

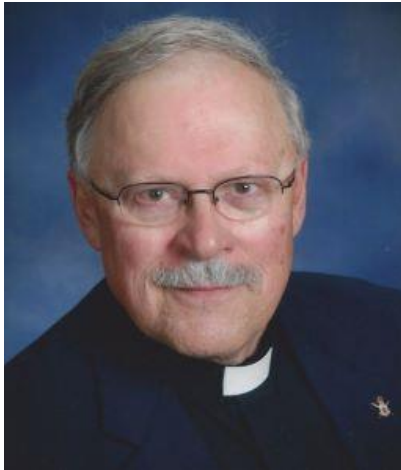
## Newsletter

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Vol. XXXV, No. 2 March - April 2024

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### April Program and Speaker



On April 21, the Chapter meeting will be held at Dover Straits, 890 Highway 45 in Mundelein. The Friendship Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. and the program and luncheon are at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Chapter Member, Chaplain, LTC Paul D. Pfeffer, USA (Ret.). LTC Pfeffer will be speaking on the history of the chaplaincy in the US Armed Forces.

Chaplain Pfeffer has had a distinguished career as both a Lutheran pastor and as a chaplain in the US Army. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he received a Masters of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque and was ordained. He served as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Philo. IL, from 1971 to 1978 and Faith Lutheran in Chicago from 1978 to 2004. He has continued his service in various assignments and fills in at various churches when the needs arise.

As a Chaplain, he served from 1974 to 2001. His service has been as Assistant Chaplain with the 66th BDE and the 86<sup>th</sup> Division. He was Division Chaplain at the 85<sup>th</sup> Division from 1993 to 1998 and Group Chaplain for the 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group until his retirement in 2001. Chaplain Pfeffer continues to be active in various non active military groups. A few years ago, he was honored by being named Senior Chaplain SCTJ Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (Knights Templar). Also, he is our Chapter's Chaplain.

### From the President's Desk

As I mentioned last month, I hope the Chapter will increase its presence across our expanded area. This year we will be presenting MOAA awards at five ROTC and nine JROTC units. Several members have volunteered to do the award presentations: we need several more. If approached, please say "yes". If you wish to present the awards on behalf of the Chapter, please contact me.

I also mentioned our involvement with the Lake, Cook and DuPage Veteran Assistance Commissions (VAC). The VACs are playing an increased role among our veterans. As examples, the Lake County VAC generated \$18.6 million in new 2023 benefits, and \$88,500 in direct financial assistance (rent, housing, etc.). Thirteen of the 53 Illinois VACs submitted 2023 reports showing a total of \$82 million in new Compensation and Pension benefits to the state.

The Chapter applied for another MOAA Community Grant for the Midwest Veterans' Closet which recently broke ground on its new building. Our members also volunteer at the O'Hare USO and at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Lake Forest.

Nationally, the strength of MOAA's advocacy depends on its members' participation. One D.C. adage is "Numbers Count". Individually, we can add our voices by using the MOAA website ([moaa.org](http://moaa.org)). Simply sign-in and click on the ADVOCACY tab. At the top of the drop-down menu is LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER, which has dozens of prepared letters to our legislators. Please try it. At the state level, our WITNESS SLIPS involvement helped to move along SB 3479 (penalty for defrauding vets).

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

## **Chapter News**

### **Death of Long-Term Member**

The Chapter has learned of the February death of Dr. William R. Hall, Capt. USPHS (Ret). Capt. Hall resided in Palatine. We express our deepest sympathy to Marie and to the Hall family.

### **Ordering Member Badges**

It has been quite a few years since we have commented on ordering Chapter name badges. Badges can be purchased online at [www.badgeworksplus.com](http://www.badgeworksplus.com). Following are the steps to take:

Once on the site, click on SHOP and then it will take you to the next page with LOGOS. Click on the MOAA Logo and will bring a page of MOAA badges (White and Gold) color. White is mostly for spouses and non-life members and gold is for life members.. Click on the desired badge and it will show the badge. Select the type of fastener that you want and then click on "ADD TO CART" and will bring up spaces for name, chapter, etc. Fill in the blanks and continue until the end. You will have to pay with a credit card.

You can always contact Badge Works Plus at: 1421 Lee Trevino Drive, El Paso, Texas 79936. Their phone number is: 915 593 6351.

### **Directors of Legislation**

At the February Board meeting, the increased scope of the legislative efforts taken on by the Chapter has led to splitting the duties into two positions. **MAJ Dean Farr, USA (Ret) Director of Legislation – Illinois Level** will continue to focus on Illinois legislative bodies, while **Col. George K. Gill, USMC (Ret), Director of Legislation – National Level** will focus on dealing with both MOAA national headquarters and with US Congressional bodies.

Col. Gill has provided the following request for support at this time.

"A top objective of MOAA is to ratify a major injustice that affects injured service personnel. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282/S.344) has had strong support in the last congress and the current one (supported by 327 U.S. Representatives and 72 U.S. Senators). This bill will eliminate the offset of disability benefits against the retirement benefits of injured service personnel.

With the majority of Congress supporting this legislation, approval would seem like a no-brainer. However, the Speaker of the House must bring the bill up for a vote. So far, Speaker Mike Johnson, has not done this. You can impact this!

As outlined in the March 2024 *MOAA Magazine*, go to, [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) on your computer. Send a preformatted message, which you can personalize, in support of this legislation. It's that simple

for you to make an impact! The more of us who do that, the more pressure there will be for Speaker Johnson to put his matter up for a vote.”

MAJ Farr reports that on March 13, COL Roman Golash USA (Ret) and he participated in Veterans Legislative Day at the Statehouse. About 30 vets met and visited legislators, many on the respective House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Key bills we (Chapter) are supporting are:

SB 3479 CONSUMER FRAUD-VETERANS – moving from Senate to House. This bill amends provisions of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act concerning deceptive practices targeting veterans and military members.

SB 2751 LOCAL-DISABLED VET PERMIT FEE – moving from Senate to House. This bill amends the Counties Code, Township Code, and Illinois Municipal Code. It provides that a veteran with a disability or the veteran's caregiver shall not be charged any building permit fee for improvements to the residence of the veteran with a disability if the improvements are required to accommodate a disability of the veteran.

HB 4677 CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE RESOURCES – in the House Appropriations-Health & Human Services Committee. This bill creates the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal Act. It requires the Department on Aging, in consultation with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal .

If you wish to add your support, please go to [www https://www.ilga.gov/](https://www.ilga.gov/) , find the bill and proceed along.

## **Midwest Veterans' Closet Update**

The Midwest Veterans' Closet (MVC) remains a vibrant and growing source of support for veterans and active-duty service members in northern Illinois. After a recent visit on March 13, Chapter Member Elke Friedman reports that the MVC needs some very basic household items, such as pots and pans, towels and sheets, small appliances, etc. Please consider looking around your house and locating what you can spare and visiting the MVC with your donation. It is surprising how good you can feel.

Also reported is that digging has begun at the site of the new MVC facility just up Green Bay Road. The MVC is at 2323 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

Our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution who will introduce us to the many veteran support activities they conduct. We are planning on a representative from the DuPage County Veterans' Affairs Commission joining us for our June 23d meeting. The summer can be slow, but we do look to form a group to golf in the “Swingin for the Vets” Tournament in Vernon Hills in August. More information will follow.

**P.S.** If you are interested in shopping discounts, a member has pointed out that the following ones are available to veterans: AutoZone – 10%, Lowes – 10%, Kohls – Military Monday is 10% and Senior Discount is every Wednesday – 15%.



**Dover Straits**

**890 Highway 45**

**Mundelein, IL**

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**Chapter Luncheon Meeting with Chaplain LTC Paul D.  
Pfeffer, USA (Ret.)**

**Topic: History of the Chaplaincy**

**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 April 19)** ●

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, April 21st** at Dover Straits @ \$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*