



**The Standard Bearer**  
The North Shore & Chicago Chapter of  
THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of  
AMERICA  
**Newsletter**

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Vol. XXXV, No. 4 May 2024

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**May Program and Speakers**



On May 19, the Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at Dover Straits, 890 Highway 45 in Mundelein. The Social Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. and the luncheon is at 1:00 p.m. Our speakers will be two

members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR has a proud history and a big part of that history is support for American military veterans and the traditions of the Armed Forces,

**Diane Eubanks** has been a member of DAR for fourteen years and has served as Regent of Ansel Brainerd Cook Chapter (ABC) in Libertyville. She is retired from Meridian Leasing Corporation where she worked in the finance area. Diane is an avid birder/photographer and has traveled extensively to find bird species to add to her life list. She is also very interested in history and genealogy and is currently the ABC Chapter Registrar helping new members with their applications.

**Pam Holmes** has been a member of DAR for eight years and has served as Vice Regent of the Ansel Brainerd Cook Chapter. She is retired from Commonwealth Edison where she worked in planning and service outage management. She is a classic car enthusiast and is an active member of North Shore Rods. Pam is the driving force behind ABC's work to restore the historic 1840 Mount Rest Cemetery. She has organized, fund-raised and worked to clean and revive the cemetery. When she discovered that four Veterans were buried at Mount Rest in unmarked graves with no known local family, she worked with the VA to obtain markers. With the support of our Chapter and many local Veterans' organizations, Pam orchestrated a grave marking with full Military Honors for three of the Veterans, "The Final Salute" was attended by over 250 people on September 30, 2023. .

This year DAR will mark the grave of the fourth soldier who served during the Civil War. This event will have Civil War reenactors, complete with canons. Everyone is invited to join in on September 21, 2024 for "A Civil War Salute, 125 Years in the Making."

**From the President's Desk**

It was great to have 40 members at our March meeting with Dr. Buckley. The plan is to continue to invite MOWW, ROA and AUSA members to our luncheons. At the March Illinois Council of Chapters meeting, Col. Gill and I learned that our Chapter earned an MOAA 4-Star *Level of Excellence Award* for 2022, based on a submission by then president, COL Mike Peck. Also, we were just notified that the Chapter received a 4-Star award for 2023. Our *Outreach Grant* submission (for the Midwest Veterans Closet) ran into a glitch, but it is being worked on and hopefully granted.

I wish to sincerely thank the members who volunteered to present the MOAA awards to five ROTC and nine JROTC units, ranging from locations in Zion to Rockford to Bourbonnais to Michigan City. I was particularly happy at the response I received from these members – such willingness to volunteer is what makes the Chapter work.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council President, Col. Tyler, and the Southwest Chapter president, Col. Norman, along with nearly 200 MOAA members from all states, participated in the annual *Advocacy in Action* in Washington.

Also of note, the Illinois AG is planning four webinars: The **Military Veterans Assistance Act**, 23 April; **IL Service Members Employment and Reemployment Rights**, 7 May; **VSO State Charter Act**, 26 June; **What to Know About Veteran Consumer Scams**, 12 July. Contact MAJ Dean Farr or me for the internet links to pre-register.

**LTC John DeReu, USA, (Ret.), President**

## **MOAA National Legislative Priorities**

A recent message from MOAA highlighted the organization's current legislative efforts. These included: an ongoing effort to [support combat-injured veterans](#), helping young servicemembers and their families [cover housing costs](#), and protecting the [earned TRICARE For Life benefit](#). These issues made up Advocacy in Action (AiA), MOAA's annual spring campaign, and were delivered to the doorsteps of hundreds of legislators by their constituents, with support from the MOAA National staff.

## **Chapter News**

### **ROTC Scholarship Programs**

The Chapter takes pride in its support of College ROTC and high school JROTC programs. Cash awards of \$250.00 are made to the outstanding ROTC cadets as nominated by the local Professor of Military Science and non-monetary awards are given to the JROTC winners.

Now is the season for the award ceremonies, and those Chapter members who have volunteered to visit the schools and make the awards deserve our recognition. These members are: at Loyola University, COL Paul Hettich, USA (Ret); Northwestern University, Lt. Col. Neal Meccia, USAF (Ret), Capt. Allan Ayers, USMC (Fmr); Wheaton College, LTC Alan Mendelsson, USA (Ret); Olivet Nazarene University, Maj. Gen. Joseph Kelley, USAF (Ret) and at participating high schools are:

CWO4 Ted Rock, USN, (Ret), LCDR Richard Jacob USN (Ret), CWO2 Lee Lopez, USA, (Ret), COL David Draeger, USA, (Ret), LTC Brian Caputo, USA, (Ret) and Lt. Col. Ray Hinsch, USAF. (Ret). Hats off to each of these volunteers!

**Chapter Volunteer Efforts:** (Note: We support the Midwest Veterans' Closet, USO O'Hare and the Northern Illinois Foodbank.)

**Some Information on the USO O'Hare:** At the airport, the USO has two lounges. One is on the Mezzanine level in Terminal 2. The other is inside security in Terminal 3. The volunteer "tours" are for four hours. A parking pass for the short-term parking area is provided. A schedule is available on the USO website to select a date and time to serve. Two volunteers are normally in each time slot. However, it is possible to serve alone without problems.

To register as a volunteer, there is an orientation session, often in person. Additionally, a background survey/check must be provided (as in all cases dealing with people in situations such as this). While volunteering, the task is to check in eligible personnel (active, reserve, retired and family members with the appropriate military ID cards). Then a small orientation of the lounge is provided for first time visitors to the facility (each USO is somewhat different). Questions often are asked about airport locations, how best to get from one to another terminal, etc.

USO volunteers make coffee, prepare hotdogs for the refrigerator, and check for and resupply any items available for visitors. Straightening up, vacuuming, and washing some dishes are also part of the volunteer's activities.

Col. George Gill, USMC, (Ret) takes the lead in the USO effort. He has stated: "There is a very significant reward to me in helping these USO visitors. Furthermore, in engaging them in conversation a lot of insight is gathered, especially with the troops. These conversations seem to be well received by the visitors, as well."

**Midwest Veterans' Closet Update: January 2024 Midwest Veterans Closet Service Report:** In January 2024, we served 676 individuals or families with 482 active duty and 194 veterans. Also, 1,351 additional family members. Of this number, 198 are under age 18. These totals represent multiple visits. The total number of military personnel supported is 2,027.

**February 2024 Midwest Veterans Closet Service Report:** In February 2024, we served 736 individuals or families with 479 active duty and 257 veterans. Also, 1,531 additional family members. Of this number, 209 are under 18. These totals represent multiple visits. The total number of military personnel supported in February is 2,267.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

Our next meeting will be June 23rd at Dover Straits and we will have MAJ Steven Fixler, USA, (Ret) from the DuPage County VAC as our speaker. Our summer schedule isn't set yet for July and August; however, if you wish to participate in the "Swingin for Vets" Golf Outing in a MOAA foursome in August, contact Board Members Ken Johnson or John DeRue.



## Dover Straits

890 Highway 45, Mundelein, IL

Sunday, May 19, 2024

### Chapter Luncheon Meeting with Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution

**Topic: DAR Support for Veterans**

**12: 30 pm - Friendship Hour - 1:00 pm – Luncheon - 2:00 p.m. - Program**

Please Note: Business Casual dress is requested. Payment at the door is discouraged. Please pay in advance.

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• RESERVATION REQUEST (Deadline is May 16) •

TO: CW2 Eliseo Lopez, 26533 N. Wilton Road, Wauconda, IL 60084-2430

Phone: 847-452-2414 email: [elopez1989@yahoo.com](mailto:elopez1989@yahoo.com)

From: NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/SVC \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST/SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places at the MOAA meeting on **Sunday, May 19th** at Dover Straits at \$35.00 per person

\_\_\_\_ This will be my first attendance at a meeting of this Chapter.

\_\_\_\_ I will need a ride to the meeting. \_\_\_\_ I would be happy to drive someone.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to *North Shore and Chicago Chapter MOAA*