



# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

THE SEVEN SERVICES NEWSLETTER

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

SEPT 2014

MARYLAND

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### President

Capt. Dave Peterson, NOAA (Ret)  
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### Vice President

Lt. Cdr. Art Glover, USN( Ret)

### Secretary

Col. Ray Surman, USA( Ret)

### Treasurer

Lt. Cdr. Bill Schultz, USN (Ret)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is transitioning into fall now and I hope you all are looking forward to cooler days and the colorful foliage of the season. Our chapter is undergoing a transition of sorts as well. Bill Schultz, our able chapter treasurer of these past few years, and his wife Jan, are leaving us, heading northwest to the twin cities area of Minnesota to be closer to family. Bill has been a steadfast member of our chapter and his cheerful service will be greatly missed by us, but soon hopefully will be enjoyed by a new chapter out there.

His pending departure brings me to the subject of chapter governance. To maintain chapter vitality and effectiveness, we need to see some new folks stepping into the elected and appointed positions of the chapter. Our present board members have been serving for multiple terms and a reasonable degree of fairness suggests that some of you need to find a few hours each month to volunteer to help lead the chapter. You were all leaders in uniform once, so you have the tools and experience needed. If you are willing and can help, please contact me by either of the methods noted on this page.



A 2012 Winner

July 16



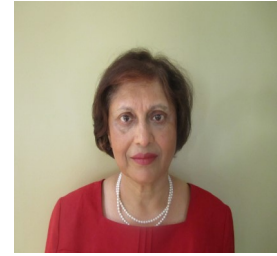
Our July luncheon speaker was MOAA national staff member Lauren Kologe. Lauren joined us to discuss MOAA's developing veterans service officer (VSO) initiative. Her role in the national MOAA organization is as Deputy Director of Veterans and Survivors Services at MOAA's Transition Center.

Lauren spoke in some detail about the new VSO program, which is focusing initially on serving veterans of all services and grades who are residing in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area. In time, with a growth in the number of trained MOAA member VSOs, this program will expand to other areas.

Volunteer VSOs will be trained at MOAA headquarters in Alexandria Virginia, and will assist veterans and their families with the development, filing, and appeal of disability claims to the Veterans Administration. In her presentation, she made a direct appeal to chapter members who might be interested in serving as VSOs, to contact MOAA's Transition Center at 866-739-3076, or by email at [vso@moaa.org](mailto:vso@moaa.org).

This MOAA board-approved program is a wonderful opportunity for willing chapter members to help our their fellow veterans in a most useful way. Your chapter leadership encourages you to consider it seriously.

August 20



Our August program took our chapter membership into the workings of the Montgomery County taxes, a subject that should be of interest to all citizens. Our speaker was Ms. Joan Fidler, who serves as the President, Montgomery County Taxpayers League.

The object of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League is to educate and advocate for county taxpayers. The League supports appropriate actions to achieve greater efficiency and economy in the government of Montgomery County and tax equity for Montgomery County taxpayers and communities. This organization tries to be a reasonable collective voice for county residents to elected officials who determine what we pay as county taxes.

Some of the areas that Ms. Fidler touched on as she described recent issues the League is working on were WSSC water rates, the county 2015 budget, funding and needs of the county school system, as well as a look at how our local elected officials voted on fiscal matters of import to the county. She certainly gave the chapter members much to think about and invited all to join the Taxpayers League.

Below is the MOAA press release about the Congressional Luncheon. Your chapter had a significant role in the event...Jim Campbell served as Chaplain, while Harvey Kaplan introduced John Delaney and Dave Peterson introduced Chris Van Hollen.



### **MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters hosts Congressional Luncheon on Capitol Hill**

Alexandria, Va. (Sept. 11, 2014) — Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret), president of the [Military Officers Association of America's \(MOAA\)](#), joined more than 70 attendees, including Sen. Benjamin Cardin and six other members of the Maryland congressional delegation at the annual Maryland Council of Chapters MOAA Congressional Luncheon, Thursday, Sept. 11, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to thank the members for their leadership and support of issues facing veterans, military retirees, and those currently serving and their families.

Leaders representing the 10 Maryland MOAA chapters discussed national legislative objectives with Maryland's congressional delegation at the lunch led by MOAA's Maryland Council of Chapters president Maj. John Whitman, USAF (Ret)., incoming council president, Col. Andrew Fallon, USA (Ret).

Cardin acknowledged the importance of remembering Sept. 11, 2001 — a day that changed America — calling the men and women in armed services who responded “true heroes and noting his first priority is “to make sure our military has the resources to carry out the mission.” Reps. John Sarbanes (District 3), Andy Harris (District 1), John Delaney (District 6), Steny Hoyer (District 5), Donna Edwards (District 4), and Chris Van Hollen (District 8) each addressed the group.

Ensuring servicemembers have the resources they need to succeed in their missions was a theme among the speeches.

“If you shortchange the military,” Harris said, “you're shortchanging the nation.”

Whitman thanked the Maryland congressional delegation for its support of the military community and Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger for sponsoring this year's luncheon.

Speaking to the council and chapter leaders at the luncheon, Ryan said, “This meeting is a visible demonstration that our councils and chapters are the cornerstone of what MOAA does, and we are very grateful for your leadership and inspiring example. You are impactful as our leaders in the state and what you are doing is making a real difference.

“It is up to us to speak up when the military community is asked to make disproportional cuts — our fundamental argument that we have a war going on and need to take care of our most important weapon system — our men and women in uniform. They are the best we have to offer and have never let this nation down,” Ryan continued.

## VA Digital Services



Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald said he plans to launch a new digital services team in the agency to help winnow down its numerous websites as part of a plan to improve the services VA delivers to veterans. During a press conference 8 SEP, McDonald decried the large number of often confusing websites the agency currently operates and said the website winnowing would take place between now and November. "Right now, if you go to any Veterans Affairs website, you'll find that there are 14 different websites that require a different username and a different password for veterans to access the VA," McDonald said. "That's just flat wrong. We've got to make it easier for the veteran to access the VA through one website, one username, one password."

During the press conference, McDonald said the department also needs a centralized information technology system. "I think we all agree it's better to have one IT system across the department than to have Balkanized IT systems." On the plan to create a team of digital experts in the agency, VA later said it will recruit and hire "the nation's top technologists to partner with us in building and delivering world-class, cost-effective digital services to our veterans," but did not provide any further details. Governmentwide, the Obama administration last month launched the U.S. Digital Service, a team of private sector tech experts working out of the White House who will work with agencies to help improve their digital offerings.

Alex Horton, an Army infantryman who served 15 months in Iraq and was one of the VA's first official bloggers in 2011 agreed with McDonald's assessment of the agency's website clutter. "VA's separate administrations for health, benefits and burials are as different in mission and culture as Navy, Army and Air Force," said Horton, who's now a freelance writer in Washington. "Their systems don't talk to each other, and resource websites dedicated to each exist on separate systems instead of one access page. Horton added, "The excessive password security is much stronger than my online banking security, and logging in each time is frustrating if done infrequently." Horton said VA's newest web site, Explore VA, "is a pretty good one-stop information resource with videos and easy to understand instructions. And their facility locator is one click away from the VA homepage, so it is very easy to find. But if I had to log into eBenefits or MyHealthVet right now, I'm 100 percent certain I wouldn't have the right password and would have to start the long process of resetting my login credentials."

McDonald also called for a geographic reorganization of how the department works with veterans through its health, benefits and burial operations. "If you looked at the structure of VA, you would find that we have nine different geographic maps for how we're organized geographically," he said. "Every part of the VA has a different geographic map, a different hierarchical structure. We're going to be looking at: How do we reorganize the VA so that when the veteran looks at the VA, the veteran knows how to connect and how to get things done. We are too complicated from the veteran's standpoint."

## Recreation Expands Senior Services at Three Centers National MOAA State Report Card

The Department of Recreation has announced expanded hours and programs for seniors at three centers in various parts of the County.

Expanded services consist of: added evening hours (Wednesdays until 9 p.m.) at the Holiday Park Senior Center; extended programming at Margaret Schweinhaut Center from five to six days per week; and an increase of eight operational hours a week at the Damascus Senior Center.

In January, the Recreation Department launched the new Senior Center Shuttle transportation program that provides curb-to-curb service to and from the County's five senior centers. The service offers a fixed route service free to adults 55 and older who live within a defined geographical radius of each center.

For more information about senior services or programs, call 240-777-4924 or visit the Recreation Department's [website](#).



Is your state doing all it can to improve quality of life for military people -- retirees, veterans, spouses, and children? MOAA's 2013 state-by-state assessment evaluates several key indicators of military friendliness in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The result is a handy resource and a compass for state-level advocacy in a free download from MOAA's website. Our benefits are under attack and MOAA needs your help to preserve your pay and earned benefits. Download a copy at the following National MOAA website:

<http://www.moaa.org/statereport/>

### Operation Hero Box

Last year, following a discussion by your chapter board, we decided to participate in this program, which was kicked off by a MOAA chapter out west. We have sent several boxes now...here is the response from a recent recipient to our coordinator Lt Col. Mary Sanders, USAF(Ret):

"Ma'am,  
I DID GET THE BOX!!!!!! It was awesome thank you so very very much!!!! I am sorry that I did respond earlier. Take care and thank you so much for your support.  
SGT McNulty  
876 Assistant OPS/Training NCO  
Bagram, Afghanistan"

We will continue to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.



# SEVEN SERVICES REVIEW

## This issue — U. S. COAST GUARD



### SEMPERT PRATUS

The article below appeared in the  
July-September 2014 issue of  
THE RETIREE NEWSLETTER (USCG-NOAA-PHS)

**STATION MIAMI BEACH OFFLOADS \$20 MILLION OF COCAINE**

MIAMI — Crewmembers of Coast Guard Station Miami Beach, Florida, offloaded 1,327 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated wholesale value of \$20 million, at Base Miami Beach, Saturday morning.

This interdiction took place under Operation Unified Resolve.

On April 21, an aircrew aboard a Coast Guard Air Station Miami HC-144 reported a go-fast vessel southwest of the Dominican Republic with suspicious packages on board.

The Coast Guard Cutter Spencer launched an armed helicopter and a boat crew to intercept the vessel before the vessel became dead in the water.

The boat crew arrived on scene in international waters and discovered 25 packages on board that later tested positive for cocaine. Two suspected smugglers aboard were taken into custody and transferred to law enforcement officials in Miami.

"This seizure highlights the hard work and dedication of our crews in stopping the illegal flow of drugs in the Caribbean and reducing the destabilizing effects that drugs have on society," said Cmdr. Anthony Williams, commanding officer of the Spencer.

In calendar year 2013, Coast Guard Seventh District removed \$22 million in marijuana and \$1.8 billion in cocaine throughout the Caribbean, including the Western Caribbean, Central Caribbean and Eastern Caribbean.

The Coast Guard's efforts under Operation Unified Resolve contribute to the interagency results being achieved each and every day locally under Operation Caribbean Guard, which coordinates efforts between the Coast Guard, its DHS, Commonwealth and Territorial law enforcement partners, who are working diligently to deter, detect and disrupt illicit maritime trafficking to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Since June 2012, the Coast Guard and its interagency partners supporting Caribbean Guard and Unified Resolve have seized more than \$1 billion in illicit narcotics and detained nearly 90 suspected smugglers.

The Coast Guard Cutter Spencer is a 270-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in Boston.



Coast Guard crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer transfer bales of cocaine to a barge crew from Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida, off the coast of Miami May 10, 2014. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Bancey

Bravo Zulz, USCG!!

## **Upcoming Events**

September 29 Chapter board meeting

October 15 Dinner meeting

Speaker: Mr. Rick Campbell

Author, "The Trident Deception"

October 27-28 MOAA Annual Meeting Events

November 4 Election Day

November 11 Veterans Day

November 19 Luncheon meeting

Speaker: Rear Admiral Tom Wears, USN (Ret)

(Former) Commander, Naval Undersea Warfare Center

November 24 Chapter board meeting

December 17 Luncheon holiday celebration


***Harken ye, to truth...***

"Short-changing America's military is short-changing America's future."

Rep. Andy Harris, Maryland District 1, on September 11, 2014

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

Hope to see you at the 2014 MOAA Annual Meeting  
 (Monday evening the chapter will receive a 5-star banner for our  
 2013 Level of Excellence effort)



## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 27-28, Sheraton Pentagon City, Arlington, Va.

### REGISTER NOW!

Name (with rank and service) \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA member  Yes  No  I want to join

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter member  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of chapter \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Name for badge \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Guest name(s) for badge \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I PLAN TO ATTEND.** (Enter number of attendees for each event.)

Attend all events for \$50, a savings of \$15 off the à la carte price. (Monday evening's event is not included.)

<p><b>MONDAY, OCT. 27</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Council and Chapter Levels of Excellence Award Dinner, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. \$35 per person</p> <p><b>TUESDAY, OCT. 28</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Roundtable Discussion, 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Free to all registered attendees</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Military- and Spouse-Friendly Career Fair and Pro-Career Fair Workshops, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free event... open to the public</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. \$20 per person (free to active duty in uniform, who must register by phone)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MOAA Informational Seminar, 3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Free to all registered attendees</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting of the Membership, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Free for MOAA members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Community Heroes Award Dinner, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. \$45 per person (free for current serving)</p>
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#### 3 WAYS TO REGISTER

**ONLINE**  
 • [www.moaa.org/2014annualmeeting](http://www.moaa.org/2014annualmeeting)

**BY PHONE**  
 ★ Call MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Eastern time

**BY MAIL**  
 ★ Mail completed form to:  
 Military Officers Association of America, PO Box 1488, Merrifield, VA 22116-9820

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check enclosed (made payable to MOAA)

Please charge my credit card:

American Express     Discover     MasterCard     Visa

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOTEL INFORMATION

Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel  
 900 S. Orme St.  
 Arlington, VA 22204

Special MOAA Room Rate: \$172 a night  
 Reservations: (888) 627-9010  
 Call now! Hotel reservation deadline is Sept. 25.