



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

**Newsletter**

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Vol. XXXIII, No. 4 April 2022

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**April Luncheon and Meeting**

On April 24, the Chapter will meet at Dover Straits , 890 US Highway 45 in Mundelein for its April meeting and luncheon. We are fortunate to have Chapter member Capt. Allan Ayers, USMC (former) speak about “Volunteering and What it Takes.” We would like to introduce you to our speaker in a little different format than usual – a **personal profile**. Below, Allan gives both an introduction and much insight into the field of volunteerism.

“I joined the Marines after my first, abortive, attempt at college. Parris Island was still pretty old school but the 1956 tragedy had modified some activities. I’d had a year of ROTC so I knew a lot of drill and rifle training that made life much easier for me. While I had failed college the first time, I still had my sights on a degree and getting a commission. The USMC had a program that I was able to apply as an enlisted man and I was accepted, so, after 4 years enlisted I received my commission.

During Supply Officer training I learned about computers in “supply and logistics” and was accepted into the USMC computer training program. After completion and some time on the West Coast, I shipped out to Vietnam. I was ultimately assigned to the central data processing installation in DaNang. When I got home, right at Christmas time, and started talking to my wife about what would come next, I received a gentle reply – “Me or them, but not both!” Thus ended my military career.

The computer training was instrumental in obtaining my first job, and as I learned more about business (and earned an MBA) my dual language ability – business and computer – served me well. After a few years, I became a Management Consultant, and spent the rest of my working life doing that. I worked for all sorts of interesting clients throughout the United States, and, ultimately, internationally. This was the beginning on an ever increasing interest in travel.

I first became involved in volunteering shortly after I entered civilian life. Over the years, I mentored young people in the inner city, worked actively on the board of my professional association and tried to perform some role in raising our three daughters.

I became much more involved in volunteer work, actively supporting homeless and women’s shelter programs later in my career. Then I began volunteering with veteran programs after I retired in 2012. I am currently the editor of the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission Newsletter which is published monthly and reaches over 8,000 readers, I am also on the boards of the Lake County VAC, and the Allen J Lynch MOH Veterans Foundation.



In addition to my veteran volunteer efforts, I conduct walking tours for visitors to Chicago from all over the world, serve as an AARP TaxAide and am a member of Mundelein CERT. In my spare time, I have traveled extensively and have visited all 7 continents. Just because I never thought I was doing enough when the girls were growing up, I was also a competitive sailor for 20 years on Lake Michigan.”

**Capt. Allan Ayers, USMC (Former) as he is on the job volunteering today**

## From the President’s Desk

The war in Ukraine is likely to be with the world for a very long period. Reflecting that, at the 3/20/22 luncheon, donations were received to send to the Red Cross for use in Ukraine. This matter is one we should continually seek to support and address.

As you know, CWO4 Edwina Mroz provided a presentation at the luncheon about her participation in the history making first all-women Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. In addition, we also had a brief presentation from one of our members whose parents are from Ukraine.

It is hoped all of our members can schedule opportunities to join the Chapter for these informative events. Comradery is shared by all. One of our members traveled 90 miles to attend. Another attended from Chicago that we have not seen in several years!

If payment is not made in advance for the luncheon, but you do commit to CW2 Lee Lopez that you will pay at the door, please insure that you do. That includes even if you are ultimately unable to join us. Lee makes commitments to the restaurant that may have cost implications.

MOAA is gearing up for ‘Advocacy in Action’ (the term Storming the Hill is no longer used). The three objectives this year are: (1) increasing military pay to maintain a consistent level with civilian pay; (2) the impact on retirement benefits for those who receive disability pay; and (3) mental health co-pay costs which are out of line with other co-pays.

Our Chapter is looking at ‘on the ground’ ways to serve active duty and veteran groups in our community and the community in general. Your inputs on this possibility are certainly encouraged.

**Col. George K. Gill, USMC (Ret.), President**

## Chapter News

**New Members:** Welcome to Maj. Gen. Joseph Kelley, USAF), (Ret.) and Sharon Kelley from Frankfort, IL as they join our Chapter.

**Directory Cutoff:** Please get your 2022 membership into Capt. Jake Jablonski before April 8 to be included in the 2022 Membership Directory. Jake is at [jjablonski2016@gmail.com](mailto:jjablonski2016@gmail.com).

## Legislative Report

On Thursday, April 28th, 6:30 PM at VFW Post 9284, 400 Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, a Legislative Town Hall meeting will be held. This is being hosted by VFW Ninth District Commander Greg Jacobs. The meeting is open to veterans and their supporters.

This meeting is very important as we need to explain to our State Legislators the importance of Illinois House Bill 2378, the amendment to the Disabled Veteran's Homestead Exemption Act. The amendment will ensure the spouses with DIC (Dependents Indemnity Compensation) receive the exemption after their veteran spouse dies. Many spouses are not aware that if their spouse died from a service-connected disability that they are eligible for DIC.

Elke Friedman our Surviving Spouse Liaison and I have been trying to get the word out but we need the help of every member and your friends. It takes just 10 phone calls to a representative to Co-Sponsor and the more Co-Sponsors the better our chances to get this bill to the floor for a vote.

The other bills of note are HB 5184, for the Veterans Assistance Commissions to be properly funded and HB35, for the Veterans Bill of Rights. In regard to HB 5184, a letter is being sent from the Chapter to key Senators Harmon, Hastings, Murphy and Stadelman. What this bill does is restore a funding commitment by counties to fund Veterans Assistance Commissions (VAC). The local VAC is where these young service members returning home can get help with paperwork to collect on earned VA benefits such as education, buying that first home, etc. Or perhaps a veteran's widow needs help, so local VAC can be that source. We are taking care of our own by funding VACs.

Democrats are key. Some Lake County ones to ask if they would co-sponsor bill are Johnson and Bush. Links below take you to a contact page to add a brief message. Let's get more senators on board. Thanks...

<https://www.senatoradrianejohnson.com/contact-us>

<http://senatormelindabush.com/contact/email-senator-bush>

**COL Michael Peck, USA (Ret.), Director of Legislation**  
**MAJ Dean Farr, USA, (Ret)**

## From the Illinois Council

Until a short time ago, our state had nine MOAA chapters. Because of declining chapter membership, and absence of persons to fill leadership positions, we now have only five. To cover the state, the current proposal (which will be discussed further on April 6<sup>th</sup>) is to form four mega-chapters: Northeast, Northwest, Central and South. Our Chapter will form the basis of Northeast since we have already absorbed and have members from what was the Northern Illinois (Rockford area) and West Suburban Chapters. We are looking for ways that we can actively involve the outer area members. The first step will be to email them our newsletter and to get some input from them and our current members.

This year's *Advocacy in Action* (formerly called *Storming the Hill*) will take place during April. Last year the meetings were virtual but may be a mixed format this time. Our responsibilities are the same: Representatives Schneider, Casten, Mary Miller and Danny Davis; and Senator Duckworth. The team consists of Col. Gill, CAPT Jim Murphy, LTC. Jim Forman and me.

**LTC John DeReu, USA, (Ret.), Council Representative**

## Mark Your Calendars

Our May 15th meeting is set for The Palm Court in Arlington Heights. We anticipate a representative from MOAA national to address us as MOAA Illinois Chapters are changing. We are also looking to move locations more central to our expanding membership. In June we are set to meet on the 26th.



## Dover Straits

890 E. Route 45, Mundelein

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Speaker: Capt. Allan Ayers, USMC (Fmr.)

***Topic: Volunteering***

***Entrees from a Special Menu, plus soup, salad and dessert***

● ***1230 Friendship Hour - 1300 Luncheon - 1400 Program***●

● RESERVATION REQUEST (Deadline is April 22, 2022) ●

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 24**, at Dover Straits, Mundelein @ \$30.00 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*