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UPPER POTOMAC CHAPTER

Recipient of the 2019 MOAA 5 Star Level of Excellence Award

November 23, 2020

Chapter Officers

President

LtCol Hugh M. McIlroy, Jr, USMC, Ret.

1st Vice President

CAPT Guy Everhart, USN, Ret.

2nd Vice President

MAJ John R. Derr, USA, Ret.

Secretary

Mrs. Gerry McIlroy

Treasurer

Vacant

Board Members

COL Douglas W. Reichard, USA, Ret.
 CW3 David Kaye, USA, Ret.
 CPT Wilmer K. Benson, USA, Ret.
 Col Lawra Lee, USAF, Ret
 CDR Jeff Bodie, USN, Ret.
 CAPT Ralph France, II, USN, Ret.

Chaplain

LTC Carol VanSchenk Hof, USA, Ret.

Legislative Affairs

PA- LtCol Hugh M. McIlroy, Jr, USMC, Ret.

MD-CAPT Guy F. Everhart, USN, Ret.

WV-Vacant

Personal Affairs Officer

Mrs. Barbara L. Bodie

Program Chair

Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Jayne Bongard

Newsletter Editor

COL Gerard Schumeyer, USA, Ret.

...from the President



This is my last "from the President" introduction to our Newsletter. It has been a great

pleasure and distinct honor to serve as your President. Over the past four years I have enjoyed unwavering support from the outstanding members of our Board of Directors and dedicated members who have supported our chapter through donations and attendance at chapter events. We are incredibly lucky to have so many remarkable members and I deeply appreciate everything they have contributed to our continuing success. Our chapter should be justly proud of our accomplishments and reputation. We have enjoyed many wonderful luncheons at venues all over our area. I was consistently impressed by the friendly discussions at the tables and

overall camaraderie of our luncheons. We have enjoyed many remarkable Guest Speakers who always complimented me on your attention and incisive questions. We have set records for attendance and raised thousands of dollars for veterans and worthwhile charities. Our reputation with the Maryland Council of Chapters is outstanding as we have a superior record of accomplishments, support and participation in Council activities. We should also be immensely proud of our support for the MOAA Heritage Society and the MOAA Foundation. For all of this we are in debt to the core of our membership who attend, participate, and donate their time and money. We have accomplished a lot, but we can do more, a lot more. If more members participated in our events, contributed more to our fundraisers and actively recruited new members we would approach our potential and set a high standard for other chapters. That high standard translates directly to our support of MOAA.

In this newsletter you will read about our plans for a **virtual** Holiday Membership meeting in December. At this event we will present the membership with our 6th consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence Award, install our Officers and Directors for the 2021-2022 term and enjoy a Holiday Trivia Contest. I hope you all attend. We are also working on another COVID-19 Relief fundraiser and beneficiaries to support the many people who have been devastated by this pandemic. Please watch for the announcement of this effort and donate.

I am certain that you will provide your new Officers and Directors with the same outstanding support you have provided me. I am excited about the next several years and look forward to working with all of you as we continue to move forward.

I sincerely hope you are all well and staying safe. I am genuinely concerned that the approaching cold weather and Holiday season will force people indoors and greatly exacerbate the risk of a COVID-19 infection. Please wear a mask, wash your hands often, avoid crowds and large indoor gatherings and always use social distancing. Stay the course. We're not through this crisis yet.

Never Stop Serving and STAY SAFE

Semper Fi HMCI

Holiday Luncheon Cancelled

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the extreme risk that the virus presents to our age group, we have cancelled our Holiday Celebration. We are hopeful that the situation will improve as we move into 2021. Musket Ridge has moved our deposit to December 18, 2021.

2021 Annual Dues

Chapter dues for 2021 are due NLT Dec 31, 2020. Dues are \$20/year, and our Lifetime Membership option is \$150. If you are a new member who joined after July 31, 2020, you will be credited with 2021 dues. Also, any member who recruited a new member for 2020 will receive a credit for 2021. Dues are also waived for Surviving Spouses of Lifetime MOAA members who are also Chapter members.

Please send your check payment made out to the Upper Potomac Chapter to Hugh McIlroy, 13121 Redbud Court, Waynesboro, PA 17268. If you have any questions about your dues status, contact Jerry Schumeyer, 301-696-1191, theschumeyers@comcast.net



December

- 3- Bob Marendt
- 6-Gladys Murray
- 7-Chae Wheeler
- 9-David Fish
- 13-Carol France
- 18-Ivonne Guck
- 19-Elizabeth Bennett
- 27-Hettie Ballweber
- 27-Holly O'Reilly

January

- 6-John Bongard
- 8-Everette Beers
- 12-Elaine Brauer
- 12-Janet Fish
- 17-Jim Randle
- 20-Terry McCune
- 22-Robert Siepielski
- 25-Heidi Chaney

U.S. Marine Corps November 10, 1775





December

1

Bob & Gladys Murray
Ira & Harriet Click

2

Doug & Gail Reichard
12

Paul & Jane Hildebrandt
29

Brance & Debbie McCune

January

18

Katie & Ned Carr
19

Harold & Norma Bishop
25

Lou & Joan Muniz
26

Bert & Emma Thornton

MOAA Legislative Action Center

Make sure you visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center at the MOAA web site (www.moaa.org) to keep abreast of important issues. Contact your representative or send an email from the Take Action Center to have your voice heard.



New Members

Welcome to:

LtCol Mike Bowers, USMC stationed at Quantico, but a native of Hagerstown, MD.

1LT Kevin O'Reilly, ARNG and his wife Holly from Braddock Heights, MD.

Departments of Veterans Affairs Links

Here are the links to the Veterans Affairs Departments. They contain a wealth of information to help you stay current on critical news affecting your benefits.

<https://www.va.gov/>

<https://www.blog.va.gov/VAntage/>

<https://veterans.maryland.gov/>

<https://www.dmva.pa.gov>

<https://veterans.wv.gov/>

Save the Date!!!

Friday, June 25, 2021 is the date for the Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Guy Everhart will Chair the Event Committee. If you wish to help Guy, contact him at 301-471-4962 or gfeverhart@gmail.com.

**National Wreaths Across America Day
December 19, 2020**



Arlington National Cemetery has reversed its decision to cancel its annual Wreaths Across America event just one day after making the initial announcement. Wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 2,100 locations across the country "will follow the safety guidelines" amid the coronavirus pandemic, the organization's co-founder Karen Worcester announced. Wreaths Day at Arlington National Cemetery is on Saturday, December 19. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, wreath-laying ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Pati Redmond, one of our Chapter members, is also the Service to Veterans Chairman of the Frederick Chapter of DAR, an official sponsor of Wreaths Across

America. If you would like to donate, you can make a check out to Wreaths Across America and send it to Pati Redmond, 7503 Ridge Road, Frederick, MD, 21702.

Or, you can go directly to the Wreath Across America website at www.wreathscrossamerica.com and donate there. Wreaths cost \$15.00, but any donation is appreciated. All donations are tax deductible. Everyone is invited to come to Arlington Cemetery, December 19 and be part of the wreath laying ceremony to honor the memory of our veterans...one wreath at a time.

In Frederick, MD, Keith Midberry, one of our Chapter members, and the Veterans Liaison for Frederick Health Hospice, has informed us that once again, the Homewood Community in Frederick is remembering and honoring our country's veterans through a Wreaths Across America program. Live balsam wreaths will be laid on the graves of veterans by volunteers at Mount Olivet Cemetery on December 19th at noon.

Homewood Retirement Center, the home of over 140 veterans, invites you to participate in their 2020 program. For each

purchase of a \$15 wreath, \$5 will be returned to Homewood for use in our Healthcare Center.

Purchasing wreaths is easy. Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0295P where you can sponsor any number of wreaths and pay by credit card or Pay Pal.

Should you choose to pay by check, make the check out to WAA and mail to Sue Chapin at 2712 Homewood Drive, Frederick, Md. 21702.



Happy Thanksgiving

Donations to the MOAA Scholarship Fund

At the November Board meeting, your Board approved a \$200 donation to the MOAA Scholarship Fund as we have done for many years. To this amount, we would like to add any member contributions that are received by the end of the year. If you would like to make a personal contribution to the MOAA Scholarship Fund, there is still

time. Hugh McIlroy will be accepting donations for the Scholarship Fund until December 15, 2020. If you wish to contribute, make your check out to the Upper Potomac Chapter and in the memo area, annotate for MOAA Scholarship Fund. Mail your contribution to Hugh McIlroy, 13121 Redbud Court, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Your generosity will be most appreciated.

October Virtual Business Meeting & Election of Officers/Directors

On pages 7 & 8 you will find the results of our 2021-2022 Chapter Officer/Director elections as well as information about the upcoming December virtual (via ZoomPro) membership meeting and installation ceremony. Also, provided is a recap of our 2020 activities, which, as you can see, were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a summary a summary of the Chapter charitable contributions made since 2012. Lastly, there are instructions on how to join a Chapter virtual meeting via Zoom.

MOAA's 2020-21 TRICARE Guide

MOAA has placed their TRICARE Guide at <https://www.moaa.org/micro/tricare-guide/> to answer your questions about health care and benefit options, and to chart territory that may be new to you. In it, you will find details on all manner of TRICARE topics, MOAA advocacy efforts on behalf of your earned benefits, and much more. Have a question MOAA did not cover? Reach out to their Member Support Center at msc@moaa.org or (800) 234-6622.

Here's Your 2021 Military Retiree and VA Disability Pay Raise

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and Social Security recipients will see a 1.3% increase in their monthly checks for 2021. The annual Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) is slightly less than the 1.6% increase from last year but in line with the historical increases seen over the last 10 years.

As a result of the increase, retired military members will see a \$13 increase for each \$1,000 in military retirement pension they receive each month. Retirees who entered military service on or after

Aug. 1, 1986 and opted for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan) have any COLA increases reduced by 1%, so they will see a smaller increase in 2021. They should see a monthly increase of only \$3 per \$1,000. Survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan payments will see the same increase of \$13 per \$1,000 in their monthly payments.

Echo Taps Veterans Day – 2020



COL Doug Reichard, USA, Ret, a member of our Board of Directors helps mark Veterans Day by performing Echo Taps before a small crowd along North Market Street Wednesday morning. Nearly 20 musicians lined downtown Frederick streets, with each performing the musical piece twice — once to receive it from a fellow musician, and again to pass it along — in succession. (Credit to Frederick News-Post, Nov 11, 2020, Staff photo by Graham Cullen)

Directory Changes

ADD:

NEW ADDRESS:

Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published in January 2020. If you have any items you would like published, send them to Jerry Schumeyer at theschumeyers@comcast.net for consideration.

2021 Events/Program Schedule

As you can tell, COVID-19 is having a considerable impact on our 2021 activities...Lots of "To Be Determined" activities. Nevertheless, your Board has earmarked most of the 2021 dates for your planning and will continue to keep you abreast of changes.

January XX- MD Council of Chapters (MDCOC) Meeting- Venue To be Determined

January 13 – UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro

February 13-Membership Meeting and Luncheon; Venue to Be Determined

March 17- UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro

April XX- MD Council of Chapters (MDCOC) Meeting- Venue To be Determined

April 17- Membership Meeting and Luncheon; Venue to Be Determined

May 12- UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro

June XX- MD Council of Chapters (MDCOC) Meeting- Venue To be Determined

June 25-UPC 50th Anniversary Celebration; Ceresville Mansion, Frederick, MD

July XX- UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro or In-person

August 21-UPC Annual Picnic; Bert & Emma Thornton's Shoot Proof Farm, Burkittsville, MD

September XX- UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro or In-person

October XX-Membership Meeting and Luncheon; Venue to Be Determined

November XX- UPC Board Meeting; via ZoomPro or In-person

December 18-Holiday Luncheon, Musket Ridge Golf Club (Confirmed)



Supporting:

- Military
- Teachers
- Law Enforcement
- Firefighter/EMS
- Healthcare Professionals

Erin Misner
RE/MAX Results
C: 301-606-6257
O: 301-698-5005
erin@dawnlong.com

Homes for Heroes
Receive 25% of my commission when you buy or sell a home with me
Homesforheroes.com/affiliate/erin-misner

Now and Always
We'll be There.



MOAA
INSURANCE
PLANS

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

Annual Business Meeting & Election of Chapter Officers

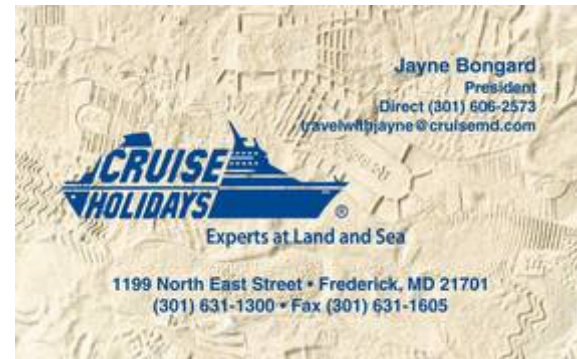
This year the chapter conducted elections for the Officer/Director slate for the 2021-2022 term via the internet using ZoomPro software as well as mail-in ballots. We normally did this during our Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon in October. However, COVID-19 precautions prevented us from meeting in this fashion. The chapter secretary sent out mail-in ballots by email and by letter mail through the Postal Service for those without an email address. The only requirement for a member to vote was to return the mail-in ballot or letter and

- 1) Concur with the slate in its entirety; or
- 2) Concur with exceptions.

This process provided every regular member an opportunity to vote. The web-based meeting was held at 1430 on 21 October and the vote was taken via ZoomPro and a count of the mail-in ballots.

The Officers/Directors unanimously elected for the 2021-2022 term are as follows:

For President:	CAPT Guy Everhart, USN, Ret.
For 1 st Vice President:	LTC John Bongard, USA, Ret.
For 2 nd Vice President	MAJ John Derr, USA, Ret.
For Secretary	CDR Regie Barbour, USN, Ret.
For Treasurer	LtCol Hugh McIlroy, USMC, Ret.
For Past President/Director	COL Doug Reichard, USA, Ret.
For Director	CPT Bill Benson, USA, Ret.
For Director	CDR Jeff Bodie, USN, Ret.
For Director	LtCol Robert Fenimore, USAF, Ret.
For Director	CAPT Ralph France, USN, Ret.
For Director	Col Lawra Lee, USAF, Ret.



The actual installation will take place via a web based (ZoomPro) ceremony on December 17 at 5 pm. The full program will include (not necessarily in this order):

- Installation of Officers & Directors Ceremony
 - LTC Byron Hartzog from Maryland Council of Chapters will officiate
- 5-Star LOE Award Presentation (Placing Award on our Colors)
 - Possible MOAA video
- MOAA Scholarship Fund brief and request for donations
- COVID-19 Relief Fundraiser and Beneficiaries
 - Effort to obtain matching donations from sponsors (USAA, NFCU, others)
 - Donation-by-Service Competition
 - New "Upper Potomac Chapter Never Stop Serving Award"
- Holiday Trivia Contest

Additional information will be provided separately. We hope you will join us!

To join the Chapter virtual meeting:

1. Google search for "Zoom"
2. Find and click on "zoom.us" in search results
3. Find and click on "Download for Windows"
4. Open "zoominstaller.exe" (usually in lower left corner of screen)
5. Zoom will be installed on your PC or laptop

When the Chapter invitation email arrives click on the link provided. Zoom will automatically send your request to join to the host. The host will admit you and you will see all the participants appear on your screen. A camera is preferred, but you can join by audio only [voice] if your PC or laptop does not have a camera.

Chapter 2020 Recap

- One luncheon, 15 Feb at Nicks Airport Inn
- All other luncheons & Annual Picnic cancelled
- Executive Board has met every other month
 - Once at Fort Detrick Chapel
 - All others via Zoom
- COVID-19 Support Initiative - \$9,773
 - \$8,100 to three food banks (\$2,700 each to MD, PA & WV)
 - \$1,673 to MOAA COVID-19 Relief Fund

Chapter Charitable Donation History

YEAR	DONATION	AMOUNT
2012	MG Boyd Cook Foundation	\$1,300
2013	Hero Dogs	\$3,750
2014	Hero Dogs	\$4,000
2015	Operation Second Chance	\$5,500
2016	Operation Second Chance	\$7,000
2017	Fisher House & DAV Hagerstown	\$7,000
2018	Hospice of Frederick County	\$7,582
2019	Fisher House	\$5,500
2020	Feeding PA	\$2,700
2020	Mountaineer Food Bank	\$2,700
2020	Maryland Food Bank	\$2,700
2020	MOAA COVID-19 Relief Fund	\$1,673
TOTAL		\$51,405

This list does not include the dry goods and cash contributions for commissary gift cards donated to the Ft. Detrick Chapel Food Bank throughout the years.

Pennsylvania Military Chaplains Memorial

Chaplain Carol VanSchenk Hof, our Chapter Chaplain, is a member of the Military Chaplains Association, Susquehanna Chapter, and is soliciting your support for a Military Chaplains Memorial to be located within the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial. PA. (Please google to view the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial.) In 1976, a section of Fort Indiantown Gap was selected as the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery for the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial, located within the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, is the first in the Commonwealth to honor veterans of all eras from the Revolutionary War forward. Maintained by the PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, it is the largest veterans memorial located in any of the 143 national cemeteries operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Military Chaplains Association, Susquehanna Chapter meet once yearly at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, and decided to sponsor a Military Chaplains Memorial to be built within the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial. The Military Chaplains Memorial will be Vermont granite (grey). 24 inches high in the back and 18 in the front. Width is 34 inches and depth 24 inches.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Four round service symbols of 6 inches each. (Army, Navy, Air Force, VA)
MILITARY CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED STATES
SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER 2020

The cost is \$5,200. The Susquehanna Chapter has collected \$3,500 to date. If you would like to personally contribute, please send your donation to:

MCA Treasurer Dale Williams at: 241 Carr Hill Road, Gettysburg, PA. 17325. Make your check out to "MCA Susquehanna Chapter" with "Chaplain Memorial" on the memo line.

I thank you ahead of time for your generous donations! Your UPC, MOAA Chaplain, Carol VanSchenk Hof

Other Items of Interest

Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, other public lands

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

VA Expands Caregiver Stipend to Cover Eligible Vietnam, Korea and World War II Veterans

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/va-caregiver-program-opens-to-eligible-wwii,-korea-and-vietnam-vets/>

VA Plans to Outsource All Compensation and Pension Exams

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2020/11/16/va-moving-ahead-with-plans-to-outsource-all-compensation-and-pension-exams/>

DoD Hits Pause on Plan to Send Tricare Beneficiaries Away from Military Hospitals for Care

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/12/dod-hits-pause-plan-send-tricare-beneficiaries-away-military-hospitals-care.html>