



Fort George G. Meade Chapter

Officers Call



Sep/Oct 2016

**Five Star Chapter Award 2009, 2010,
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, & 2015**



President's Message

The chapter was back in action after our annual summer vacation on August 31st (we pushed back one day because of the September 1st Tech Expo at Club Meade).

We were honored to host George W. Owings, III the Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Owings brought us up to date on the services the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs offers, the status of Maryland's Veterans Cemeteries, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

If you haven't noticed, we have added the year 2015 to the box above this column because the Fort Meade Chapter of MOAA (FGGM/MOAA) has garnered a 5 Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award for the 7th consecutive year. The Five Star Streamer will be presented on Monday night October 24th at MOAA's annual meeting at the Sheraton Hotel (near the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery) in Arlington, VA. Sign up with MOAA on line or by calling 800-234-6622 if you want to attend.

While the chapter is experiencing a good run with respect to the LOE award I attribute the 2015 award to the leadership of our departed President Andrew Veronis and past years' awards to previous chapter Presidents for the years 2009-2014, and a small core of dedicated chapter members and Chapter Officers. However, we need to recruit new blood into our chapter and get more involvement from current members or we will no longer be a chapter. Get involved and don't be surprised if you receive a phone call from me soliciting your active participation and asking for you to step up and volunteer. Our chapter's survivorship depends on you.

Check out the rest of the newsletter as we have a multitude of events coming up prior to the holidays. I hope to see everyone at our dinner meeting on Thursday Nov 3rd (our first in over 4 years) at Club Meade. Details are on the back of this newsletter.

Very respectfully,
JOHN

Chapter Officers

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Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Ft Meade

The annual RAD event at Ft Meade is scheduled for Friday October 21st from 0800 to 12:30 at the McGill Training Center. Rebecca Conover has taken the lead in setting up a table for our chapter and we will be joined by other organizations that may interest you. While there you can also get your annual flu shot if you so desire courtesy of Kimbrough Army Medical Center.



Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, The Honorable George W. Owings, III (right) accepts a MOAA engraved pen and pencil set along with a check from the Ft Meade Chapter for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund from Chapter President John Whitman at the August 31st luncheon. Photo courtesy of Denise Nooe of the Maryland Veterans Department of Veterans Affairs.

Notable Quotes

“We do not rise to the level of our expectations, We fall to the level of our training.” Archilochus

“Efforts and purpose are not enough without purpose and direction.” JFK

“Well done is better than well said.” Benjamin Franklin

“When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That’s relativity.” Albert Einstein

“The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.” Albert Einstein

“A fine is a tax for doing something wrong. A tax is a fine for doing something right.”
Anonymous

USO BWI Magazine/Book Drive

2016 deliveries to the BWI USO include 425 magazines: 50 paperback books: snack food donations: \$201.95. Leave your donations with Eleanor Layman or Rebecca Conover at the Nov 3rd 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. Special thanks to LTC Chuck Brown, USA-Retired for his generous donations.

Welcome

Please welcome Captain Andrew Wong, ANG currently serving on active duty as a dual status technician from Elkridge, Maryland.

Happy Birthday



On September 18th the United States Air Force celebrated its 69th birthday. The Air Force became a separate service on September 18th, 1947.



October 13, 2016 marks the Navy's 241st birthday. The United States Navy recognizes 13 October 1775 as the date of its official establishment — the date of the resolution of the Continental Congress that purchased two vessels to be armed against British ships.

Job Fairs

The next Job Fair on Ft Meade is scheduled for Wednesday November 2nd at Club Meade from 0900 to 1400. Bring plenty of resumes as there will be over 60 potential employers.

Tops in Blue – Shut Down After 6 Decades

The Air Force permanently shut down Tops in Blue, its six-decade old touring performance ensemble. The Air Force said the decision to close down the song and dance troupe, which played a mixture of modern pop and rock songs and classic rock and oldies came after a year-long review prompted by fiscal realities and resource constraints combined with changing airman demographics.

Annual Congressional Luncheon

The 6th Annual Maryland Congressional Luncheon sponsored by the MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters (MDCOC) took place on Thursday September 15th to a packed room in the Rayburn House Office Building. The luncheon was originally slated for September 14th but was moved to accommodate Congressional schedule changes. Those in attendance heard from Senator Ben Cardin and Representatives CA “Dutch” Ruppersberger (Congressional District 2), John Delaney (District 6), and Chris Van Hollen (District 8). Congressman Van Hollen is the Democratic Senate candidate in the November election to replace retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski. Lt General Dana Atkins, USAF-Retired and new MOAA CEO also addressed the council and chapter members for the first time and emphasized the importance of their efforts in Maryland to support MOAAs stated goals in regards to legislation: e.g. prevent inordinately high premium increases for tri-care, reject capping active duty military pay raises and eliminating SBP offsets for widows receiving DIC.

Veterans Appreciation Day (VAD) Luncheon

The Retired Officers’ Wives’ Club (ROWC) is hosting the annual VAD luncheon on Saturday November 5, 2016 at Club Meade. Check-In and socializing begins at 9:45 AM to 10:20 AM and appetizers will be served. The program begins promptly 10:30 AM. Keynote speaker is CSM Rodwell L. Forbes, Jr. Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Ft. Meade, MD. A patriotic musical tribute will follow by “Baron 52” Choral Group. Please make reservations NLT 23 October, 2016. Seating is limited. Cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person and dress is Military Uniform or Coat and Tie. Please call Lianne Roberts at 301-464-5498 or Althea Freeman 410-451-9709 to make reservations. We will also e-mail a reservation form and ROWC flyer for VAD in a separate transmission.

Goldstar Family Memorial Monument

The Goldstar Family Memorial Monument is being built in Annapolis is to be located at the WWII Memorial on the hill overlooking the Severn River and had a ground breaking in August. The monument is scheduled for completion and dedication on November 11. Governor Hogan has been a big supporter and plans to officiate at the dedication. The Woody Williams Foundation website is below which has a description of the monument, how the project got started. <http://www.hwwmohfoundation.org/gold-star-monument.html>

You Can Leave the Military But... By Col. Robert Whitener, USMC, Retired)

Occasionally, I venture back to one or another military post where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, Sir!"

Every time I go back to any Military Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, many years ago. The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy, but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their uniforms, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of drill instructors and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at senior officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed with a "by your leave sir". I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit. I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly, I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea. Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

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 November 3, 2016 at Club Meade 6:00PM, dinner at 7:00 PM. Featured speaker is, Mr. Harvey Pullen, First Command Financial Services Topic: Long Term Care Insurance

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. Buffet Menu: Roast Pork Loin with Stuffing, Fried Chicken, Cheese Lasagna, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Steamed Broccoli, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Toss Salad, Red Velvet Cake and Pumpkin Pie. Coffee and Tea.

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:

Rebecca Conover, Secretary, relic1241@gmail.com

9214 Log Chain Rd

Columbia, MD 21045

(410)-964-3227

Reservations required by Monday October 31, 2016. If you make reservations but are a no-show, payment will still be required.