



THE SEVEN SERVICES NEWSLETTER
MOAA
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Early Fall

2013

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President's Message

Each of the past three years your chapter has participated in MOAA's "Level of Excellence" award program, and each of these years we have received either a 5-star or a 4-star banner at the national MOAA Annual Meeting. These banners are proudly displayed on our chapter MOAA flag. And now for our efforts in 2012, we are going to add another 5-star banner. Congratulations go to Immediate Past President Col. Harvey Kaplan for his leadership in achieving these distinct honors!

There are ten MOAA chapters in Maryland. In addition to ours, the Fort George G. Meade and the Southern Maryland chapters each will receive a 5-star award banner. The Upper Potomac chapter will receive a 4-star banner.

For the second year now, national MOAA has also conducted a council Level of Excellence effort. The Maryland Council of Chapters will be awarded a 5-star banner in recognition of its state-wide efforts. All these banners will be awarded at the MOAA Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, CO, in November. Our chapter's banner will be picked up by Council President Major John Whitman, USAF(Ret), as I will be unable to attend the event.

APO/FPO/DPO HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES

If you are intending to send mail or parcels to deployed service members this year, according to Armed Forces News, here are the deadlines:

APO/FPO/DPO AE zips 090-098 (except 093) AA zips 340; AP zips 962-966

Express MailDecember 17th

First Class MailDecember 10th

Parcel Airlift MailDecember 3rd

Space Available MailNovember 26th

Parcel PostNovember 12th

APO/FPO/DPO AE Zip 093

First Class MailDecember 3rd

Parcel Airlift MailDecember 3rd

Space Available MailNovember 26th

Parcel PostNovember 12th

All mail addressed from all shore FPOs (except 093)

Express Mail Military ServiceDecember 17th

First Class MailDecember 10th

Parcel Airlift MailDecember 3rd

Space Available MailNovember 26th

Mailing by these deadlines should result in delivery before Christmas Day. If you are mailing items, contact your local civilian or military post office for details on any size and weight restrictions.

STAY CURRENT — UPDATE DEERS

Making changes to your DEERS information is easy and can be done online, by fax or mail, or in person at the nearest uniformed services ID card office.

Online: www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect

For more detailed information on how to update DEERS information, go to www.tricare.mil/DEERS.

Do You Know Any Veterans-Friendly Maryland Businesses?



New Logo - "Our Veterans are Welcome Here" - Now Available for Maryland Businesses to Display
Joint collaboration between the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and the Maryland Veterans Commission provides opportunity for Maryland businesses to show their support for military veterans.

If you know of any business which might like to display this logo, kindly contact the chapter president for further information.

SCAM ALERT

A member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees local chapter in Gaithersburg passed along this information about a scam that had been received by some chapter members. Recalling that our speakers Steve Chaikin and Barbara Mulitz cautioned us to be leery of things that sound too good to be true, the following is passed along for your edification:

A senior citizen received a phone call notifying him that he was a winner of the "Mega-Million Monthly Giveaway," and that there would be delivered that day a new white Mercedes Benz, \$500,000 in cash, and a \$2.5 million dollar annuity. In broken English, the caller (using the name Benjamin McAlister) insisted that the citizen accept delivery or designate a charity to receive it. All that was needed to get the prize was to purchase a \$2500 money transfer "handover fee" at Western Union, and to provide a 10-digit ID number (possibly a credit card number or a bank account number) and the prizes would be delivered immediately.

When asked where the prizes would be delivered, the call identified the citizen's home address. He had a surprising amount of information about the citizen, but was confused about exactly where the citizen lived, identifying MD as Madrid, Spain.

When the citizen declined the offer and hung up, he immediately called the local police. The citizen was then surprised to learn that there is little the police can do in these situations, as there is no authority to track these operations. So, here are some takeaways from this experience:

1. Be careful about answering such calls, as the scammers are clever and your Caller ID doesn't always give you a clue;
2. A caller speaking broken English should be a giveaway, and don't be certain that the call's area code is an accurate indication of the caller's location;

3. The requirement of a transfer fee to get the prize is a dead giveaway;
4. Protect yourself by hanging up. Law enforcement or regulators aren't going to be much help.

HELP VERIFYING INFORMATION

Lots of information, real and bogus, is circulating on the Internet...we all know that. Where does one go to separate the "wheat from the chaff," so to speak? Here are three options which you can use:

1. www.snopes.com — This website has become a highly respected and often-quoted source for checking all kinds of information.
2. www.factcheck.org — Run by the Annenberg Policy Center at U-Pennsylvania, this site checks the accuracy of statements made by national politicians.
3. www.politifact.com — A project of the *St. Petersburg Times*, this website also checks statements made by national politicians.

Before you believe and/or forward any information you may receive on the Internet, do your friends on your email address list a favor and check out the credibility of the information. Too much bogus information gets out because folks are often careless. Be skeptical until you have assured yourself that forwarding the information is warranted.

YOUR CHAPTER SUPPORTS NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

Each year, the Montgomery County Chapter supports two venues of youth leadership conferences, one in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and one at Saint John's College in Annapolis. Posted below is short essay by a student at Gaithersburg High School that our chapter supported for the program at Saint John's College.

Sofia Sidhu
September 26, 2013

I am extremely grateful that my senior naval science instructor gave me the opportunity to attend the National Capitol Area Youth Leadership Conference at St. Johns College. It was an amazing experience that I will not soon forget. As a participant in the NCAYLC I was able to listen to and learn from many great speakers, have class sessions and discussions, with my peers and gain knowledge from the viewpoints of others, go on tours of Annapolis and the Naval Academy, and make great friends all in just four very busy days.

I learned so much from our guest speakers that will greatly help me in my future. I learned about how to manage my money better and to prioritize; I know this will greatly help me when I'm on my own in the world. I'll know what is necessary for survival, and what I will need to sacrifice. I won't be blindly spending my money and falling behind on rent. The lessons I learned money wise will save me from having a bunch of frozen waffles in my freezer, and not having enough money for a toaster.

I was reminded of what a great country we have and how very lucky I am to have been born and raised in America. Our very last guest speaker was woman who told us about her mother's struggles trying to get to America. She told us about how her mother had to carry her as an infant through the forests day and night; trailing along with soldiers who couldn't care less about her presence; and how she would have to breast feed her all night long to keep her from crying and notifying the enemy of their location. This was a wake up call for me. It taught me that I should not take my opportunities and blessings lightly. The fact that I am a United States citizen, and am able to get a education, and go to college while being classified as a minority female is truly amazing.

The NCAYLC has played a big part in preparing me for my future, and I am truly grateful for it and the people who lead and taught me in those days that I was there.

SEVEN SERVICES REVIEW

This issue — U.S. NAVY



SECNAV Recognizes Heroism of World War II Vet



Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus, presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device to a former Sailor during a ceremony on Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif., Jan. 17.

Mabus presented the long-awaited medal to Carl E. Clark, a 95-year-old African-American for his actions during World War II.

"Mr. Clark's service was honorable, but his DD-214 was missing one entry," Mabus said.

"Today, we will add that final official entry that has been missing from his record for almost exactly two-thirds of a century. That entry will record that Carl E. Clark has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the Combat V".

Clark, then a ship's steward first class, was working in the officer's mess aboard the destroyer minelayer USS Aaron Ward (DM 34) when Japanese kamikazes attacked his ship May 3, 1945.

The Ward's gunners shot down some of the kamikazes, but six planes and three of their bombs hit the ship on the port side of the main deck, igniting an instant firestorm upon impact.

According to Clark's Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal citation, he was slammed against the overhead from the impact of the first kamikaze attack.

He then headed out of the passageway and watched the second plane as it slammed into the port side. Unaware that the men on his damage control team were killed, he manned a fire hose fighting raging fires while kamikaze planes continued to crash into the deck and infrastructure.

"Imagine being in a battle like that. Imagine being a member of that crew, engulfed in fire and water, while relying on training and experience to conquer your fear with determination," said Mabus "Carl Clark not only can imagine it, he lived it."

Mabus also said Clark now officially joins other pioneers like the Golden 13, the Tuskegee Airmen and the Montford Point Marines; African-Americans who proudly represented the Navy and their nation, even during a time when their nation did not always live up to the ideals they served to protect.

"Carl Clark will tell you that he doesn't consider himself a hero. He says, 'I only did the best I could in a very ugly and demanding situation,'" said Mabus.

"Well, Carl, we here consider you a hero. America considers you a hero and I am proud to offer this symbol of thanks from a grateful Navy and nation," said Mabus, just prior to presenting Clark with his medal.

Upcoming Events

October 16: Luncheon — Business meeting following luncheon

October 28: Chapter board meeting

November 20: Luncheon — Ed Chow, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs —
“Current Initiatives at MDVA”

November 25: Chapter board meeting

December 18: Holiday celebration

Harken ye, to truth...

"We are either a United people, or we are not. If the former, let us, in all matters of general concern act as a nation, which have national objects to promote, and a national character to support. If we are not, let us no longer act a farce by pretending to it."

—George Washington, letter to James Madison, 1785

Here endth the lesson...let us all remember it