



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
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June 2026

Summer News & Events

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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

Chapter Holds Spring Luncheon at the Common Man Inn & Spa

This year our trip up north to the Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth was for a regular luncheon as opposed to the GSWA luncheon we usually have there. The weather was much nicer than last year for the drive north. Sixty-five members and guests enjoyed the usual fair presented by the staff at the Common Man. Lt Col Larry Miller, USAFR (Ret), Chapter President, mentioned that the Chapter has received a 5-Star rating (top of the heap) for the Level of Excellence (LOE) in MOAA's LOE competition including a five-star rating for our web site AND our newsletter (first time submission!) in MOAA's Communication competition. He also highlighted the fact that Pat Miller, the Chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison, had been singled out as the best liaison of all chapters in MOAA - quite an honor!

Our guest of honor and speaker was Dr. Edmond Russo, Jr., SES (Senior Executive Service), who is the Acting Director of the Environmental Laboratory for the US Army which is situated in Hanover, NH. He gave a very detailed slide presentation on all of the functions of the Laboratory and its mission to solve environmental issues of concern for the US Army.

We were joined by one first timer, **Michael Marino**, of Center Harbor, and we had one person join the chapter at the luncheon - **Tom Christensen** of Amherst. Below are some photos taken at the luncheon.

Michael McLean, CDR, USN (Ret)



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Our Sacred Honor **Two Patriots**

The Declaration of Independence outlines what it means to be an American. While the body of the Declaration expresses a people's inalienable God-given rights, Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, the last line expresses the founders' oath pledge to each other. It is their solemn commitment to secure that a "new order of the ages" is born. Thus, the Declaration concludes with these noble words: "...we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." The Founders' honor and duty had risen above any self-interest.

Sacred Honor found its way into all of the Founding Fathers' actions. George Washington's *Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity* at Valley Forge, PA., was signed on 12 May 1778. His affirmation, and all other Continental Army line and staff officers, was taken due to a Congressional Resolve, dated 3 February 1778, that directed "every officer who holds or shall hereafter hold a commission or office from Congress" to take this oath. In it, he "... will to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the said United States against King George the Third...and will serve the said United States in the office of Commander in Chief..., with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding."

Washington turns to sacred honor in his Newburgh address to officers, 17 May 1783. He saw it necessary to deliver this speech due to a spreading petition that called for mutiny due to Congress' failure to provide back pay and pensions. He defends Congress in their deliberations and finding of means. He then appeals, "...in the name of our common Country—as you value your own sacred honor (sic)..." to reject the "overturn (of) liberties of our Country." "You will give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism & patient virtue, rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings; and you will, by dignity of your Conduct, afford occasion for Posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to mankind, "...had this day been wanting, the World had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining."

Peter Francisco is another "not so well known" unsung Revolutionary War soldier. Although not an officer, he was the Audie Murphy of his time. He was six-and-a-half-foot tall, carried cannons, fought with a broadside sword, presented by General Washington, and escaped British capture. He was born in the Archipelago of the Azores, Portugal where he was captured by pirates at the age of four and left on the docks at City Port, Virginia. As an indentured servant, at age 16, he was able to hear Nathan Hale's, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" speech. It inspired him to join the Revolution. His most famous feat happened at the Battle of Camden, SC, where the Americans had left behind one of their valuable cannons. According

to legend, Francisco freed the mud mired cannon, picked up the 1,100 lb cannon barrel and carried it on his shoulder to keep it from falling into British hands.

Another of his feats was the Francisco Fight. The encounter happened when one night, nine of the British Legion's cavalymen surrounded Francisco outside of a tavern and ordered him to be arrested. They told him to give over his silver shoe buckles. Francisco told them to take the buckles themselves. When one of them began to seize his shoe buckles, Francisco took the soldier's saber and struck him on the head. The wounded soldier fired his pistol, grazing Francisco's side: Francisco nearly cut off the soldier's hand. Another soldier aimed a musket at Francisco, but it misfired. Francisco grabbed it from the soldier's hands, knocked him off his mount, and escaped with the horse. He died of appendicitis on 16 January, 1831, and was buried with full military honors in Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, VA.

Larry Miller
President, MOAA-NH Chapter

Surviving Spouse Corner

Maybe you already know, but I recently learned that there is a Military Spouse Appreciation Day each year. It is always the Friday before Mother's Day.

This year MOAA-NH celebrated it on 8 May 2026 at the Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen. Governor Kelly Ayotte read a Proclamation stating this day as Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and she herself, is also a military spouse. Jake Sullivan, spouse of Representative Maggie Goodlander, is also a military spouse and gave some remarks on being one.

Every military spouse in the audience received a military spouse pin and a yellow rose, which is the color rose for military spouses. Be on the lookout for next year's celebration on 7 May 2027.

Pat Miller, SSL MOAA-NH



Pat Miller receiving Surviving Spouse Liaison Award from LTG Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) MOAA CEO and Gen. T.D Waldhauser, USMC (Ret), Chairman of the Board.



Teamwork is the key to an organization's success. If MOAA-NH is going to continue to be successful, as evident by its receiving for the 24th year, the Level of Excellence award by MOAA National, members need to

step up and be part of the team comprised of the Board of Directors, contributing committees, and activities support. Please consider volunteering.

Here are the jobs available with their points of contact for additional information:

Director Three year term commencing Nov 26. CDR Sharon P. Day, USN (Ret). Email: cimice89@fuzzbutthall.com, phone: 603-642-7956.

Bookkeeper One-year term starting Nov 26. CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret). Email: psburdett@aol.com.

Personal Affairs CPT James R. Lefebvre, USAR. Email: lefebvre@att.net, phone: 603- 356-7296

Web Page CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret). Email: mamclean@comcast.net, phone: 603-767-0411.

Blast Email CDR McLean. See above information.

Recruiting CW5 Tom Goff, USA (Ret). Email: tgsk64@gmail.com, phone: 435-767-8880.

Luncheon Assistants Two or three people are needed to take over a few of the tasks for luncheons. See info for CDR McLean above.

Activities Update (June 2026)

Major changes have occurred and will continue to occur the rest of this year. Jason Moody, who had agreed to take over the clambake has moved on and is no longer actively involved with the chapter. I will try to take the lead on this for the next two years, but I will be out of it after 2027. I received no responses for the boat ride in June so that has not occurred. I have received notification of the seacoast veterans conference in September and I am currently planning to attend. In addition, I have again been invited to the New York State MOAA Council of Chapters annual meeting and will attend. My Non-Emergency Medical Transportation work has increased significantly and has included some overnight stays, so I will be cutting back on my MOAA NH activities considerably moving forward. Below is a list of planned activities. Note: since I have seen no responses regarding either boat rides or train rides, they are no longer included in planning. Those events in "**Bold**" have a primary sponsor such as myself, those without bold date and locations need a primary sponsor if they are to occur.

August 1, 2026 43rd Annual MOAA-NH Clambake: Again, we'll have support from the Maine Chapter. MG (Ret) April Vogel, MOAA's VP of Government Relations will be joining us

for the event as well as Dena Kilgore from MOAA Councils & Chapters. One of our key players, Bernie Satterfield, has handled beverages for some time, but his reign is coming to an end and somebody needs to step up this year to help out and learn how to take over. The same applies for the lead for this event. Next year will be the last year I will be in a position to do this.

November 7, 2026 Portsmouth Country Club/Annual Meeting. Some details still being worked out but the date and speaker have been confirmed.

December Holiday Get-Together: Date and location to be determined somewhere between Keene and Lebanon. I can no longer take the lead on this.

January or February 2027 Seacoast Sunday Jazz brunch: Possible locations include Jimmy's Jazz Club, The Atlantic Grill, Wentworth by the Sea, or the Old Salt in Hampton. I will continue to take the lead on this one, but it would be great if others planned on similar events at other locations as well.

February 2027 Granite State Warriors Award luncheon: Date and location need to be determined. I will not be able to lead this event again.

April 2027 Luncheon: Date and speaker need to be determined. This has traditionally been held at the Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth. We need someone to take the lead on this.

May 7, 2027 NH Veterans Cemetery 2nd Annual Military Spouse Appreciation Day. I will take the lead on this.

August 4-7, 2027 MOAA-NH Annual Clambake and National Leadership Conference. Immediately preceding the annual clambake, the chapter will be hosting the biannual event from 4-6 August which will bring in MOAA leaders from up to 13 states. I will take the lead on this, but will need 1-2 additional people working with me. If we pull this off, we will have an opportunity to show a large portion of MOAA National staff what New Hampshire does.

I want to repeat once more, we need two or three individuals or couples to take over some of the tasks for these luncheons! Specifically, we need members/spouses to take over the attendee check-ins and location setup as Michael McLean and both Sharon and Roby Day have done this at almost every luncheon event for over two decades. All of us are getting older, but if the chapter wishes to remain viable in all aspects of our activities, more members need to become involved in all Chapter activities and events.

Bob Jaffin
robertdjaffin@gmail.com
Vice President, 603-833-3211

MOAA-NH Concludes its 2026 Awards Program

The Chapter recently concluded its 2026 Cadet Awards Program which ran from 8 April 26 at Norwich University in Vermont and ended on 6 Jun 26 with the Dan Healy Division of the Sea Cadets in Kittery, ME. CAPT Jim Dunn, USN (Ret) was again the main organizer of these awards and provided the majority of visits (7) to various programs scattered around New Hampshire. Jim provided the Board of Directors (BOD) with an extensive report of these activities at the 21 May 26 regular meeting.

The year, there were a total of 16 presentations made to cadets in a variety of organizations, mostly ROTC and JROTC programs in Vermont and NH. Of note, we added two new units to the schedule this year including, for the first time, a presentation to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), NH Wing in April and a second Sea Cadets Program, the Dan Healy Division in Kittery, ME. There was some indications that next year, there might also be a second award presentation within the CAP, one for the North and one for the South. Jim also mentioned that during the Covid years, the Nashua North High School had discontinued their AFJROTC program, but has reinstated it again this year with 90 cadets in the program.

One of the major issues we experienced this year was a significant number of late notifications of award presentation winners, and at least six high schools selected presentation dates that conflicted with other presentation dates. Jim noted that the Dover HS NJROTC program was excellent and is now commanded by retired Commander Nick Price who once ran part of the SERE (Survival, Evade, Resist, Escape) Program at PNSY. It was also noted that the Manchester NJROTC has again lost their commanding officer in March due to illness and won't expect an incoming commander until 1 Oct 26.

Of the 16 presentations, Jim Dunn did seven of them, Larry Miller did three, Drew Breuder did two, and Hollie Novoletsky, Bob Jaffin, Carol Moore, and Chuck and Annette Frost each did one. As noted in the previous paragraph, for the 2027 awards program, we REALLY COULD USE SOME ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS to spread out the workload. If you have never done one of these award presentations, they are very easy to do and they are a great way to show our involvement in future generations of military leaders for our country. Please consider joining us next year.

Finally, Jim noted that several of the perpetual plagues that we present are now full and we will need to be replaced next year to provide space for the new awardees.

In the next column we have some photos of some of the award presentations from this year's program.

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



CWO4 Bob Jaffin, USN (Ret) making award to Sea Cadet PO2 Theodore Crockett.



Maj Carol Moore, USA (Ret) making Outstanding Senior award to Winnacunnet Cadet Jamison LaFleur.



Col. Andrew J Breuder, USAF (Ret), MC makes awards to West HS NJROTC outgoing Commander Cadet CDR Aurora Badeau and incoming commander Cadet LCDR Luke Aleman. (Continued on Page 5)

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



2026 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2026 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.

2026 TRAVEL PROGRAM:

ALASKA DISCOVERY LAND & SEA: 2-13 Sep 2026, 12 days, 26 meals, Inside Double \$6,099, Ocean View Double \$6,699, Veranda Double \$7,299, prices are for bookings made prior to 2 Nov 2025. Highlights: Fairbanks, Sternwheeler Discovery, Music of Denali Dinner Theater, Denali National Park, Tundra Wilderness Tour, Domed Rail, Anchorage, Hubbard Glacier, Endicott Arms/Dawes Glacier, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Inside Passage.

SUNNY PORTUGAL DISCOVER: 27 Oct - 5 Nov 2026, 10 days, 13 meals. \$3,899 per person double occupancy if booked by April 28, 2026 (with optional 3-night Portugal’s Templar featuring Nazare & Fatima Pre-Tour Extension & optional 4-night Madeira Island post tour). Highlights: Lisbon, Belem, Cork Factory, Picnic Lunch in Monchique, Portuguese Riviera, Obidos, Sintra, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

DISCOVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF MONTREAL & QUEBEC CITY: 14-20 Dec 26, 7 days, 9 meals. Book by 14 June 26 prices \$2,999 per person, double occupancy. Highlights: Quebec City’s German Christmas Markets, Montmorency Falls, Maple Sugar Shack, Buche de Noel Workshop.

2027 MOAA-NH Travel Program

IMPERIAL CITIES (featuring Prague, Vienna & Budapest), 11-21 October 2027 11 days, 14 meals. Price \$5,699/person, double occupancy, if booked by 12 April 2027 (a savings of \$150/person. Highlights include Prague, Prague Castle, Cesky Krumlov, Vienna, Schonbrunn Palace, Classical Music Performance, Bratislava, Budapest, Fisherman’s Bastion and Szentendre.

WONDERS OF ANCIENT GREECE, 11-21 March 2027, 11 days, 16 meals. Price \$3,999/person, double occupancy if booked by 12 Sept 26 (a savings of \$250/person). Highlights include Acropolis, Meteora Monasteries, Aegina Island, Greek Farm Visit, Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, Athens City Center and Olympia.

CANYON COUNTRY, 23-30 April 27, 8 days, 11 meals. Price \$3,999/person, double occupancy if booked by 23 Oct 26 (a savings of \$200/person). Highlights include Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Rafting on the Horseshoe Bend, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Las Vegas.

BLUE GRASS COUNTRY & THE SMOKEY

MOUNTAINS, 23 Sep - 1 Oct 27, 9 days, 13 meals. Price \$3,999/person if booked by 23 Mar 27 (a savings of \$400/person). Highlights include Church Hill Downs & Kentucky Derby Museum, Biltmore Estate, Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Jim Bean Bourbon Distillery tour and tasting, Horse Farm Tour and Museum of Appalachia.

BRITISH LANDSCAPE featuring England, Scotland, and Wales. The contract with Collette is pending and the trip will be posted on the MOAA-NH website upon receipt and acceptance by our MOAA-NH Travel Director.

WORLD CONNECT. Our recommendations include The Plains of Africa featuring Wildlife Safara, Wonders of Thailand, Highlights of Norway, Irish Splendor, The Azores, and Spirit of the American Southwest.

For trip information or reservations, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106, email tonyajjb@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, email Tkyle@yahoo.com

VISIT OUR CURRENT TRAVEL PROGRAM on the MOAA-NH website under “Group Travel” (<https://www.moaa-nh.org>).

If using the tours under our “World Connect” program with Collette, DO NOT fill out the Application form. Contact Tony.

**HAPPY TRAVELS!!
Tony & Tom**

(Continued from Page 4 - Award Presentations)



On April 8, 2026, The Military Officer Association of America Medal (MOAA) was presented by MOAA-New Hampshire to the outstanding junior year group midshipman and cadets who show exceptional leadership. The Awards were presented by our President, Laurance Miller, LtCol, USAFR (Ret) to Cadet Dennis Dzubay and MIDN 2/C David Myers at Norwich University.

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WHY MOAA?
 YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2026 Chapter Members!

Maj. Tom Christensen, USAF (Ret)	Amherst, NH
Lt. Col. Frank Groseth, USAF (Ret)	Conway, NH
Col. Michael Marino, USAF (Ret)	Center Harbor, NH
CDR Jenny L K Paul, USN	Lee, NH
LTC Scott M Reed, USA (Ret)	Durham, NH
CDR Gerry S Thomas, USN (Ret)	New London, NH



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.



June 2026

Taps

COL Franklin T. Tilton, USA (Ret)	Laconia, NH
Mrs. June R Waltz	North Conway, NH

(Continued from page 5) Col. Chuck Frost (alumnus) and Lt.



Col. Annette Frost present Outstanding Senior/Junior awards to UNH Army ROTC Senior Cadet Amelia Magay (accepted by SGM Joseph Luchsinger) and Junior Cadet Stephen Paras.

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 tgsk64@gmail.com.