



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 2023

Winter News & Events

Volume 45, 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

The NH Chapter Annual Meeting, NCC 4 November 2023!

It was a pleasant autumn day on November 4th when the Chapter held its Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Nashua Country Club. The Business meeting was attended by twenty-four Chapter members.



Eighty-two members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal excellently prepared by the staff. As always, the staff were extremely helpful in accommodating every request. Joe DiChiaro gave a moving invocation. Before the meal, those present participated in the traditional playing of all the service marches including the new Space Force. Unfortunately, this year no one was present from the Coast Guard, NOAA or USPHS to stand up for their marches. Our outgoing president, CPT James LeFebvre



USAR (Ret), presided over the installation of this year's Officers of the 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 had died since the last annual meeting. TAPS was played for them all. During lunch, CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret) and LTC Gary Terhune, USA (Ret) collected \$242 in donations to support veteran's organizations in NH. We were pleased to have as our guest

speaker, Virginia "Gail" Joyce, Chair of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, who is herself a surviving spouse and Gold Star mother, and a member of the MOAA National Board of



Directors. Prior to her talk, she presented our new President, Lt. Col. Larry Miller, USAFR (Ret), with the Certificate and Medallion for our 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award. Prior to our quest speaker's main presentation, our incoming

President, Larry Miller, presented our outgoing President with his Past President's pin and a special gift for his contributions to our Chapter. In addition, another special recognition award was presented to our Secretary, Michael McLean, for his many years of contributions to our local Chapter. Gail



began her talk saying that we're all told how to do many things in our lives, but no one tells you how to be a widow. One new widow stated that being a surviving spouse was harder than running a large company. Particularly in the military, life is unpredictable. She stated that women are far more likely to be widowed and less likely to re-marry than men. Of MOAA's membership of 360,000, 12-13% of those are surviving spouses. She stressed that MOAA can't do this alone and needs the help of the VA and Veteran Service organization to insure that surviving spouses fully understand what benefits are available to them and where to go for help.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret), 603-440-5054, millerlm73@me.com

VICE PRESIDENT

CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret), 603-738-0168, psburdett@aol.com

FINANCE (TREASURER)

VACANT

SECRETARY

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret), 603-767-0411; mamclean@comcast.net

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Andrew J Breuder, Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS, 603-494-6639, abreuder@comcast.net

President's Corner

Lt Col Larry Miller, USAFR (Ret)

By the time you read this Halloween will have passed, the Annual Luncheon and Veterans Day will be behind us, and possibly Thanksgiving will be completed. However, much is ahead of us. But first, I want to express my gratitude to Gail Joyce, MOAA National, Board of Directors, Surviving Spouse, for her informative presentation at the Luncheon. Gail presented the Chapter with 2022 Level of Excellence Award. Also, Senator Hassan presented the Chapter a letter of support for "...unyielding commitment to advocating for military members and their families...while also promoting for a strong national defense that keeps our communities safe secure and free." Sen Hassan has always been a strong supporter of MOAA-NH and I look forward to working closely with her and her staff in the future. I want to congratulate the new slate of Officers, CDR Peter Burdett (VP) and CDR Michael McLean (Sec). Also, the new incoming members of the Board of Directors: Wayne Balcom, James Dunn, Richard Siemens, Charles Frost, (2 Yrs) and Gary Tehune (1 Yr). It was also a pleasure to welcome new members at the luncheon, Capt Dave Rosa, Col Marcia Tamblyn, CAPT Wayne Peters, and Maj Jason Moody. The luncheon was a great success, with approximately 82 attendees, one of our largest events. Past President Jim LeFebvre received his Past President pin and is now one of our recruiting team members. And finally, I want to recognize our newly appointed Surviving Spouse liaison, Pat Miller. Yes, my lovely wife of 50 years has stepped up. I'm sure she will provide you with much information in her new capacity in the coming months. Pat replaces Gwen Devoe, who has served for many years in this capacity.

I want to underscore the MOAA Advocacy-In-Action (AiA) program. We are all advocates. If you have not yet signed up as a MOAA advocate I encourage you to do so. You can go directly to the MOAA web page and then to the Legislative Action Center page. You can find each of the MOAA Key Advocacy Issues; Active Duty, Families, Guard and Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and Veterans. In addition, you will find links to your elected officials from the Federal, State and local representatives (town and County). There is also a list of MOAA supported legislation with links to the Bills wording. I would like to bring your attention to two Bills lingering in committee with the hope that you will consider supporting. The first is H.R. 4949 - Hello Girls Gold Medal Act of 2021. This Act will recognize the valor and duty of over 100 volunteer women who answered the call to duty in 1918 as telephone operators in WWI. Telephone operators were the first women to serve as soldiers in non-medical classifications and the job

of the operators was to help win the war. They were known in the day as 'Hello Girls'. This recognition is more important since it will recognize two of New Hampshire's own, Agnes Theresa (Houley) O'Brian from Groveton and Lydia C. (Gelinas) Warren from Nashua. The other is H.R. 1015 and S. 2738, Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act. Dustoff crews performed aeromedical evacuation for United States, Vietnamese, and allied forces in Southeast Asia from May 1962 through March 1973. Highly skilled and intrepid, Dustoff crews were able to operate the helicopters and land them on almost any terrain in nearly any weather to pick up wounded, after which the Dustoff crews could provide care to these patients while transporting them to ready medical facilities. Please consider your support to these two important legislations.

Have a safe and happy Holiday season. Looking forward to working closely with you in the coming year.



Larry Miller
President, MOAA-NH Chapter

(Continued from Page 1) Her "war cry" for the future is "Life Needs a Battle Plan". MOAA conducts regional training sessions to educate chapter leadership and surviving spouses and recently conducted one in Providence, RI, and also through letters and articles that appear in the MOAA Newsletter and website. They are also very involved in the AIA activities and were successful in 2019 in eliminating the widow tax. Gail had a substantial amount of additional information which couldn't be included here. At the end of her speech, Gail



was joined by our former and current surviving spouse chapter liaisons, Gwen Devoe and Pat Miller. Pat was then able to present to two surviving spouses in the audience, Gwen Devoe and Karen Stewart, and encouraged them to return to activities within the MOAA NH Chapter. Pat said that if she could be of any help to anyone, please feel free to contact her at patmiller73@yahoo.com. (Continued on Page 6)

Remembering Linebacker II

Fifty-one years ago this month, President Nixon authorized a twelve day bombing mission of Hanoi in order to bring the North Vietnamese to the negotiating table in Paris, for the return of US POW's, and the start of procedures to end the war in Vietnam. The mission was called "Operation Linebacker II" and was the largest continuous bombing mission of the war in Vietnam involving 200 B-52 bombers from Strategic Air Command that ultimately resulted in the loss of fifteen B-52's, two F-4's, two F-111's, and one HH-63 with 30 US airmen killed, 20 MIA's, and a number of captured aircrewmembers. Since I was not a direct participant in this operation, why am I bringing this "ancient history" up now? Well, two recent articles, one in the November issue of the "Smithsonian" magazine, and another in the "The Republican" on 1 April 23 brought this event back to my attention. The first involved a former navigator from the 97th BMW at Blytheville AFB, AR where I was the Medical Group Commander for five years from 1987-92, and the other involved a classmate of mine from AFROTC Det. 355 at Boston University in 1968. Colonel (then Captain) Robert Certain was the navigator on a B-52G from the 97th BMW that was shot down on the first night of the operation, the second was a classmate of mine who was the co-pilot on a B-52D that was shot down a few days later with both of these aircrewmembers becoming POW's at the "Hanoi Hilton" for four months until their releases in late March/early April of 1973.

The article in the "Smithsonian" magazine, "50 Years Later: American POW's Return to Hanoi", talks primarily about Colonel Certain and his wife Robbie's return to visit what is left of the old Hoa Lo Prison (formally called the "Hanoi Hilton") in March of this year. The article itself is over 13 pages long and recounts many of Colonel Certain's experiences before, during, and after his release from prison. A picture of then Captain Certain is below. He is the red haired POW in the front of the picture. A current picture of Robert and Robbie is directly below from their visit to Hanoi.

I first met Colonel Certain at a reunion of the 97th BMW in October of 2015 in Blytheville shortly after I had retired as Chief of Staff of the Manchester VA Medical Center at the end of July. Colonel Certain was the guest speaker for the reunion and talked for an hour about the



contents of his book, "Unchained Eagle", which gets its title from the logo of the 4th Allied POW Wing in the Hanoi Hilton which showed a bald eagle with a broken chain around its neck. The book is no longer in print but could be found in electronic format on the internet. It spends the first half describing the lead up to the mission, the bombing run, the shoot down by a SAM that killed the two pilots and the gunner, their ejection, capture, and time in prison. Their aircraft, Call Sign CHARCOAL 01, was the first B-52 shot down on the first day of the operation. A second B-52G from the 97th BMW, TAN 03, was shot down a few days later taking all but the gunner with it. A memorial to the nine lost crewmembers of those aircraft sits alongside Memorial Drive entering the old Eaker AFB in front of the base hospital and across from the old Officer's Club. The memorial, which was refurbished in 2017, is shown to the right. I spent many hours walking past and looking at that memorial during my time as the Hospital Commander there, as well as flying with the 340th BS to which those aircraft were a part. After his return home from Hanoi, Colonel Certain went through the AFIT Civilian Institutions Division and on to become an Episcopal priest and went back into the USAF Reserve. At one point, he got permission from SAC to take another ride in a B-52G which initially caused him some concern. During his many years of parish work, he always felt upset and out of sorts during the Christmas to Easter season, and he didn't realize until 30 years later, after seeing a VA psychologist, that he had been suffering from PTSD. He went on to preside over



Kneeling: M. Hodge, P. Dinkalakis, R. Ashtori, E. Yore, R. Meador, L. Housh, Standing: C. Brown, A. Clifford, P. Davidson, T. Dalton, E. Adair, M. Longhorn, D. Rife, A. Brucini

President Ford's funeral and was the MOAA National Chaplain for many years.

Charlie Brown, Thomas Dalton (another Chapter member), and I were three members of the College of Engineering at BU who

were also seniors in the AFROTC program there (BU threw ROTC off campus in 1969). Charlie is at the back left, Tom is three to his right, and I'm on the right. Charlie's aircraft has just dropped its bombs when it was hit in the left wing by a SAM and caught fire. One of

the pilots and the gunner were killed but the others were able to eject safely but were captured and imprisoned upon landing. He returned home on 1 April 1973 landing at Westover Air Reserve base along with five other former POW's. He had completed over two years of flying in Southeast Asia and 190 bombing missions before being shot down. Sometime after his repatriation, Charlie left active duty but transferred over into the USAF Reserve and spent the rest of his career in maintenance eventually becoming the Commander of the Logistics Group at Westover Air Reserve base and retiring in 2004 as a Colonel. After his retirement, Charlie moved to Tucson, AZ and became a civilian employee at Davis-Monthan AFB working at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance & Regeneration Group (AMARG). All of the B-52G's in the USAF inventory were retired there after returning from missions during the first Gulf War, and they were subsequently cut up and left on display in compliance with a Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement so that Soviet satellites could confirm that they had been removed from the nuclear capable equipment inventory. All have since been scrapped. Unfortunately, neither Thomas Dalton nor I have had any contact with Charlie since our graduation from BU in 1968, but at least it's nice to know that he's still around.



U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. Charles A. Brown Jr., Logistics group commander at Westover Air Reserve Base and a former POW, speaks at American Legion Post 879 in August in June 2002. (Mark R. Morley / The Republican file photo)



Boeing B-52G Stratofortress crewed by Captain Robert Cernin, USAF
97th Bombardment Wing, 340th Bomb Squadron
Charcoal I - Serial Number 58-0201
Launched from Andersen AFB, Guam
Shot down over Hanoi, North Vietnam
December 18, 1972

Andrew J Breuder, Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS
Editor

Note: The 97th BMW was the successor to the WWII 97th Bomb Group that had four bomb squadrons: 340th, 341st, 342nd, and the 414th and operated from RAF Grafton-Underwood and RAF Polebrook in 1942 under VIIIth Bomber Command led by BG Ira Eaker. Two of the bomb squadrons, the 342nd and 414th, passed through Grenier Field (now Manchester-Boston Regional airport) on their way to the UK. It was the first US Army Air Forces heavy bomber unit to bomb occupied Europe using B-17E's and F's on 17 Aug 1942 striking the Rouen-Sotteville rail yards. It was initially commanded by Col. Frank Armstrong, and the 340th BS was commanded by Major Paul W. Tibbets who would later command the



509th Composite Group and lead the first B-29 (Enola Gay) atomic bomb drop on Hiroshima. During that first mission, General Eaker flew aboard a B-17E, the "Yankee Doodle".

Eaker's VIII Bomber Command, code named "Pinetree", assumed control of the land owned by the Wycombe Abbey girl's school and became RAF Daws Hill. This location would later house a nuclear underground bunker and was part of SAC's 7th Air Division and would control bombers and Ground Launched Cruise Missiles. In addition, a DOD school, London Central High School and housing units were located on station. The station was closed and was turned into civilian housing units in 2007. RAF High Wycombe, located about 6-7 miles northwest of downtown, was actually in the village of Walter's Ash and housed the RAF's Bomber Command led by Air Chief Marshall "Bomber" Harris. During my three year USAF/RAF Exchange tour in the mid 1980's, it was Headquarters for RAF Strike Command. My office was just across the parking lot from "Bomber" Harris's old office.

In the fall of 1942, the bomb group was transferred to 12th Air Force in the Mediterranean, then later to the 15th Air Force. After WWII, it was re-established as a B-29 group under Strategic Air Command and later flew B-47's, and finally B-52-s and KC-135A's when it finally arrived at Blytheville AFB, AR on 1 July 1959. By that time, only the 340th BS and 97th Air Refueling Squadron remained with the Wing. With the deactivation of SAC on 1 July 1992, the wing temporarily came under the new Air Combat Command until it was transferred to Altus AFB, OK in October of 1992 and became the 97th Air Mobility Wing. The original wing insignia is below with the motto "Venit Hora" (the hour has come).



Travel Notes from the Editor: For those of you who haven't flown commercially lately and gone through a TSA checkpoint, you might be unpleasantly surprised if you try to use your military retired ID card and it has an "Indefinite" expiration date on it. These cards are no longer being accepted and you'll need to use a REAL ID card or upgrade your current military ID card. To find an ID RAPIDS location, use: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator> to find a location near you. I would recommend going to the NH Joint Military Headquarters in Building "C". SSgt Hadley is excellent in processing ID card applications. I would not recommend using the 99th RSC Headquarters in Londonderry as it is not very "user" friendly. A Breuder, Editor

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



2024 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2024 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website (moaa-nh.org) under Group Travel and through our periodic "Trip of the Month" blast email messages, the Granite Slate and travel displays at our luncheons and special events.

2024 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

Spotlight on the French Riviera: April 18–26, 2024, 9 Days; \$3,649.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes round trip air from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, scheduled tours of French Riviera and Flower Markets in Nice, the Hilltop Grasse & Perfume Workshop in Monaco, St. Honorat Island & Wine Tasting, Once Upon a Villa, and St. Paul de Vence in Cannes, and back to Nice, Italy. Trip includes air taxes and fees, hotel transfers and 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners. **For bookings made after 11/19/23, please call for rates.**

Spotlight on South Dakota featuring Mount Rushmore & the Badlands: 24 – 30 May 2024, 7 Days. Book now and save \$150/person. \$2999.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes round trip air from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, 9 meals including 6 breakfasts and 3 dinners. Scheduled tours to Mt. Rushmore, Badlands, Custer/Crazy Horse, and Devil's Tower National Mounment in Wyoming/Rapid City. For bookings made after 11/24/2023 please call for rates.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND DENVER: 14 days, 20 meals, September 24 - October 7, 2024. Book now and save \$50/person. \$6499 per person double occupancy. Tour includes Sedona, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Jackson Hole/Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks, Rapid City, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Price includes round trip from Logan, air taxes/fees, hotel transfers, 20 meals, including 13 breakfasts and 7 dinners.

MEMORIAL OF WAR – NORMANDY, 11-20 October 2024. Book now and save \$100/person. \$4,799 double occupancy. Tour includes tours of London, Portsmouth, English Channel Crossing, D-Day landing sites in Caen, and Paris. Price includes round trip from Logan, air taxes/fees, hotel transfers, 12 meals including 8 breakfasts and 4 dinners.

World Connect Program: Select any vacation trip of interest on our Group Travel program website (www.gocollette.com) and then contact Tony or Tom. They will guide you thru the reservation process and you will receive MOAA-NH discounts and privileges. DO NOT fill out forms/applications on-line. Wait for instructions from Tony or Tom. For additional information, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106, email tonyajjb@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, email tkyle@yahoo.com. Feel free to send this information to relatives or friends. They are welcome to participate in our program. They may be interested in traveling with us. Also, see info on REAL ID on page 4.

LEADERS WANTED!

The MOAA-NH Board of Directors is the leadership team for MOAA-NH. The Board supervises, controls, and directs the organization's affairs, promotes its purposes, and approves funds disbursement. This includes, amongst many endeavors, our luncheons, the clambake, the "Granite State Warrior" award, scholarships, and monetary donations to organizations that assist veterans such as the NH Veterans Home, and others. In 2024, we will need to recruit **ONE Treasurer** (currently vacant) **and up to FOUR Directors**. These vacancies comprise a significant portion of the Board's membership. **The future of how MOAA-NH functions and what it can accomplish is at stake.**

The MOAA-NH By-Laws are contained in the 2022 MOAA-NH membership Directory starting on page 31. The duties and responsibilities of Officers and Directors are explained therein, that is, in Article X for Directors and Article XI for Officers.

In addition to the above, we need additional assistance for our Secretary to manage our website, an OIC and Bake Meister to organize and run next year's annual Clambake, and volunteers to assist with recruiting in various regions of the state, and other volunteers to assist with the transition of new veterans into civilian life.

For further information, questions, or to step up to the plate, please contact:

For Treasurer: former Treasurer CDR Roby Day, USN (Ret.): (603) 642-7956; fuzzbutthall@comcast.net

For Directorships: CDR Sharon Day, USN (Ret.): (603) 642-7956; cimice89@comcast.net.

UPDATES TO HANSCOM RAO

CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older should get one dose of an updated 2023-2024 Covid-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from Covid-19. The updated 2023-2024 Covid-19 vaccine is currently **NOT** available at the Hanscom AFB Clinic. To receive your updated vaccine, go to a TRICARE retail network pharmacy (<https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/find-pharmacy>). For more information on getting your updated vaccine with TRICARE, go to (<https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/3532751/get-your-updated-covid-19-vaccine-with-tricare>). Once the Hanscom Clinic receives the updated 2023-2024 Covid-19 vaccine, we will post additional information Submitted by:

DL Mottard, Capt, USMC (Ret)
Director,
Retiree Activities Office
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA

Note: Please discuss the need for this or any other vaccine with your primary care provider. A. Breuder, MD

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
PO Box 712
Dover NH 03821-0712
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
AUTO
US POSTAGE PAID
DOVER, NH
PERMIT 615



www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2023 Chapter Members!

MAJ. Jason R. Moody, USA (Ret) Portsmouth, NH



December 2023

Taps



Mrs. Irene G Neal

Keene, NH



(Continued from page 2)

Finally, we were also joined by **six** first time attendees: **Jason Moody** of Portsmouth, **Wayne & Gail Peters** of Manchester, **David & Zita Rosa** of North Dighton, MA and **Marcia Tamblyn** of Londonderry.

CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret) & Col Andrew J Breuder,
USAF (Ret), MC, CFS, Editor



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 Tom Goff at tgs64@gmail.com.