New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)" group. If you are seeking employment or know a prospective member who will be, create a post for the group with a link to the member's profile. We also ask that recruiters and human resource professionals from companies around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group. If you have suggestions for the LinkedIn Group, please contact Jim Spotts at jim.spotts@hotmail.com.