Lancaster Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031
www.moaalancasterchapt.org
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From National MOAA:
Getting the Most out of Medicare:
MOAA Advocacy

Chapter NEWS

- **December Chapter Meeting: Sunday December 6th, Millersville University, 1:00 pm. :**

The Lancaster MOAA Chapter's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 6th. The Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier Hall at Millersville University will be decorated for the season.

The social hour begins at 1:00 pm and following introductory remarks by our president, Bill Zeird, the luncheon will be served at 2:00 pm. Wine and soda will be available throughout the social hour at no additional cost. The menu is as follows:

Salad:
Spinach and Apple Salad with Orange Dressing



Entree:
Sirloin Tips with sliced Portabella Mushrooms, Garlic Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes, and Roasted Vegetable Medley

Dessert:
Cheesecake with Cherry Topping

Assorted Dinner Rolls
Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, and Water with Lemon

The cost will be $40.00 per person and reservations can be accepted up until **Friday, November 27th**. 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
ATTN: Meeting Reservations
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.** Please indicate the number attending, your name, and any guest name(s). A vegetarian meal is available on request. The **deadline** for receipt of all checks or credit card payments is **Friday, November 27th.**

Cancellations may be made by calling or emailing Dennis Benchoff at 717 560-1260 or banzhafdl@gmail.com . If you believe your check will not arrive on time, please call Dennis and let him know that your check is enroute.

Address for GPS and Directions:

Gordinier Hall, Millersville University: 40 James Street, Millersville, PA 17551

Drive into Millersville on Rte. 999 (Manor Avenue). Turn left onto N George Street and then left onto James Street. Gordinier Hall will be on your right with a parking lot on your left. Lehr Dining Room will be on the 2nd floor and is easily reached by elevator.

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



John Paul Jones in 1776: Action Before Myth

Before John Paul Jones became a legend of the age of sail, he spent the first half of 1776 as a hard driving, junior officer in a navy that barely existed. There were no traditions yet, only urgency, improvisation, and risk.

Lieutenant aboard Alfred and the Bahamas Expedition (January–March 1776)

At the beginning of 1776, **John Paul Jones was serving as first lieutenant aboard the Continental Navy flagship, USS *Alfred***, under Commodore Esek Hopkins. His role placed him directly in the Navy's first coordinated mission.

In **February–March 1776**, the *Alfred* sailed as part of Hopkins's squadron to **New Providence in the Bahamas**, where Continental forces landed and seized British military stores, including cannon and gunpowder. Jones did not command the expedition, but as first lieutenant he was deeply involved in navigation, discipline, and shipboard combat readiness.

Lesson for today:
Jones's early service underscores that **naval power is often about enabling others to fight**, not achieving dramatic victories. Modern naval logistics, sea basing, and expeditionary operations still reflect this reality: success often lies in sustainment rather than spectacle.

Contact: moaalancasterpresident@gmail.com

The Fight with HMS Glasgow (April 6, 1776)

On **April 6, 1776**, while escorting prizes taken earlier in the cruise, Hopkins's squadron encountered the British warship HMS *Glasgow* off Block Island. Jones, still aboard *Alfred*, took part in the engagement, which ended with the British ship escaping after damaging American vessels.

The engagement exposed:

- Poor inter ship coordination
- Uneven gunnery and training
- Weak centralized command under fire

Lesson for today:
The *Glasgow* encounter illustrates that institutional growing pains are inevitable. Even modern navies experience readiness gaps revealed only in real world operations. Jones's experience reinforces the idea that frank internal critique—not victory narratives—is how military institutions mature.

Promotion and Command of Providence (May–June 1776)

In **May 1776**, John Paul Jones was promoted to Captain and given command of the sloop **USS *Providence***. This marked a critical turning point: from subordinate executor to independent commander.

While his most famous commerce raiding exploits came later, this early command allowed Jones to put into practice ideas about speed, discipline, and aggressive maneuver.

Lesson for today:
Jones's promotion highlights the importance of empowering capable junior leaders early, even amid institutional uncertainty. Modern militaries still rely on decentralized command—granting initiative to officers who can act decisively without perfect information.

Mapping John Paul Jones's 1776 Leadership Principles to Operation Epic Fury (2026)

1. Master Your Craft Before You Seek Command

Jones (1776)
Jones served as first lieutenant aboard USS *Alfred* before independent command, building credibility through execution and seamanship under real operational stress.

Epic Fury Application
Operation Epic Fury demonstrates distributed execution across domains—air, maritime, cyber, and space—requiring commanders and subordinate leaders to act independently within intent. Public briefings emphasize execution at scale across multiple combatant commands, implying reliance on lower echelon professional mastery rather than micromanagement.

Leadership takeaway:
Modern joint operations—like Epic Fury—depend on leaders whose technical mastery enables tempo, autonomy, and cross domain synchronization.

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2. Accept Imperfect Institutions—and Improve Them from Inside

Jones (1776)
Jones continued serving despite early institutional weakness exposed during Nassau and the HMS *Glasgow* engagement.

Epic Fury Application
Multiple sources describe Epic Fury as transitioning through operational phases while adjusting force mix, maritime posture, and air dominance in response to Iranian counteractions, including drones, mines, and cyber operations. The operation has been repeatedly framed as evolving, not rigid.

Leadership takeaway:
Jones's willingness to operate within a developing institution aligns with modern joint doctrine emphasizing adaptation during execution, not perfection beforehand.

3. Logistics and Enablement Are Core Combat Functions

Jones (1776)
Nassau was fundamentally a logistics raid—seizing powder to enable the army.

Epic Fury Application
Epic Fury reporting highlights:
- Maritime blockades
- Mine clearance in the Strait of Hormuz
- Protection of global sea lanes critical to economic stability.

These actions are explicitly described as operational priorities, not ancillary missions.

Leadership takeaway:
As in 1776, control, protection, and sustainment of logistics are decisive combat actions, central to operational success.

4. Earn Promotion Through Execution, Not Advocacy

Jones (1776)
Jones's promotion to command of USS *Providence* followed observed performance under operational stress, not political positioning.

Epic Fury Application
Public statements emphasize trust in commanders executing presidential intent across theaters, with leadership frequently highlighting "the Joint Force" rather than individual political figures.

Leadership takeaway:
Operational credibility in joint warfighting still derives from performance, reliability, and control under pressure.

5. Exercise Initiative Within Mission Constraints

Jones (1776)
Commanding *Providence*, Jones acted aggressively but within strategic limits imposed by Congress.

Epic Fury Application

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Epic Fury sources repeatedly stress:

- Clearly defined objectives
- Freedom in execution within those objectives, especially in air naval integration and maritime enforcement.

Leadership takeaway:
Like Jones, modern officers are expected to act decisively—but never outside the bounds of national and strategic intent.

6. Learn From Operational Friction Without Excuse-Making

Jones (1776)
The HMS *Glasgow* encounter exposed weakness; Jones absorbed the lesson and pressed forward.

Epic Fury Application
Sources describe:

- Acknowledgment of U.S. casualties
- Recognition of adversary asymmetries (cheap drones vs. expensive interceptors)
- Real time adaptation in force posture.

Leadership takeaway:
Modern joint leadership—like Jones's early command—requires learning under fire, not narrative control.

7. Professional Culture Is Established by Behavior Before Doctrine

Jones (1776)
In a navy without tradition, Jones modeled discipline, standards, and aggressiveness personally.

Epic Fury Application
Senior leader statements consistently emphasize:

- Joint Force professionalism
- Service integration
- Conduct under sustained operations.

Leadership takeaway:
Joint culture — especially under major combat operations — is formed by leader behavior, exactly as it was in 1776.

In Summary

In 1776, John Paul Jones was not yet a legend. He was a **junior officer mastering his craft, enduring institutional frustration, executing unglamorous missions, and accepting responsibility early.** The leadership principles visible in this period remain foundational for modern officers:

- Competence precedes command
- Institutions improve through committed professionals
- Logistics and execution matter as much as combat
- Initiative must operate within intent
- Growth follows honest engagement with failure.

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References: military.com, defensescoop.com, AI whitehouse.gov, centcom.mil

Editor note: John Paul Jones is buried in a crypt beneath the chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Annapolis is an easy 2-hour drive from Lancaster. Additionally, if you are passionate about military history and are interested in writing articles for the newsletter, please contact the editor.

- **Election of Officers and Directors for 2027**

Election of chapter officers and directors to serve in 2027 was conducted at the October 22nd meeting at Bent Creek Country Club. The following slate of officers and directors were approved by the membership:

Officers:

President: Dave Shelton, Lt Col, USAF
Vice President: Vacant
Imm Past Pres: Bill Zeird, LT, USN
Treasurer: Dave Shelton, Lt Col, USAF
Corres Secy: Dennis Benchoff, LTG, USA
Rec Secy: Barry Schmitt, LtCol, USAF

Directors:

John Gareis, MAJ, USA
Bill Confer, LTC, USA
Greg Cullison, LtCol, USAF
Kevin Powell, CAPT, USN
Wayne Foxworth, COL, USA
Tom Bender, CAPT, USN

- **Membership News**

Welcome new members:
Vicktor Nakano, LTC USA (Ret.), Lancaster, Spouse: Karen, Joined: August 2026

We Remember: Jack Sapper, LT USN, and member since 2000 died 25 October 2026. Jack was a long-time active member of the chapter and Korean War veteran serving on the USS Yorktown. His wife, Patricia, predeceased him.

- **Remaining 2026 Chapter Meeting, Breakfast Meeting, and Board Meeting Information:**

Chapter Meeting:
Holiday Luncheon, Millersville University, **Sunday December 6, 2026 at 1300 hours**. Please see article in this newsletter on pages 1-2 for details.

Breakfast Gathering:
Olde Hickory Grill, 709 Olde Hickory Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601. **Thursday November 19 at 0900 hours.** For additional information or questions contact Dan Horting at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

Board Meeting:
Lancaster Airport Authority Conference Room, 500 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543.
Wednesday November 18 at 1400 hours. All members are welcome to attend and please let us know if you have an interest in serving on the board.

Contact: moaalancasterpresident@gmail.com

- **2027 Chapter Meeting, Breakfast Meeting, and Board Meeting Information:**

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2027:
Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. You will find many of your favorite venues and some new additions below.

18 February 2027, The Eden Resort, Luncheon at 1300 hours
15 April 2027, Inn at Leola Luncheon at 1100 hours
17 June 2027, Wheatland Historic Site, Luncheon at 1100 hours
28 August 2027, Waltz Vineyards, Picnic at 1100 hours
October 2027, TBD
December 2027, TBD

Breakfast Meeting Dates for 2027:

We meet at Olde Hickory Grill, 709 Olde Hickory Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 0900 hours. Breakfasts are informal with no agenda and occur on Thursday mornings, every other month. They are open to all members and guests. For additional information or questions contact Dan Horting at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

21 January	15 July
18 March	16 September
20 May	18 November

Board Meeting Dates for 2027:

Meetings are held six times a year on Wednesdays at 1400 hours 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.

3 February	11 August
31 March	29 September
26 May	17 November

- **Lebanon VA Comfort Items:**

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 to supply 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".

- **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

- **Feature Article: Recent Chapter Events:**

Chapter Picnic at Waltz Vineyards

On August 29, we gathered for a well-attended chapter picnic in the pastoral setting of Waltz Vineyards. With sunshine, wine, and music, everyone enjoyed the day. Please enjoy the below pictures of your chapter mates and join us at the next Chapter meeting Sunday, December 6, 2026 at Millersville University. Please see Pages 1 and 2 for details.



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September Breakfast meeting Great looking group. Come join us on Thursday, November 19th. See page 6 for details.



Chapter meeting at Bent Creek Our newest member. President Bill Zeird presenting certificates of appreciation to PACOC President CAPT Bob Heister and WGAL's Brian Roche.



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