

Lancaster Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031

www.moaalancasterchapt.org

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Chapter NEWS

- **Treasurer Note from Dave Shelton**

Credit Card Payments are now available: Through an MOAA National affinity program with Cheddar Up, the Lancaster Chapter MOAA can now accept online credit card payments for chapter dues, donations, and meeting reservations. The chapter payments page may be accessed at: <https://lancaster-chapter-moaa-payments.cheddarup.com>. Email receipts are automatically generated as payment to Lancaster Chapter MOAA Payments, and charges will appear as a payment to "Cheddarup.com" on your credit card statement.

- **June Chapter Meeting: Sunday June 14th, Pride of Susquehanna Cruise, 6:00 pm.:**

Please join us for a two-hour evening cruise on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat on Sunday, June 14th. The Pride of the Susquehanna is the only authentic paddlewheel riverboat on this side of the Mississippi and one of only six remaining in the USA.

The cruise will **depart Harrisburg City Island at 6 pm and return at 8 pm.**

The **cost of the cruise is \$45.00 for each attendee** and includes a meal consisting of a selection of sandwiches and a dessert.



There is a cash bar on the lower deck of the boat that will be offering alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. There are restroom facilities on board the boat and the enclosed lower deck is air conditioned.

Please include the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes. As always, your check is your reservation and should be made out to **Lancaster Chapter MOAA** and mailed to:

Lancaster Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 5031,
Lancaster, PA 17606-5031.

Reservations may also be made online at:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/lancaster-chapter-moaa-payments/items> with payment by credit card. From the payments main page, scroll down to **Social Events** and select **Susquehanna Riverboat Cruise**. Indicate the number attending, your name and any guest name(s). The deadline for receipt of all checks or credit card payments is Monday, June 8th.

Cancellations may be made by calling or emailing Dennis Benchoff prior to June 8th. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Benchoff at 717 560-1260 or banzhafdl@gmail.com

- **Event Directions:**

The Pride of the Susquehanna is located at **11 Championship Way, Harrisburg, PA 17101**. To get to Harrisburg City Island follow Interstate 283 West to Exit 43, then take Interstate 83 South to the South Second Street Exit. Follow Second Street to the center square in Harrisburg, then turn left onto Market Street and cross the Market Street Bridge to City Island. When you arrive on City Island exit right (you will see the parking lot and the baseball stadium in the distance). After parking, proceed on the paved walkway under the Walnut Street Bridge (black steel bridge) and veer to the right to reach the dock along the river.

- **President's Comments from Bill Zeird:**



Drawing parallels between the Revolutionary War and **Operation Epic Fury**—the 2026 U.S.-led campaign against the Iranian regime—offers several strategic insights. While the technology has shifted from muskets to stealth bombers, the fundamental principles of asymmetric warfare, logistics, and politics will remain strikingly similar.

1. The Challenge of "Asymmetric Engagement"

In the Revolutionary War, the British held conventional superiority but struggled against the Continentals' guerrilla tactics.

- **The Lesson:** Superior firepower does not equate to total control. While Operation Epic Fury has achieved air superiority over Tehran and decimated Iran's conventional navy, the Iranian "Axis of Resistance" (Hezbollah, Houthis, and various militias) mirrors the colonial irregulars.
- **Application:** Much like the British found that capturing cities (New York, Philadelphia) didn't end the rebellion, the U.S. and Israel are finding that eliminating leadership (like Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei) and infrastructure doesn't immediately neutralize decentralized proxy forces.

2. Control of "Chokepoints" and Logistics

The Revolutionary War was often a battle over waterways (like the Hudson River) to prevent the British from splitting the colonies.

- **The Lesson:** Controlling the flow of supplies is the ultimate lever of power.
- **Application:** The **Strait of Hormuz** is the 2026 equivalent of the Hudson. Iran's use of naval mines and drone swarms to close the Strait has disrupted 20% of the world's oil, echoing how colonial privateers and French naval intervention disrupted British supply lines. The U.S. mine-clearing missions and tanker escorts are modern responses to this age-old strategic necessity.

3. The Role of Foreign Intervention

The American Revolution was won because it became a global conflict once France and Spain intervened against Britain.

- **The Lesson:** Regional conflicts rarely stay local when global interests are at stake.
- **Application:** While Epic Fury is a U.S.-Israeli operation, the heavy economic involvement of **China** (which receives nearly 90% of Iranian oil exports) creates a "Third Party" dynamic similar to 18th-century France. Strategic success depends on managing these global stakeholders to prevent a wider escalation.

4. Winning the "Hearts and Minds"

The British failed partly because they couldn't establish a stable, loyalist government to replace the Continental Congress.

- **The Lesson:** Kinetic victory is temporary without political legitimacy.
- **Application:** With the Iranian regime's security apparatus dismantled, the U.S. faces the same "Day After" problem the British faced in the 1780s. The current ceasefire and negotiations with the "new Iranian regime" (led by interim figures like Alireza Arafii) are the modern equivalent of the Treaty of Paris negotiations—attempting to turn military gains into a lasting, stable political order.

Summary Comparison Table

Revolutionary War Element	Operation Epic Fury Equivalent	Strategic Lesson
Continental Irregulars	Proxy Groups (Hezbollah/Houthis)	Degrading the center doesn't stop the edges.
Control of the Hudson	The Strait of Hormuz	Economic chokepoints dictate global response.
French Intervention	Chinese Economic Influence	Major powers will protect their energy/trade interests.
British "Southern Strategy"	U.S. Blockade Ops	Isolation is a precursor to total regime collapse.

The most vital lesson is perhaps the most sobering: **wars of regime change are won on the battlefield but decided in the subsequent vacuum.** Success in Epic Fury will likely depend on whether the U.S. can avoid the British mistake of overextending while failing to secure a popular local alternative.

Sources:

War.gov

State.gov

Britannica.org

Contact President Bill Zeird at moaalancasterpresident@gmail.com.

- **Welcome new members:**

Dr. Dan Benny, LT, USN (Former), Harrisburg. January 2026.

Scott Harron, Col, USAF (Retired), Hummelstown. Spouse: Kelly. January 2026.

John Patrick, LTC, USA (Retired), Columbia. Spouse: Georgia. March 2026.

- **Relocations of Chapter members:**

Susan Collins, Surviving Spouse (Wesley, Maj, USAF (Retired) member since 2022, has moved to Ocean Pines, Maryland.

Ray Umbarger, CAPT, USN (Retired) member since 1997. He and his wife Joan have moved to Florida.

- **We Remember:**

Gerard (Jerry) Link CDR, USN (Ret) died suddenly March 18th while jogging. A chapter member since 2015, Jerry was a current member of the board of directors and maintained our membership records and the chapter website. His support of the chapter will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Patricia (Trish), their three children and eight grandchildren.



- **Chapter Meeting, Breakfast Meeting, and Board Meeting Information:**

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2026 from Past President, Dan Horting:

Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. You will find your favorite venues as well as a Susquehanna cruise in the list below. Please note the change of date for the October Meeting.

June 14, Susquehanna Cruise 6:00pm
August 29, Waltz Vineyard picnic, 11 am

October 22, Bent Creek Country Club, 11 am*
December 6, Millersville University, 1pm

* Date change

Breakfast Gatherings:

We meet at Olde Hickory Grill, 709 Olde Hickory Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 9:00 am. Breakfasts are informal with no agenda and occur on Thursday mornings, roughly every other month. They are open to all members and guests. **Mark your calendar for the next breakfast, Thursday, May 21.** Please note the venue and time change from previous years. For additional information or questions contact Dan Horting at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

May 21
July 16

September 17
November 19

Board Meeting Dates from Recording Secretary Barry Schmitt:

Meetings are held six times a year on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm at the Lancaster Airport Authority Conference Room, 500 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. All members are welcome to attend and please let us know if you are interested in serving on the board.

May 13
August 12

September 30
November 18

- **Lebanon VA Comfort Items from President Bill Zeird:**

Please remember to bring Comfort items for our hospitalized Veterans to any Chapter event, breakfast, Chapter meeting, or Board meeting. We are pursuing a year-round effort in 2026 for supplying these comfort items to our hospitalized Veterans. Your continued support can have a lasting impact. For current needs please see VA Lebanon website link:

<https://www.va.gov/lebanon-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate/> Then scroll down to “Make a donation”, then “Personal hygiene/comfort items”, to see a list of specific needs; and drill down likewise under the heading “Clothing”.

- **Feature article: Chapter Meetings, Eden Resort and Meadia Heights Golf Club**

Forty Lancaster Chapter members gathered at the Eden Resort on March 5th, for a delightful lunch featuring Chicken Piccata and Salmon with Citrus Glaze. The highlight of the afternoon was an inspiring talk by Bill Kaemmer, Executive Director of the Four Chaplains Foundation. Bill captivated the audience by recounting the selflessness and courage of four Army Chaplains, who they gave their life preservers to save others after their troopship was torpedoed and sank. Three former military chaplains in attendance were recognized with challenge coins, a gesture that was warmly received by the members. <https://fourchaplains.org/the-four-chaplains/>

On April 16th, members enjoyed tender beef medallions and perfectly cooked salmon, with a panoramic view of the lush golf course at Meadia Heights. Our speaker was Frank Fuller who had a long Navy career which culminated as Director of Food Services at the White House. He described his intriguing career path in the Navy, (chose culinary because it had the shortest school) his progression to Senior Chief (E-8) and subsequently to a commission as an Officer. There was an enjoyable discussion after his presentation.



Chapter Contacts

President: Bill Zeird

Past President: Dan Horting

Membership: Dave Shelton

Recording Secretary: Barry Schmitt

Treasurer: Dave Shelton

- **Join our Lancaster MOAA Chapter:**

Our chapter is over 100 members strong in the Lancaster Area. Join us to connect with others who have shared life experiences. Please click on this link for how to join and an application.

<https://www.moaalancasterchapt.org/howtojoin.html>

The MOAA Lancaster PA Chapter Newsletter is published by the Lancaster Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.
