



# The Granite Slate

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



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## Spring Edition

Bistro Nouveau at the Center at Eastman,  
Grantham, NH, 18 Apr, 2015

Summary by Mike McLean (MOAA) & Programs P. Dawson



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

Fortunately the forecasted rain held off until after the event was over, so it was a sunny day when people traveled to the western part of the state to attend the Spring Meeting and Luncheon at Bistro Nouveau at the Center at Eastman in Grantham on April 18, 2015. 73 members and guests feasted on a delicious meal. Everyone seemed to be members of the "clean plate" club! We were pleased to have **Deborah Amdur**, Director of WRJ VAMC as our guest of honor who spoke on Choice Card issues and the VA Health Care system. She gave a very thorough and positive presentation that was well received.

We were fortunate to have her fill in as our speaker as our scheduled speaker, Congresswoman Annie Kuster (D-NH), cancelled on us without much notice!

We were joined by **eight** new chapter members: Beverly **Bolduc** of Wolfeboro, Matthew **Flynn** of Concord, Lance & Nichole **Holobowicz** of Sanbornton, James **Phennicie** of New London as well as Gary **Connelly** of Grantham and Scott & Diane **Manning** of New London who joined us at the luncheon.



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



## Congressional Leadership Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a special reception on Capitol Hill, U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) received the Military Officers Association of America's Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award in recognition of strong and consistent support of national defense and the uniformed services community, including her role in leading the successful fight to repeal unfair cuts to military retiree benefits.



"I am humbled and honored to receive this award. Our brave men and women in uniform have selflessly put their own lives on the line to protect our nation, and it is my privilege to fight for the benefits they have earned," said Senator Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I was honored to work to reverse the COLA cuts, and I'll continue to fight to ensure we keep our promises to those who have defended our nation."

"Senator Ayotte is a champion for every man and woman, past and present, who has served or is currently serving their country in uniform. Her efforts to protect the benefits promised to them are unmatched by any other member of Congress. New Hampshire is proud of the work our Senator does on the Armed Services Committee, but especially for her bipartisan leadership in undoing the military retiree COLA injustice of the 2013 budget act," said COL Ken Lull, USA (Ret.), Vice President of MOAA-NH, who was on hand for Tuesday's ceremony. "As this year's MOAA recipient of the Colonel Arthur T. Marix award, Senator Ayotte once again sets the high water mark for her peers, and every member of the MOAA-NH family extend to her their sincere gratitude for all she has done and continues to do."

## Chapter Officers

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Visit the Chapter's website at: [www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)



## President's Corner

### Chad Chadwick

Memorial Day is our most solemn national holiday. It is a unique time for both celebration and poignant remembrances. We celebrate our freedom and way of life through backyard barbeques, ballgames, and beach outings. But, we also pause to remember our fallen in ceremonies mourning the loss of those who gave their lives so that we might live ours in peace and freedom.

At its core, the eloquence of Memorial Day speaks of personal sacrifice for a greater, common good. It resonates in the stories of ordinary Americans, who fought and died, drawing on extraordinary inner strength and determination to preserve our nation. They did so out of an abiding sense of duty and immense personal courage.

Memorial Day is a time for remembrance, reflection, and respect—for honoring the men and women who gave their lives serving the United States of America. We pay homage to their willingness to sacrifice themselves for love of country.

Let us never forget the countless others who have given so much in service to our nation. Let us strive to honor the memory of the fallen by living out, in our everyday lives, the principles, ideals, and values for which these Americans—forever young, forever brave, forever loved—gave their lives.

What an important time to be part of MOAA-NH. Our Board of Directors recognizes that we need to provide a new direction for our organization by identifying and then emphasizing some primary goals. Our most important shared task is to both retain our present membership, and to actively recruit new and some younger generation officers into our organization. Many eligible servicemen and women do not even know that we exist as a chapter, or as a national association that they are eligible to join.

Additionally, we want to continue soliciting members' ideas and insights to both define and refine our Core Principles, and to help further develop our goals and objectives for the coming years. Lastly, I'm asking each of you to consider volunteering some time to MOAA NH. This will allow your becoming involved with your organization, meeting and interacting with our members, and helping us to move forward as a team. Please contact any of our board via the MOAA-NH.org web site to "sign on."

### MOAA news

April 17, 2015

Alexandria, Va. — Navy Vice Adm. William F. Moran, chief of naval personnel, outlined the Navy's efforts to attract, train and retain the very best people in a challenging budget environment during the Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) Council Presidents' Seminar luncheon April 16 at the Crowne Plaza Old Town in Alexandria.

Moran indicated recruiting has been at an all-time high the past five years, and he thanked MOAA leaders for their advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill that helped close the pay gap between the civilian and military sectors.

He said the Navy's retention rate also was high the past five years but predicted that might change as the national unem-

(Continued next column (center))

## 2014 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

2ndLt Peter K Bobseine  
USMC  
24 Hatch Drive  
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CW2 Drew T Boudrieau  
USA Barbara  
33 Spofford Rd  
Westmoreland, NH 03467-4311

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USCG (Ret.) Connie  
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CDR Richard B Harden Jr.  
USCG (Ret.) Lucy L  
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Maj John F Leonard  
USAF  
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Pelham, NH 03076-2210

ENS Tracy L Matteson  
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Northwood, NH 03261-4341

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USAR  
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Concord, NH 03301-4460

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71 Brook Rd  
Sanbornton, NH 03269-2209

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USAF (Ret.) Diane  
245 Burnt Hill Rd  
New London, NH 03257-5305

CPT Joseph T McCarthy II  
USA Carrie  
312 Darby Dr  
Laconia, NH 03246-1307

Maj Crystal T Pelletier  
USMC (Ret.) Jacques  
243 Cloutier Dr  
Stark, NH 03582-6105

LCDR Daniel L Smith  
USNR (Ret.) Patricia S.  
304 Woodlands Rd  
Alton Bay, NH 03810-4233

ployment rate drops and the economy expands. Current proposals to cap military pay also are causing concern.

"Now we are starting to see [military] compensation rates come down ... quite frankly, at a time when we have to compete harder," said Moran. "My job is to figure out how to keep the best people in the Navy."

### Chapter Members,

As our summer begins, we hope you'll find time to spend with family and friends enjoying the outdoors across New England. Those with active duty family members might find vacation time to offer them a break from their busy lives spent while in service to our country.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the lunch line at our annual **Clam Bake** in Kittery on Saturday, August 1st.

Peter W. Dawson,  
— Editor —





**Our NH Chapter** welcomes new and all existing members to the annual "Clam Bake" held again this year on the US Navy base in Kittery. That function is by far the most popular, and all family members are encouraged to attend. The food and setting are ideal for family fun! See you there... (1st Saturday in August each year)

### MOAA Tells Congress Health Care Access for Veterans is Top Priority

May 20, 2015

The [Military Officers Association of America's \(MOAA\)](#) testified before the joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees today on Capitol Hill, presenting the association's top legislative priorities and making recommendations to improve timely access to earned health care and benefits for veterans.

Retired Army Col. Robert Norton, deputy director of Government Relations for MOAA, presented recommendations that included assuring aggressive implementation of the Choice Card for veterans stuck on waiting lists for VA care and those who live at least 40 miles' driving distance from a VA hospital or clinic.

Norton described some of the challenges veterans face in accessing VA health care and the cumbersome process of outsourced care and explained that before the passage of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act, the VA spent more than \$5 billion on purchased care.

He noted that while the May 13 hearings on the Choice Program focused on the challenges of integrating purchased care into an overall plan for delivering care to veterans, "MOAA sees these challenges as an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage with the Commission on Care established in the Choice Act to map out a long-term strategy for VA care in the 21st century.

We agree with our service organization partners that the commission should have a year, not just 180 days, to do its work," he said. Norton also urged Congress' support for other changes to the way VA does business, including:

- building up capacity to deliver care in three ways: hire and train more providers, fix the scheduling system, and reengineer clinical space along the lines of leading civilian health care entities.
- recruiting more mental health providers and training them on the unique needs of veterans.
- extending the time surviving spouses have to use the new GI Bill scholarships.
- authorizing VA benefits to Vietnam War "blue water" Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange.
- extending special services and support to the full-time caregivers of severely disabled veterans who served before Sept. 11, 2001.

Norton pointed out that "while a number of significant programs have been put in place to address the physical and mental health and wellness of our troops, veterans, and family members, we are still losing far too many to suicide-- arguably the most critical health care issue facing leaders today."

In the news:

### Will Troops Accept New Retirement Reforms?

(MOAA, June 5, 2015)

As momentum to overhaul the **military retirement system** gains speed on Capitol Hill, a new report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provided predictions on if currently serving troops would convert to the new system.

House and Senate lawmakers are proposing overhauls to military retirement by combining the existing defined benefit with a portable retirement device. In exchange for cutting military retirement by 20 percent, lawmakers would provide government-matched contributions to 401(k) accounts.

The House proposal provides a government match up to 5 percent and continues the match throughout an entire career. The Senate proposal provides only a 4 percent match (after two years of service) and stops government contributions at 20 years of service. Neither proposal requires currently serving troops to participate in the plan. Troops would have the ability to opt into the program. Once adopted, new service members would be automatically enrolled in the new system. Proponents of the plans say both proposals offer a better deal for the 83 percent of troops who do not serve until eligible for a military retirement, and currently receive no retirement benefits from the government.

For a much smaller portion of the force - the mid-grade officers and non-commissioned officers planning to serve a full career - the benefits of a blended system are more complex.

Members with more than 12 years of service would have little or no incentive to switch to the new plan. CBO estimates that none of those members would make the switch.

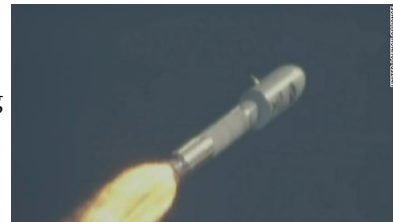
The report estimates that about 50 percent of service members with 12 years of service or less during the opt-in period would make the switch to the new system.

Both proposals offer continuation pay at the 12-year point in a career. However, what the report fails to mention is that service members are unable to invest their continuation pay back into their TSP accounts.

"Troops at this stage in their careers face a very tough decision," said [MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations](#), Col. Mike Barron, USA (Ret.). "They won't be able to make up the difference in lost TSP contributions by twenty years of service."

**Air Force News:** The Air Force's mysterious space plane is back above the Earth -- along with Bill Nye's solar sail. A United Launch Alliance Atlas V lifted off in May from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force

Station with sundry cargo, including the Air Force's X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle. The X-37B, a reusable spacecraft now on its fourth mission, is expected to reach low-Earth orbit after riding atop the Atlas rocket's second stage called the Centaur. The Centaur, after releasing the spacecraft, will change altitude and release its other cargo -- 10 Cube-Sats, or small satellites. One of the Cube-Sats on this flight is LightSail, a solar sail owned by the Planetary Society (nonprofit space advocacy group led by CEO Bill Nye, the science educator and former TV host).

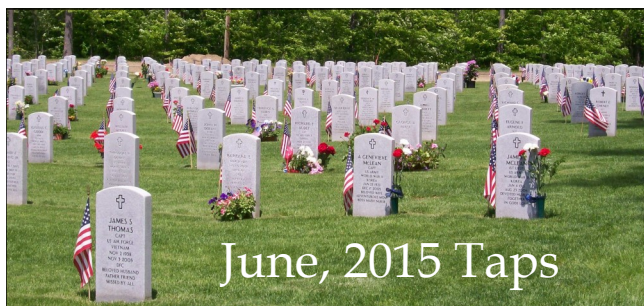


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12<sup>th</sup> YEAR



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Mrs. Louise G. Bradshaw	Leer, NH
MAJ Roland P. Demers, USAR (Ret.)	Manchester, NH
Lt Col Carl G. Fonden, USAF (Ret.)	Milford, NH
COL William O. Gall, USA (Ret.)	Kingston, RI
COL Ernest F. Jacobs, USA (Ret.)	Londonderry, NH
CDR Armand F. F. Legare, USN (Ret.)	Portsmouth, NH
LTC Robert H. Schaller, USA (Ret.)	Hudson, NH

## 2015 Schedule

Continued in Sept. edition

August 1	Clambake (PNSY)
September 12	Eagle Mountain House, Jackson
November 7	Annual Meeting, Nashua C.C.

### In the news:

Staff Vice Admiral Ali Hussein Ali, head of Iraqi Navy and Coastal Defense Force receives a bottle of NH maple syrup from Capt. Paul Movizzo, USN. The gift was one of a few to thank him for the support his staff provided during a tour managing FMS cases.



### Get ready for Summer!

This lightweight, futuristic sailboat cuts the waters using solid sails, wind power, and solar energy. Dubbed as Volitan, which literally means flying fish, this 105-foot water mammoth is crafted from a composite of carbon fiber and epoxy resin and covered in carbon-foam lamination. Controlled and optimized by a networked computer, the wings rotate and tilt to track both the sun and wind.

The energy they harvest is stored in conventional marine batteries that sit at the bottom of the boat's center-board and act as ballast.



**MOAA Travel:** Our Collette District Manager will present our 2016 travel program to the spouses and guests at our November 7th annual meeting. A complete list of prices for the 2016 program should be available by early July. Members should consult the MOAA-NH travel page for current information including schedules for upcoming webinars. There are still trips available in 2016 (National Parks / more)