



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
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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

This Memorial Day, We Honor Those Who Courageously Gave Their Lives

May 28, 2021: A message from MOAA's president, Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), on taking time to remember.

Last year, many Memorial Day messages echoed now-familiar themes of "uncertain times" – passages of hope in the face of uncertainty, of national pride in a time of crisis.

This year, I want to share with you other stories – those of MOAA members who have honored their brothers and sisters in arms.

Stories like that of Col. Frank Plummer, USA (Ret), who served in three wars and in retirement, inspired by the patriotism shown by his than 470 miles of U.S Highway 26 as the state's official POW/MIA Memorial Highway. The move, supported by fellow members hometown, designed and raised funds for what's now the Veteran's War Memorial of Texas. Marked by a 105-foot granite spire, the memorial honors those who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

Or that of Lt. Col. Dick Tobiason, USA (Ret), who spearheaded efforts to dedicate more of MOAA's Central Oregon Chapter, honors about 2,000 of that state's servicemembers who either spent time as prisoners of war or remain listed as missing in action, some dating back to World War I.

And while these actions of MOAA members show true dedication to the "Never Stop Serving" mantra, they are far from isolated incidents. Nationwide, patriots of all stripes pay tribute to those who didn't return home – whether it's the laying of a wreath, a visit to a friend or

family member's final resting place, even a simple moment of silence and contemplation on the sacrifices of the few to benefit the many.

This Memorial Day, join their efforts. This is not an "uncertain time" – it is one of acknowledgement, of thankfulness, of pride in service, of tenets held dear by those who've served throughout the centuries.



Photo by John Moore/Getty Images

I will take time to remember my Executive Officer, Maj. David Brodeur, killed in an attack at Kabul International Airport in Spring 2011. I presented his medals to his son, David, at the graveside service.

His wife Susie is one of our Surviving Spouses and a dear friend.

Whether you mark the day privately or join others in your community to pay tribute, take the time to remember.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Atkins is the ninth president of MOAA. Before joining the association, he served in a number of key Air Force positions and has flown more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft. Follow him on Twitter: [@MOAAPrez](https://twitter.com/MOAAPrez)

Remember!



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President's Corner
CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)

It has been a long time coming, but we finally have lots of good news to share.

We had a great turnout for the belated Granite State Warriors Awards at the Common Man in Plymouth. The weather cooperated, the venue was excellent, the food and service were both top rate. We were also able to do everything on schedule so everyone was able to leave at a reasonable time for a beautiful springtime drive home.

As I am sure everybody is aware, both CDC and state guidelines have begun changing and easing up. As a result, we should be able to move closer to normal activities and a more normal MOAA-NH schedule.

Right now, our next confirmed major event is the clambake, which has now moved to September 18 back on Jamaica Island at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The Board of Directors will hold its regular dinner meeting at the Red Blazer in Concord on July 8 at 6 pm. You do not have to be a member of the Board to join us. However, the seating in this meeting room is limited, so please contact me or Michael McLean in advance if you would like to join us.

I have spoken with the people at Mount Washington Cruises; and if it all possible, we will try to organize a weekday brunch sailing sometime in July. There seemed to be quite a bit of interest in this idea from those I was able to speak with at the last luncheon, so I will pursue this. Right now, the MS Mount Washington itself is out of service for maintenance. It will probably be sometime after June 1 before we can begin making arrangements.

The Strategic Initiative Committee held a meeting at Wayne Balcom's house on Saturday, May 22. Members of that committee are doing an outstanding job. They will share their results with the Board of Directors later this year and recommend a number of changes at the Annual Meeting in November.

Peter Burdett and I have been working the new Advocacy In Action Program, which has replaced Storming the Hill. We have already met with half the delegation and have found overwhelming support for MOAA's primary issues this year as well as growing support for the new commissary at Pease. The small Coast Guard Commissary at South Portland has closed, so the Southern Maine Chapter of MOAA will also be working with their delegation to get a commissary at Pease. Peter and I will meet very soon remotely with Senator Hassan's staff in Washington, DC. We also plan to meet remotely with Congresswoman Kuster's DC staff on June 15. More information to follow.

We still have a number of ideas we are reviewing for activities between now and the Annual Meeting. Don't be surprised if you see some emails, postcards, or flyers with wonderful news.

As always, stay safe and find new and exciting ways to enjoy late spring and summer in New England.

Bob Jaffin



2020 Granite State Warriors Award

It was a beautiful, sunny Spring day when the Chapter finally held its first luncheon and meeting of 2021

(because of the pandemic) on May 15 at the Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth, NH.

Eighty-six members and guests signed up to travel north to escape their houses and enjoy the company of fellow Chapter members. Everyone raved about their meals (a choice of salmon, beef tips, or vegetarian).

We gathered to honor the recipient of the tenth annual Granite State Warriors Award (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 that year.



The recipient of the 2020 Granite State Warriors Award was Alex Ray (seen here on the left), founder and owner of The Common Man family of restaurants. As part of the presentation, letters of congratulations from Senator Maggie Hassan and Rep. Annie Kuster were read by CDR Bruce Avery, USN (Ret).

We were joined by three first-time members: Patricia Evans of Exeter and John & Anita Gargus of Manchester.

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

>> CHAPTER DIRECTORY <<

The Chapter is planning to issue a new member directory at the beginning of next year. In order for it to be as accurate as possible, we need correct, up-to-date information before it is printed.

Please look over your address label. It has all the data that will be included in your entry in the directory (except your telephone number). Check that your name, rank, service, status [(RET), (FRM), (CIV), etc.], spouse, address, and zip code are all current. If you can still find your old directory (it has a blue cover), check that your telephone number is correct; or, if you can't find it, have changed your phone number, or joined the chapter in the last three years, please provide us with your current number.

Any changes/corrections should be mailed to MOAA-NH at PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03820-0712 or emailed to moaa-nh@comcast.net. Please ensure that your changes are received by the end of this year to be included in the directory.

As they say in computer speak, *garbage in – garbage out!*

Thank you for your assistance.

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



MOAA-NH Needs Your Help!

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.). In accordance with our By-laws the Treasurer must be a MOAA-NH member. If you are interested in being a part of our leadership team, please contact Roby Day at 603-642-3956 or fuzzbutthall@comcast.net.

Public Affairs Officer: publicizes MOAA-NH's existence and achievements. It requires writing press releases for media outlets reporting luncheons, the annual clambake and the annual meeting, computer skills for submitting articles and photos, and briefing the Board of Directors on Public Affairs issues. Photos are taken by the Public Affairs Officer and other MOAA members. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving spouses. Please contact Ken Lull at 603-833-5260 or his email at longbow1962@msn.com if you are interested.

Blast e-mail Coordinator: when requested sends out emails to the membership regarding luncheons, special events and programs, travel programs, Personal Affairs items of interest, and press releases. In conjunction with the Chapter Secretary, the Coordinator adds/deletes/updates/and reconciles member email addresses as needed. Prepares an Annual Report which chronicles the content of the blast e-mails and usage rates among members, and maintains the iContact file library content, deleting old content and updating new content. The fee for iContact is paid by MOAA-NH. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving spouses. If you are interested, contact Geoff Corson at 757-672-0208 (cell) or geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com

Linked-in Coordinator: works with an established group on Linked-in for the purpose of helping members who have a Linked-in account find employment in NH. Contact recruiters and human resource professionals around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group, and asks members to post information on open positions. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving members. Please contact Jim Spotts at 603-494-8796 or jim.spotts@hotmail.com.

Jim also oversees recruiting for us. He states, "Every member is a recruiter. Please take a few recruiting business cards and sign-up flyers with you. If you would like to help our chapter recruit new members please contact me."

Welcome to Our New 2021 Chapter Members!

LCDR James Ekberg, Navy (Ret) — Epping, NH
Col John Gargus, USAF (Ret) — Manchester, NH

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



2021 MOAA-NH Travel Program:

- Spotlight on San Antonio Holiday, five days, five meals. November 27—December 1, 2021 (\$1,990 per person, double occupancy, includes air)
- Greece Island Hopper, 11 days, September 10-21 2021 featuring Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini (\$4,849 per person, double occupancy, 13 meals)

2022 MOAA Travel Program: I recently completed our 2022 program with our Collette Regional Manager. The information below indicates our group trips. However, the information on some of the trips is forthcoming and will be posted on our website or "Trip of the Month" email messages. I will begin publishing our Trip of the Month program once again.

Mackinaw Island Tulip Time Festival: Nine days, 6 to 14 May 2022. \$3,395 per person, with air. Double occupancy.

Croatia and its Islands: Private ship cruise with only 22 cabins, August 2022, 12 Days, 19 meals, \$4,999 with air (this is a deep discount). Additional information forthcoming.

Tropical Costa Rica: 12—20 February 2022, nine days, \$2,198 per person, double occupancy with air (this offer is a deep discount for 2022).

Classic Danube River and Land Tours: (limited time available, only two cabins left), with Passion Play in Oberammergau, 28 August – 6 September, \$6499 per person, double occupancy, with air. This trip includes a six-night Danube River cruise and a four-day land journey including Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest.

The following 2022 trips that include the Passion Play are available. Since these trips are not included in our group travel program, call Tony for reservation and price information.

- Classic Danube River and Land Tours
- Exploring the Alpine Countries, 13 days
- Austrian Delight, 10 days
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, 10 days
- Imperial Cities, 11 Days
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, 13 days

If you, a family member, or friend desire a specific trip not included in our program, contact me and I will make arrangements with Collette under our World Connect Program. For additional information or reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email tonyajjb@gmail.com

I continue to seek partnering/co-op with a community organization. Contact me with a point of contact, and I will complete the coordination process.

~Tony B.

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

June 2021

Taps



Maj Wesley T. Collins, USAF (Ret)
Mrs. Mary I. Demers
Lt Col Richard H. Dewing, USAF (Ret)
Mrs. Ester (Toddy) Eastman
Mrs. Rosalyn L. Golding
COL Donald E. Holroyd, USA (Ret)
Mrs. Rita M. Horner
Mrs. Helen D. MacNeil
Mrs. Lilla A. Stubbs
Mrs. Evanell S. Trow

Ogdensburg, NY
Manchester, NH
Durham, NH
Somersworth, NH
Hooksett, NH
Exeter, NH
Goffstown, NH
N. Hampton, NH
Boynton Bch, FL
Concord, NH

COVID-19 Funeral Expense Assistance

There is a special program run entirely by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides up to \$9,000 in funeral reimbursement assistance for COVID-related deaths. For family members of Veterans, FEMA may cover funeral costs that VA does not.

I encourage all employees to share this information with their friends, family, and colleagues. If you know someone who may qualify, let them know financial reimbursement is available. You can find specific details on FEMA's Funeral Expense Reimbursement Program at

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq>

THOMAS MURPHY

*Acting Under Secretary for Benefits
Department of Veterans Affairs*



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.