



MOAA LANCASTER PA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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MOAA (Military Officers Association of America)

Lancaster Chapter, P O Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606

May 2017

Volume 24 Number 3

◇ **Meadia Golf Club Meeting: Dan Horting**

The Meadia Golf Club is the site for our **22 June 2017** dinner and meeting. We are looking forward to socializing and enjoying a dinner at one of Lancaster's popular meeting venues.

The gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour. The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Tony Cerase. Dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m.

We will have an Italian buffet consisting of the following choices:

Baked Ziti

Baked penne pasta tossed with marinara and pieces of meatballs. Topped with mozzarella cheese

Beef Braciola

Thinly sliced beef rolled with prosciutto, spinach, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses.

Risotto stuffed chicken breast

Sliced chicken breasts stuffed with creamy risotto and finished with a roasted red pepper sauce.

Choice of garden or Caesar salad

Chef's choice of starch and vegetable

Desserts:

Assorted cannoli

Warm breadsticks

Tiramisu



Drinks: Coffee, hot tea, and lemonade

The cost of the meal will be \$35.00 per person, and the cash bar will be open at 5:00 p.m. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Meeting Reservations, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Be sure to write the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Thursday, June 15th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to June 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham at (717) 581-5299.

◇ **Scheduled Speaker: Dina Cerase**

MG Dee Ann McWilliams, USA, (Ret) will be our speaker at the June meeting. She served for 29 years with the United States Army and held a variety of Human Relations positions, served an Equal Opportunity Officer, commanded four companies, a training battalion and a personnel brigade. She also taught National Strategic Studies and Leadership.

As Director, Military Personnel Management for Department of the Army, MG McWilliams developed policy and strategies for staffing, salary compensation and training. She also served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and Installation Management in Europe where she provided human resource and quality of life support to soldiers in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia, Greece and Egypt.

MG McWilliams retired in 2003 and joined the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and in 2010, she retired as Director of the Lessons Learned Center.

In 2013, she was the recipient of the Lillian K. Keil Award for outstanding contribution to women's service in the United States. MG McWilliams is now the President of the Army Women's Foundation.

◇ **2017 DUES REMINDER: Tom Bender**

Dues for 2017 **were due** January 2017 @ \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. Eighty two members still have not paid 2017 dues! Please send your checks now!

◇ **CDR Gerald McOmber Scholarship: George Resh**

The Scholarship Committee has selected Collin Heckman for the \$1,500 scholarship. Collin is a senior at the Warwick High School in Lititz. His goal is to become an Astrophysicist and he has been selected by Penn State U. to start this summer. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



⇒ MOAA Legislative Report: Dennis Benchoff

National MOAA continues to urge all MOAA members to contact their elected officials, representatives and senators, to push for the elimination of the Budget Control Act, commonly known as the sequestration legislation. Its provisions are beginning to have a very negative impact on our national defense at a time when a strong armed forces is paramount and a deterrent to aggressive action by adventuresome nations and terrorist groups. Chapter members who are also National MOAA members should have received some preprinted post cards along on this topic with the latest issue of the Military Officer magazine. If you haven't sent these on to Washington, DC yet, you should do so as soon as possible.

National MOAA is also concerned about the reduced availability of burial space at Arlington National Cemetery for eligible veterans, the adequate funding of the Veterans Administration, the impact of the hiring freeze on critical defense department positions, and the need for possible more military base closings under the provisions of the BRAC legislation. More on these topics as the congress gets back to work after its two-week Easter recess and tries to decide what to do.

◇ ROTC activities: Dina Cerase

The selection board to select a cadet for our ROTC Scholarship Award was held on 27 February 2017. The board consisted of Dennis Benchoff, presiding; and John Gareis and Tony Cerase. It also included LTC Joseph Wyszynski from the Blue Mountain Battalion. The selected cadet was Maria Glotfelter and the Millersville cadre selected CDT Zachary Miller for the Leadership Medal. They received their awards on 20 April 2017 at the Millersville Ford Atrium from Dennis Benchoff and Tony Cerase.



The next major event is the Commissioning of four graduating cadets on 12 May 2017, 1300 hrs. This will be the last year that our chapter will present the 'Gold Bar'. As stated in the January newsletter along with the budget, MOAA has terminated the Gold Bar Program; hence, our chapter will continue to provide the scholarship and the Leadership Medal at our expense. You are invited to attend the ceremony at the Millersville Ford Atrium; the parking for this building is the same as the parking for the Gordinier building.

◇ Welcome The New Members: John Burke

COL Richard Gilbert
USA 717-824-3004
127 Langley Court
Lancaster, PA 17603

Sponsor: Prior member
Spouse: Mary

CPT Darrell Gerke
USA 717-898-8407
1015 Devonshire Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Sponsor: J. Cunningham
Spouse: Barbara

◇ With Deepest Sympathy We Honor the Memory of:

++ March 3, 2017: Jean M. Spangler, wife of the late CDR Richard Spangler, they were members of our family since March 1993. Jean was a Register Nurse and practice in the Lancaster Area.

++ March 26, 2017: Herbert Beeders, he was a dentist and former US Army Captain. He was buried on March 28th. Herb joined our chapter in 2009.

++ April 2, 2017: Robert D. Wilcox, age 95, husband to Cammie Lois Abel Wilcox, his wife of 67 years. He was a member of this chapter since 1988 and through the years served in many capacities on the board. Many of our members attended his memorial service at Willow Valley. Graciously, Bob had requested that any memorial donations be made to our scholarship fund.

Dr. J.J. Bentman, DDS, provided us with his eulogy to Bob and it is printed below.

I am late comer into Bob's world.

I wish I knew him earlier. He was an uncut diamond in the rough. The longer I knew him, the longer his facets would appear.

Each facet sparkled differently and the few who choose to view him from a different facet and could not see his luster. Alongside them he could be an impediment to their views.

Few in number, they could not match his stature in MOAA.

He was generous, insightful, bereft of scorn of others, even if they were not of the same cloth.

After answering a MOAA newspaper ad, I called one day, and a warm welcoming voice replied and encouraging me to join MOAA.

It was the same voice I would heard at my first MOAA dinner. I would soon learn that it belonged to Bob Wilcox.

What impressed me most at that dinner was his introductions. He took the time he to introduce all the new applicants with a sincerity and thoughtfulness. He shorted no one.



That introduction carried a sensitivity one seldom hears at large group-ing's introductions. These were followed by his humorous opening re-marks that would precede these subsequent introductions.

He called them his hook; the enticement to get the group's attention that he learned in journalism school. I was impressed. We were all im-pressed and were all hooked.

His stories had a cadence of a professional master of ceremony. He would develop, with descriptive zeal, it was a portrayal of the scenery that would enveloped his characters; full of appropriate adjectives and adverbs that made his story individually imbedded in everyone's mind so that when his story neared the end, the punch line had its humorous Wil-cox zing. We all appreciated those pre-dinner bouts of humor.

His diamond facet I chose to watch sparkled, with an inner insight that was not appreciated by the board we sat on, however they could not take away his fervor for MOAA's success. He was the cause for our winning our chapter's award as the most successful chapter among the other similar chapters in MOAA.

He was the heart and soul of this chapter and his labors that made it so. It was a labor of love.

As the years trudged on we could see the effects of his absence.

Let his memory linger as our goal.

J.J. Bentman

* **Publications: Dave Shelton**

As part of Bob Wilcox's legacy, he had selected 50 of his favorite "Salute to a Veteran" monthly columns from the more than 200 written for the local 50plus LIFE publication. This compilation was recently published as a soft cover book titled "Salute to Our Veterans", and is available through On-Line Publishers, 3912 Abel Drive, Columbia PA 17512. The price is \$20.80. The book may be ordered by mail with payment by check to "On-Line Publishers, Inc. The book is also available for order online at www.50plusLIFEpa.com, or by phone from Megan Joyce, 717-285-8131.

◇ **Community Services**

"The Mission Continues" is an organization helping veterans focus their talents and energy at home. They challenge the national conversation about veterans at the same time they build a stronger community. They have two action-oriented programs: the Service Platoon and the Fellowship Program. The Service Platoon mission is to engage all generations of active, guard and reserve members to work with non-profits to address specific challenges in the community. In the Fellowship Program veterans use their skills to volunteer for causes they care about. For example; volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship, Humane Society, etc. By volunteering they contribute millions of dollars worth of services to the organization and veterans in need. The volunteers get real-world experience that can help them achieve full-time employment or enroll in higher education. To learn more about this program go to: www.missioncontinues.org. This can be an activity for you or someone you know who needs community engagement.

◇ **Meeting Dates for 2017 : Dan Horting**

June 22—Meadia Golf Course, 1700 hours

August 26 - Waltz Vineyards, 1100 hours

October 26— Eden Resort, 1700 hours

December 3—Millersville, 1300 hours

◇ **Chapter Contacts:**

President: T

Tony Cerase 299-7177

Vice President:

John Gareis 872-8005

Immediate Past President &

Member Assistance:

Dennis Benchoff 560-1260

Treasurer:

Dennis Benchoff 560-1260

Corresponding Secretary:

Jim Cunningham 581-5299

Recording Secretary:

Dave Hartmann 568-8166

Membership Co-Chairs:

John Burke 627-6968

Tom Bender 626-4932

Chaplain:

William McEllroy 228-2071

Director:

Dan Cooper 464-6688

Director & Memorials:

Tom Bender 626-4932

Director:

Tony Castle 394-8646

Director:

Dave Shelton 285-5971

Director, Programs, ROTC Liaison & News-letter Editor:

Dina Cerase 299-7177

Social Chair:

Dan Horting 285-7320

Scholarship Chair:

George Resh 397-1906

Nominations:

George Knapp 581-1221

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