



Fort George G. Meade Chapter

# Officers Call



May/June 2016

**Five Star Chapter Award 2009, 2010,  
2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014**



## President's Message

Join us at Club Meade for a dinner meeting on Thursday May 5th at 06:30 PM when our guest speaker will be The Honorable George W. Owings III, current Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Owings previously served in the same capacity during Governor Erhlich's administration and we are looking forward to his return engagement with the Ft Meade Chapter. He is dedicated to serving Maryland's Veterans. This time he is working with Governor Hogan and his cabinet. We are honored to have Secretary Owings back for a visit with the Fort Meade Chapter and I think you will agree with me that he is the right man for the job after hearing him speak. Dinner will begin promptly at 7:00PM

Speaking of dinner meetings, survey feedback has indicated to us that many of the 2<sup>nd</sup> career members of the chapter can't attend luncheons. As your President and chief listening officer I have directed the board to schedule this dinner meeting on a trial basis. Obviously we have higher numbers to reach minimum requirements at Club Meade and we need a turnout of at least 40. While the cost of the meal is higher for dinner we believe we are missing an important segment of the chapter that can only attend dinners. Some of our older members are concerned about driving at night but if that is a concern contact Eleanor Layman (her phone number and e-mail is on the right side of this page). Eleanor will match you up with a volunteer driver who will pick you up at your house and return you home after the dinner meeting. Sorry no stops at Wal Mart or Target are included. So please no excuses on why you cannot attend, we have a great speaker, we have a target of opportunity for our working members to attend, and transportation for those who need it.

As discussed in the last newsletter there are several bills that are being debated in Annapolis that will exempt military retired pay from Maryland State Income Taxes. The one recommended by the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force (MRVTF) is SB 660. The bill was heard in the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully it will be given a favorable recommendation, pass through the Senate and cross over to the House for a vote prior to the legislature adjourning in mid April. In the mean time continue to contact your legislators and ask for their support. I hope to see a big turn out on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> at Club Meade.

Andrew M Veronis PhD  
Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

## Chapter Officers

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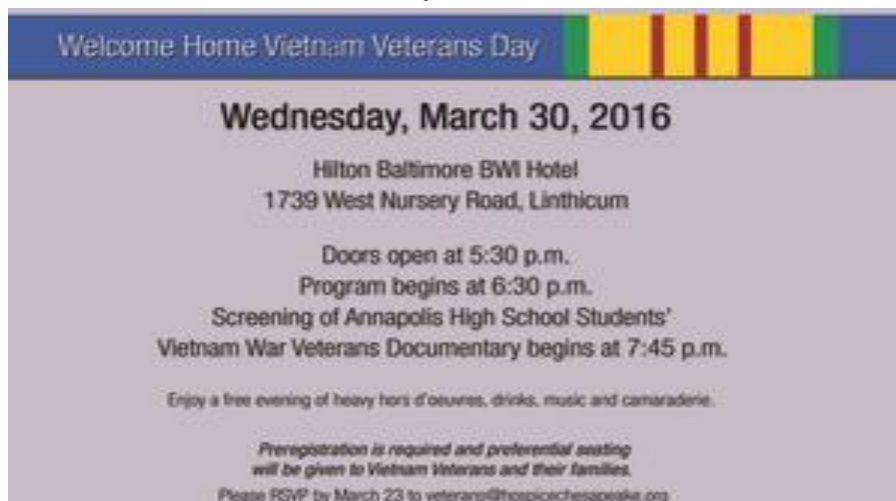
### **Past President**

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### **Personal Affairs Officer**

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## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day



Vietnam Veterans and their families joined Hospice of the Chesapeake as they celebrated the state's official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day celebration. Speakers at the event included Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker, a former Vietnam War POW and Jan Scruggs, Founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They viewed the MPT Vietnam Veterans Traveling Exhibit, an Honor Salute to those who served as well as to POW MIAs and a screening of Annapolis HS students' Vietnam Veteran documentary.

## USO BWI Magazine/Book Drive

2016 deliveries to the BWI USO include 212 magazines: 15 paperback books: snack food donations: \$86.50. Leave your donations with Wayne Hobbs at the next dinner meeting and they will be delivered. Ensure you leave a business card or write your name/phone number so the USO can acknowledge all donations in kind to you by mail or e-mail.

## MOWW Massing of the Colors

The Ft Meade Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (FGGM/MOWW) will host the annual Massing of the Colors on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Ft Meade Pavilion. MOWW would like MOAA chapter members to volunteer to serve as ushers, escorts, and helping to check in the various units, for the massing. Contact CDR Bob Hartman, USN-Retired 410-245-1127 or LTC John Hollywood, USA-Retired at 301-261-3515 if interested in volunteering. If you are interested in marching in carrying the U.S. Flag or the Meade MOAA chapter colors, contact BG Veronis. As in past years water bottles are greatly appreciated as there be over 100 units from Boy/Girl Scouts to Military, Police and Fire units. Food items this year must be of the store bought variety (wrapped/package)

## Help Wanted

We need a volunteer to write, print and distribute our bi-monthly newsletter. While the task can be somewhat time consuming it is rewarding as well. Contact BG Veronis if interested.

## **Recruit Military Veterans Job Fair**

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at M&T Bank Stadium (Home of the Ravens) in Baltimore. 11AM to 3PM.

## **Army Ten Mile Run**

The 2016 Army Ten Mile Run is slated for Sunday October 9, 2016 at 0800. Race proceeds benefit Soldier MWR programs. Priority Registration opens on Wednesday May 11 at 0700. To register for priority registration, you must have either finished the ATM 7 or more times or are a U.S. service member. For 7 time runners a searchable database will be posted in March. General registration will begin on Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 0700. For more information, go to: [www.armytenmiler.com](http://www.armytenmiler.com)

## **Is there a special tax benefit for military retirees on Maryland income taxes?**

If you or the spouse of a military retiree receives military retirement income, you will be able to subtract up to \$5,000 of your military retirement income from your federal adjusted gross income before determining your Maryland tax. Beginning with tax year 2015, if you are age 65 or over, you will be able to subtract up to \$10,000 of the military retirement income.

The retirement income must have been received as a result of any of the following military service:

- Induction into the U.S. armed forces for training and service under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 or a subsequent Act of similar nature.
- Membership in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces.
- Membership in an active component of the U.S. armed forces.
- Membership in the Maryland National Guard.

The benefit also applies to persons separated from active duty employment with the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Military widows or widowers on Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) are also entitled to this tax break.

## **Maryland Legislature turns for Home: 11 April Adjournment**

Key bills in the House and Senate that could impact military retirement pay have yet to move to the other side of the legislature as the April 11<sup>th</sup> adjournment date looms larger. SB 660 if passed would exempt 100% of all military retirement pay from Maryland state income taxes but no action on the bill has been taken since the March 15<sup>th</sup> hearing in the Budget and Taxation (B&T) Committee. The Military Retired Veterans Task Force (MRVTF) recommends this bill.

Two other cross-filed bills are SB293 and HB 738 which would increase the adjustment to income of military retirement pay to \$15,000 from \$10,000 on Maryland State income taxes if they are 65 or older. Neither bill has been given a favorable recommendation by their respective committees, B&T in the Senate and Ways and Means in the House. The MRVTF does not oppose these bills if they were to pass but again time is running out. Call your legislators now, do not wait to urge passage.

The Fort George G. Meade Chapter of  
The Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 743  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-0743



**www.mdmoaa.org**  
**MOAA Luncheon Meeting**

**Thursday May 5th, 2016** at Club Meade 6:30 PM, dinner at 7 PM.  
**Featured speaker is Mr. George W. Owings, III**  
**Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

*Bring a friend or prospective  
member to the meeting!*

Cost: \$30 per person.

Join us at the Club Meade at 6600 Mapes Ave on Ft Meade. Menu: Tossed Salad,  
Chili Lime Chicken Breast (mild) or Baked Fish (please specify), Rice, Black Beans  
and Corn, Chocolate Ice Cream Parfait

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail reservations and checks payable to FGGM/MOAA to:**

LTC T. Wayne Hobbs, USA-Retired [twaynehobbs1@verizon.net](mailto:twaynehobbs1@verizon.net)

7305 Brookview Rd, Unit 302

Elkridge, MD 21075-6080

(410)-799-8331

**Reservations required by Sunday May 1, 2016.** If you make reservations but are a no-show for the  
dinner payment will still be required to the chapter.