



The Granite Slate

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

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The NH Chapter and MOAA National are nonpartisan & non-profits organizations



March 2026

Spring 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

MOAA-NH Chapter Holds the 14th Granite State Warriors Award Luncheon

After enduring near arctic conditions in NH for almost three months, the weather finally gave us a break at the end of February so that we could all enjoy our 14th Annual Granite State Warriors Award luncheon and presentation at Fratello's Italian Grille on 28 February. Ninety-two members, spouses, and guests were in attendance, which was one of the best turnouts we've had this past year. In addition, both Senator Maggie Hassan and Representative Maggie Goodlander were in attendance as well as a staff member from Senator Shaheen's office.

After an enjoyable social hour, President Larry Miller began the luncheon with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Chapter Chaplain, Gary Terhune, provided the invocation. The President then recognized our first time attendees, Barbara Donaghue of Methuen, MA and Shannon and Anne Mills of Concord. Larry then read a short segment of the letter sent by Senator Shaheen which recognized the "strong advocacy on behalf of our military community and recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in support of our nations' veterans." Larry reminded everyone about the upcoming luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth on 25 April, and that our new memorial bench was recently installed at the NH Veterans Cemetery, and our annual Clambake on 1 August. Because of a recent fire at the Nashua Country Club, our annual November meeting will need to seek an alternative date and location. Pat Miller, our Surviving Spouse board member reminded everyone about the need to update their military ID cards, if they haven't done so,

and introduced the surviving spouses who were seated in the audience. Finally, she mentioned the importance of knowing where your DD-214 form was stored.

Larry then introduced Senator Maggie Hassan who thanked all service members for their contributions to the security of our country and then spoke about the beginning of military action against the Iranian regime that started today. She then commended MOAA for its efforts in supporting veteran legislation and helping to push it through Congress. Congresswoman Goodlander thanked various Chapter officers for their leadership of the organization and for the installation of the memorial bench recently placed in the NH Veterans Cemetery.

Larry then gave a brief history of the GSWA, which was established in 2011, to annually recognize a NH resident and NH based organization making the most significant contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States for that year or improved the health, morale, welfare or recognition of US military personnel. Their services are designed to improve the quality of life of military forces and their families or to increase the warfighting capabilities of our combat troops. This year's design was based on the concept of courage with grace under pressure. The winners of the GSWA for 2025 are TURBOCAM International of Barrington NH and Jack Heath of the radio show *Good Morning NH*.

TURBOCAM produces hundreds of Integrally Bladed Rotors (IBR's) and stationary vanes for commercial and military engines while also working with universities in leading edge aerodynamic research and development.

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“Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country.” Although Charles E. Weller, a typewriter salesman in the 19th century, devised this phrase for increasing typewriter sales, it expresses many core values of Americans. It is exactly a 70-spaced line, if a period is included, to fill a single typewriter line. However, it also expresses civic duty to ones country in time of need. Coupled with Edmund Burle’s famous quote, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”, it stresses the juxtaposition of action and lethargy. Each focuses on duty, courage, and love of country. It encourages patriotic Americans to stand and not procrastinate, and to recognize collective responsibility.

Some may say patriotism is a “dying breed.” I challenge that it has been inborn in every American who puts the uniform on, or who would aspire to do so. But, it does not stop there. As children, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance, we rode in 4th of July parades, waved American flags, sung the National Anthem at our sporting events, bowed our heads for the invocation, and attended church services. All to make us love and respect the country we call home, to become good citizens.

This love and devotion is embedded in the Oath of Office each officer of the eight uniformed services takes upon commissioning, codified in Section 3331, Title 5 USC. It is the oath every officer has pledged from the Continental Army, Army of the Potomac, to the AEF WWI and WWII and current day. “I do solemnly swear to protect and defend...”

America is not the perfect solution, but it is certainly better than the alternative. Our founding fathers were an enlightened delegation. Their education was superior in many ways. They had read the Classics, were knowledgeable of Aristotle, Cicero, and Cincinnatus through the Enlightenment, English tradition, and Protestant Christianity. They did not invent liberty or democracy. They, in Jefferson’s view, only gathered inspiration from existing thought of the ancient thinkers. They studied the difficulties of maintaining and fostering self government from the Greeks and Romans. They also studied Locke and Montesquieu and took the ideas of “nature’s laws”, self government, and the need for checks and balances. But, being British before being American, they understood the British traditions of the Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Rights (1628), and the English Bill of Rights (1689). And it was the Protestant Reformation that rounded out their thinking of individual liberty and religious oppression. Our founders learned from the wisdom of history and knew how to establish “a new order for the ages” that believed that humans had the capacity and understanding for self-government.

I want to end on a portion of George Patton’s speech to the troops of the Third Army before the D-Day invasion. “Americans love a winner. Americans will not tolerate a loser. Americans despise cowards. Americans play to win all of the time. I wouldn’t care for a man who lost and laughed.” Unapologetically American.

Larry Miller
President, MOAA-NH Chapter

Attention Vietnam Veterans and lineal descendants of Vietnam Veterans! The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has announced the Legacy Scholarship for children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren aged 16-30 of military members who served in Vietnam.

Scholarships are for post-secondary education or career job training. These scholarships will be based on the factual narrative of the Vietnam veterans while meeting minimal student qualifications. For those living, applicants must work with the veteran to gain information for the essay. For those who did not come home, applicants must interview relatives or friends.

The period to apply is now open for a 2026 scholarship and the deadline is May 1, 2026. Winners announced July 15, 2026. Applications and details are listed at: www.vvmf.org/scholarship

There will be (10) at \$2,000, (2) at \$5,000, and (1) at \$10,000. I would like to remind everyone that MOAA-NH also offers grants to eligible candidates.

Pat Miller, SSL MOAA-NH

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2026

Advocacy in Action is officially underway, and we need your voice to set the stage for our in-person event in mid-April. Each spring, MOAA advocates from across the country come together to support key priorities affecting service-members, veterans, their families, and survivors. This year’s campaign will focus on four important initiatives designed to strengthen support for the uniformed services and veteran communities:

HR 2102/S1032: Major Richard Star Act

HR 1732: GUARD VA Benefits Act

HR 6796: Military CARE Act

S 3168: Shutdown Fairness Act

On April 15, event participants will meet with lawmakers and their staff on Capitol Hill for our annual Advocacy in Action Hill Day, sharing these priorities directly. But, that should not be the first time they hear about them. That is where you come in. Our Hill Day engagements will be stronger when lawmakers have already heard from you, their constituent, back home.

In the weeks ahead, MOAA will make it easy for you to send messages to your elected officials through our Legislative Action Center. These messages will help demonstrate broad support for the issues our advocates will be discussing in-person on Capitol Hill.

You can strengthen this effort by taking a few simple steps:
(Continued on bottom of page 3)

Now is the time to come to the aid of MOAA-NH.....

There are several committee jobs and one liaison job available on the governing body of MOAA-NH. Here is a list with points of contact for additional information. Please consider volunteering.

<u>Personal Affairs</u>	Recently vacated by CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR. Email: lefebvre@att.net , cell: (603)356-7296.
<u>Transition Assistance</u>	Also recently vacated by CPT LeFebvre. Please see above.
<u>Web Page</u>	Currently held by CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret). Email: mamclean@comcast.net , phone: (603)767-0411.
<u>Public Affairs</u>	FILLED! Lt. Col. Annette Frost, USA (Ret) is now filling this position.
<u>Bookkeeper</u>	Peter Burdett is currently filling in as the temporary Treasurer/Bookkeeper for the next year, but the Chapter needs a new permanent Treasurer beginning November 2026. If interested, please contact him by email: psburdett@aol.com

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1. Watch for Advocacy in Action alerts and take action through **MOAA's Legislative Action Center**.
2. Share these advocacy opportunities with fellow MOAA member, chapter and council members, and advocates in your personal network.
3. Encourage friends, family members, and others in your local community to participate and lend their voices.

Advocacy in Action succeeds because of the strength of MOAA's nationwide community. When our members walk into Congressional Offices, they carry the collective voice of thousands of advocates who care deeply about the future of the all-volunteer force.

Thank you for standing with MOAA and for helping ensure Congress keeps faith with those who serve and their families. With the deepest gratitude,

MOAA Government Relations

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.moaa.org

Activities Update

Lots to report this go-round and request for feedback directly to my phone or email. We had a very successful Granite State Warriors Award luncheon at Fratello's in Manchester with 93 people in attendance including a couple of walk-ins, a first since COVID. We also have a number of events scheduled and are looking at a couple more depending on the feedback we get. A small group got together little earlier at this year jazz brunch Festival at Wentworth by the sea on Feb 15. Events already scheduled or being worked at the current time include all of the following:

April 25 at the Common Man restaurant in Plymouth. Speaker: Dr. Edmond Russo, Jr. the Acting Director of the US Army's Cold Region Research and Engineering Lab in Hanover, NH. He will make a PowerPoint presentation on the latest Army research on cold weather operations & equipment.

May 8 at 1700 hours, NH Veterans Cemetery: MOAA organized military spouse event in line with the presidentially declared day. This will be a first and we just started working on this after the GSWA luncheon, and Senator Hassan and Congresswoman Goodlander expressed interest in participating.

June: date TBD, possible Isle of Shoals cruise if we get enough positive feedback from membership.

1 Aug: 43rd annual MOAA NH clambake, with 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.

Late October/early November for the Chapter annual meeting due to recent fire at the Nashua Country Club.

January/February 2027: Sunday Jazz brunch in the seacoast area for those interested.

February 2027: Granite State Warriors Award luncheon, date and location TBD.

June 2027: Possible boat or train ride depending on member feedback.

We **REALLY NEED** 2-3 members to stand up and take over some of the tasks for these luncheons. We need folks specifically to take over check-in and set up at these luncheons as Michael McLean and Roby/Sharon Day have done this at almost every luncheon event for over two decades!

Bob Jaffin
robertdfaffin@gmail.com
Past President

St. Valentine's Day Brunch at Wentworth-by-the-Sea

Four chapter couples, the Boyles, Jaffins, Terhunes, and the Breuders, enjoyed a delicious Sunday afternoon brunch on 15 February at the Marriott Wentworth by the Sea in New Castle. Bob Jaffin must know someone special as we were seated at Table #1, right next to the three piece band that entertained us all afternoon. In particular, we also celebrated the 38th anniversary of Gary Terhune's 40th birthday!!

(See photos on bottom of page 6)

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He joined TURBOCAM in 2020 and was appointed as Vice President in 2024. He was joined by Project Manager Andy Gunkler in accepting the award. Michael said that MOAA and other organizations are taking care of veterans and their families, but that they also need the tools to win. He stated that online they tend to downplay their connection to defense work to protect their staff and the security of the supply chain. They are trying to take 40 lessons learned in mass manufacturing and convert that into tools that the warfighter can use. In the news, there are concerns about our ability to fight a war with China and the depletion of already scarce armaments in Iran. Their employees are doing an incredible job of stepping in and stepping up to solve these issues.

As an example, they are working now to create a supply chain for the Joint Air-to-Ground Standoff Missile which is critical for hitting high value targets. They are working with several companies to cut cost and manufacturing time out of the process. They had a part that was taking four days of machine time, and they have now managed to produce three of these pieces during only one shift! They have quadrupled the manufacturing of the Mark 48 torpedo props this year and some of these parts were displayed on the table at the back of the room. They are also working on ways to ramp up the manufacturing parts for the JDAM's to take gravity bombs and convert them into precision bombs.

Our Project Manager, Andy Gunkler, started work seven years ago on the manufacturing of compressor discs for the Joint Strike Fighter supply chain out of Turkey. He is currently leading a team to ramp up the production of that part as fast as possible. Andy said that when he walks through the halls of the shops, he sees men and women who love God and Country and are committed to serving the military. He sees people with honor and pride in the trades who have built this country with products they've made with their hands. He sees people using what they have learned in college, and the strong relationships and they see the God given value in all people.

Accepting for TurboCam was Michael Noronha, President of TURBOCAM. Michael was a graduate of the US Military Academy with a BS in Legal Studies and Political Science. He served for eleven years as an intelligence officer attaining the rank of Major and had deployed to both Europe and Afghanistan.



The second award to an individual was made to Jack Heath who hosts a 3-hour radio discussion of topics that are important to the citizens of NH in news, business, politics, and finance. He devotes considerable effort and time through his radio show supporting Veterans Count and other Service Groups.

Jack took a few minutes to address the audience and thanked the families of those who serve in the military. He related that when he was departing the US Army War College, Lt. General Abrams said, "We need to connect the bridge between those who serve and the civilian world. Do that son!" He said that one of the best times of his life was being around generals, senior officers, and senior executives from other countries. He also spoke about the divisions in our country from Vietnam to the present day, but that also existed during the founding of our country between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. In NH, we have civility in politics in the State House and we need more of that in Washington DC.

He mentioned that he lost his father when he was 12, and his wife still has his father's dress blues in the closet. Although he himself didn't serve in the military, but by doing his radio show he feels he contributes to those who have. Coming up in May, he has his 12th Annual Radiothon, a 12-hour, commercial free broadcast for veterans and supports Veterans Count and EasterSeals. It is the only 12-hour radio event for veterans in the United States. The idea for this came while driving on Route 101 when the VA was getting hammered for wait times. He noted that there were telethons run by Jerry Lewis and others for various causes, so he wondered why he couldn't do something similar for veterans and they managed to raise \$1.3 million dollars over 12 years for Veterans Count. Veterans tend not to ask for help because some other veteran needs it more. For example, they recently provided a home furnace for a veteran, Don Bernard, living without heat in Center Barnstead. He had been an Army Special Forces veteran, twenty year police Captain, Court officer, plus other duties, and he was sleeping in a sleeping bag without a furnace and was nominated by close friends. Nevertheless, he felt that someone else deserved it instead of him. In addition, a listener on the seacoast offered Jack his credit card to pay Don's heating bill for a year.

He mentioned that recently he had Phil Taub on the radio and who is building a memorial for Gulf War Veterans of NH who gave their all. (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.

VISIT OUR CURRENT TRAVEL PROGRAM on the MOAA-NH website under “Group Travel” (<https://www.moaa-nh.org>). Contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email tonyajib@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, email Tkyle@yahoo.com for information or assistance. If using the tours under our “World Connect” program with Collette, DO NOT fill out the Application form. Contact Tony. **2027 Travel Program. Tom and I developed our draft 2027 program. It will consist of five group travel trips and numerous World Connect retail trip recommendations. We are scheduled to meet with our Collette representative on 9 March to finalize the program. Refer to our website, noted above, for our current 2027 travel trips.**

NOTE: Due to personal reasons, Tom has decided he can’t assist me after the 2026 season. If anyone is interested in assisting me, please contact me at tonyajib@gmail.com.

HAPPY TRAVELS!!

Tony & Tom

(Continued from page 4).

While he was talking to Phil, his text went off with a message from Bob Coates from Eversource who said that they would donate \$2,500 towards this memorial. Another incident involved an executive from Delta Dental who was listening to Jack’s show regarding oral surgery care for veterans in NH. Veterans needed to be either a POW or injured in the line of service to receive oral surgery services due to a Congressional glitch in the law that needed to be fixed. This executive had his board fund about 250 surgeries for veterans from oral surgeons in the state. Finally, on his radio program last year, he had a veteran with six combat tours in two different services (Army and Navy). During one of his tours, he received a call from his wife that the hot water system failed. His wife handled all the family duties/disasters while he was away. After he retired, he became a Salem Fire Fighter and one day his wife recommended that he go over to the Manchester VAMC where he was diagnosed with PTSD. He received excellent care. Then Jack thanked everyone for the award and coming today.

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



BELOW ARE SOME ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE LUNCHEON.



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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2026 Chapter Members!

CPT David L Avery, Jr., USA (Ret)	Lyme, NH
CAPT Don J Briselden, USN (Ret)	Exeter, NH
LTC Deborah Dodge, USAR (Ret)	Amherst, NH
CPT Geoff Geoffrion, USA	Manchester, NH
LT Lawrence D W Graves, USNR	Keene, NH
Mrs. Constance J Hallquist, USN	Portsmouth, NH
Lt. Col. Philip D Johnson, USAF (Ret)	Rye, NH
LT Robert Luti, USN	Alton Bay, NH
CDR Mary McGarry, USPHS	Brookline, NH
Brig. Gen. Rudolf F Peksens, USAF (Ret)	Sunapee, NH
GEN. David G Perkins, USA (Ret)	Jackson, NH
Lt. Col. George Robinson, USMC (Ret)	Hollis, NH
COL. Lori L Sussman, USA (Ret)	Center Harbor, 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.

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.