



**Happy Fall to All!!**

**President Joe Maurer**

Our chapter has once again been recognized with the MOAA Four Star Level of Excellence Award. This is the third consecutive year that we have received this award and it is a fitting reward for the involvement and support that all of you give to our chapter's activities and programs. Thanks to our officers and board of directors and for all the assistance from our members.

There are several criteria on which the Levels of Excellence Award is based. Among these are:

*Do we have an active Legislative Affairs Committee?*

*Do we file timely membership reports and other information to MOAA?*

*Do we have a sufficient number of membership meetings each year?*

*Do we have a newsletter and website?*

*Do we work with other veterans' organizations in our area?*

Of course, we can answer "yes" to these and other questions that measure the chapter's positive impact on our community. Each of these areas of activity require time and effort which a lot of our members willingly give. However, **more help is needed**. Perhaps your schedule has prevented you from being actively involved in the past; if you have more time available now, please consider more active participation.

**We need you!**

We especially need help in recruiting new members – the lifeblood of any successful organization. If you know a currently serving, retired or former officer, tell them the reasons why MOAA membership is a great idea and why it's an especially great idea to be a member of the Greater Rome-Utica Chapter – one of MOAA's best!

*Never Stop Serving,  
Joe*

2016 Year-to-date we have completed these planned activities and projects:

- Provided monetary support to Daughters of the American Revolution Vietnam Veterans “Welcome Home” event.
- Continued the \$200.00 co-sponsorship for 2 local veterans’ participation in the Syracuse Honor Flights (April and October).
- Continued the \$1500.00 in scholarships and awards at each of the three JROTC programs: Rome Free Academy, Rome, NY; T. R. Proctor High School, and Notre Dame High School, Utica, NY.
- Created and sponsored the \$300.00 “Armed Forces Enlistee Award” presented at Rome Free Academy, Rome, NY and T. R. Proctor High School, Utica, NY to the high school senior with the highest ASVAB score and school average who has enlisted in the armed forces.
- Continued support for the Memorial Day Celebration held at Veterans’ Park, Rome, NY.
- Provided a \$200.00 donation to the groundbreaking for The Rome War Memorial at Veterans’ Park, Rome, NY.
- Participated and provided a \$100.00 donation to support the Flag Day Celebration held at Gansevoort Elementary School, Rome, NY.
- Initiated a \$100.00 co-sponsorship for the Vietnam Veterans of America “Patriot Run” held on Griffiss Park, Rome, NY.
- Co-host the “Second Annual Burger Burn” with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Rome, NY for the 2016 Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE). The event is open to the ACE students [ROTC cadets, college students from the US, junior military officers from the US and UK], GRUCMOAA members, guests and the 2016-2017 JROTC cadet leaders.
- Continued the tradition of the Annual Chapter Picnic hosted by Jim Tille and Diane Lochocki in Old Forge, NY.
- Renewed the contract with our web site hosting vendor for 1 year, cost \$77.00.
- Locally sourced GRUCMOAA Vinyl stickers for purchase and for presentation folders, cost \$220.00.
- Initiated a ‘Paid-For-Life’ membership program.



President Joe Maurer receives the Bronze Sponsorship certificate from Chet Malcom, VVA Post 944 on August 19, 2016

To ensure the continuation of the chapter, these are the actions needed from our members:

- Prompt payment of member dues. This has become an issue of grave magnitude with less than half of our members being current with their dues for 2016.
- Volunteers for open Board of Director positions: 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, and (2) Director positions are open. The nominating committee will accept all nominations made by active-paid members.
- More volunteers to solicit and support the Wreaths Across America fund raiser. Volunteers to solicit business and individual sponsors or to place wreaths at any of the six cemeteries participating in 2016. Bob Haley has the materials to assist the solicitations.
- Volunteers to assist the 2017 'Readers' program in the Rome, NY elementary schools. Tony Kimball is the contact for this program.

## **Wreaths Across America in Rome on December 17, 2016**

## **Past President Bob Haley**

The Greater Rome Utica Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America continues participation in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) tribute to deceased veterans. Remembrance wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves at Rome Cemetery, St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, St. John's Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Westernville Cemetery on December 17, 2016 following short ceremonies commencing at Noon. Local participants in the ceremonies are: school choruses, students, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC cadets from RFA and Proctor High School, Civil

Air Patrol Cadets, Patriot Riders, business volunteers, State and Municipal elected officials, local musicians, EADS Color Guard, and various veteran organization Color Guards. It is the GRUCMOAA mission to involve as many of our local youth as possible.

Last year five cemeteries participated, GRUCMOAA was able to honor almost 1,000 veterans with a remembrance wreath. A brochure for each cemetery was prepared identifying the military exploits of several of the veterans honored. Raising almost \$5,000, this fundraiser ensures GRUCMOAA can continue to support the JROTC scholarships given at RFA, Proctor, and Notre Dame, to finance summer training at Newport, RI for JROTC cadets, and to sponsor local veterans on both Syracuse Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. GRUCMOAAs community involvement efforts would not be possible without the WAA program. The number of current dues paid members has decreased year over year, despite our efforts to contact members via email, postal mail, and phone contact.

- To have another successful year, we encourage members to step up and support this program again. Help is needed soliciting local businesses to sponsor wreaths, distributing flyers around town announcing the event, seeking individual sponsors, getting organizations and individuals to participate in the ceremonies, and by making brochures for each cemetery.
- Solicitation letters on Chapter letterhead are available to anyone interested in being involved recruiting businesses or individuals. We prefer that requests are made in person. Contact GRUCMOAA Treasurer Bob Haley if you can help in any way, or have suggestions on local businesses that may be willing to participate.
- For our members still actively working, if you participate with a donation, please check with your employer. They may offer matching funds for your contribution.
- Varflex and BAE Systems are two local businesses who have already provided support for this year's event.



Captain Anton Springer, a former Roman, gave his life for his country on June 10, 1901, at the age of 30, during the Philippines Insurrection.

Captain Springer will be one of many veterans remembered at the Rome Cemetery during the Wreaths Across America memorial on December 17, 2016.



Bellamy Elementary School students singing a patriotic song at St. Peter's Cemetery in Rome, NY (2015).

Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS) Honor Guard and RFA Acapella Choir at the Rome Cemetery in Rome, NY (2015).



Educating our children to understand the sacrifice necessary to protect our way of life is a mission of WAA that GRUCMOAA endorses, Rome Cemetery in Rome, NY (2015).



## Treasurer's Report

## Treasurer Bob Haley

- The treasury began the year with \$8,638.10. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, we've realized payments from WAA sponsors, WAA reimbursement for fund raising and now have a \$10,300 balance. The impact of WAA cannot be understated as it is the greatest source of revenue generating \$4,000.
- On the expense side, the biggest expenditures have been \$2,150 for scholarships/awards to the three JROTC units and \$825 for Proctor cadets to attend Leadership Training in Newport, RI. We expect to make a donation supporting the October Syracuse Honor Flight and to provide support to the Rome Veterans' Coalition for their war memorial honoring all those Roman Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in U.S. wars since the Civil War.
- Any other request to help the JROTC programs or other veteran organizations can also be considered. Please submit the requests in writing (email is fine) to President Maurer for discussion at the BoD meetings held at Spresso's.

## Legislative Report

## Co-chairs Tony Kimball and Bill Gray, Jr.

### ■ RICHARD HANNA, US REPRESENTATIVE, NEW YORK'S 22<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Working for Veterans

A message from Representative Hanna

As your representative in Congress, I am committed to ensuring that our nation maintains a strong defense, provides for its military personnel, and keeps the promises made to veterans and their families.

While I fully support a climate of principled fiscal discipline in Washington, I understand that we cannot reduce spending at the expense of our nation's security or on the backs of our servicemen and women. I will continue to support policies in Congress that make wise use of taxpayer dollars and prioritize national defense, our service members, and veterans. Should you have questions or concerns at any time, I encourage you to contact my office by phone or through this website.

In addition, if you are a veteran or active-duty service member in need of assistance with a federal agency, please contact my district office at 315-724-9740. Whether you are having trouble filing a claim with the

Department of Veterans Affairs or initiating an inquiring with the Department of Defense, my office can help guide you through the process. We work for you!

Recent veterans and defense news

NDAAs Passes, No BRAC in 2017

Today, the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAAs) for Fiscal Year 2016, which determined there will be no military base realignments or closures in 2017 and it includes a number of provisions to assist Upstate service members and veterans...

[Read More](#)

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Hanna Announces New VA Clinic Coming to Binghamton

U.S. Representative Richard Hanna today announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will construct a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Binghamton to assist veterans in the Southern Tier...

[Read More](#)

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Hanna to Vote Against Iran Deal

For decades, Iran has sown uncertainty in the Middle East with devastating and unacceptable consequences for our interests in the region and for the security of our allies. With this in mind, I also recognize that Iran is a remarkably advanced society, with a complex political system and a centuries-long history...

[Read More](#)

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Recent legislation cosponsored by Representative Hanna

H.R. 1603 – The Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment Act, or SAVE Act: This legislation amends the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act to allow all veterans who are survivors of military sexual trauma (MST) the option of seeking treatment outside of the VA health care system. While seeking such care may not be the most appropriate choice for every veteran, this legislation ultimately expands the health care options available to MST survivors. By allowing veterans to seek non-VA care, it also reduces the stigma that many have faced when pursuing mental health services inside the VA system.

H.R. 1096 – Real Choice for Veterans Act: This bill would amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act to allow veterans to seek non-VA medical care if they reside more than 40 miles from the closest VA medical facility that is able to provide the care and services they need. Currently, regulations prohibit a veteran from seeking non-VA care if they live within 40 miles of a VA medical facility, regardless of whether that facility provides the care they require.

H.R. 1247 – Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015: This bill would allow advanced nurses, especially those returning from active-duty military status, expanded practicing rights in VA medical facilities. The legislation would help fill VA personnel gaps and provide employment opportunities for highly trained service members transitioning from active-duty.

H.R. 359 – Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act: This bill would authorize a five-year pilot program to assess the effectiveness of service dogs in helping veterans cope with posttraumatic stress disorders. Research suggests that service dogs have played an important role in the individual recovery processes of many soldiers returning from active-duty combat operations.

H.R. 969 – Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act: This bill would authorize the presumptive status for VA Agent Orange claims made by veterans that served on Vietnam's territorial seas during the Vietnam War.

## ■ NEW YORK STATE VETERAN RECOGNITION

As a way to honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of its residents who served in the armed forces, New York State offers several military awards to veterans who

currently live in New York State or who were New York State residents at the time of their military service, including:

- [New York State Conspicuous Service Cross](#)
- [New York State Medal for Merit](#)
- [New York State Conspicuous Service Star](#)
- [New York State Cold War Recognition Certificate](#)

Eligibility for these awards is based on the applicant's military service record. Applications and a complete list of eligibility criteria can be obtained by clicking the links. These honors can be awarded posthumously to the family of a deceased veteran.

## ■ MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### [CONGRESS LEAVES GOVERNMENT ON IDLE](#)

There won't be a shutdown, But VA fares better than DoD in legislative package.

### [CVS TO LEAVE TRICARE PHARMACY NETWORK](#)

It's all about the money, But Walgreens is set to return.

### [TRICARE FEES, PAY, HOUSING, AND SSIA UPDATE](#)

Negotiations nearly finished, But final action delayed until after election.

### [HOUSE PASSES VA APPEALS MODERNIZATION](#)

Legislation would help vets get quicker decisions, But the Senate still needs to act.

### [COALITION HONORS LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS](#)

The Military Coalition presents its highest awards, Hill champions recognized for fighting to improve military health care and compensation.

[If you were forwarded this email, please click here to join MOAA and receive further communications.](#)

## Upcoming Events

1stVP/Webmaster Greg Bertolini

- October 5, 2016: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Raspberries of Utica, Utica, NY
- November 2, 2016: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Casa Too Mucha.

- December 4, 2016: Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner at Delta Lake Inn, Rome, NY.
- December 17, 2016: 1200 hrs. Wreaths Across America memorials at Rome Cemetery, St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, St. John's Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Westernville Cemetery.

## 2017 Calendar of Events

1stVP/Webmaster Greg Bertolini

- April 5, 2017: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Delmonico's
- May 29, 2017: 1000-1200 hrs. Veterans Park in Rome, on Memorial Day.
- June 7, 2017: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Vescio's Franklin Hotel.
- June 14, 2017: Flag Day ceremony at Peter Gansevoort Elementary School, Rome, NY.
- June 21, 2017: 1730-1930 hrs. Burger Burn with AFRL ACE Students, Hampton Inn - Floyd Ave, Rome, NY.
- July 2017: No event scheduled. We encourage all to support their local community celebration of our 241 years of independence.
- August 13, 2017: 1300 hrs. Annual GRUC Picnic, / Tille Residence, Old Forge, NY.
- September 6, 2017: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Vescio's Franklin Hotel.
- October 4, 2017: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Raspberries of Utica.
- November 1, 2017: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Casa Too Mucha.
- December 3, 2017: Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner at TBD.

## From The Ditty Bag

- What Goes on Inside a AC-130 Gun Ship.

**Director Ed Herr**

Gentlemen, put away your little peashooters and get a real weapon! AC-130 Gunship "Spooky" up close and personal!!! Inside an AC-130 platfor



[The Insanely Powerful AC-130](http://www.chonday.com)

[www.chonday.com](http://www.chonday.com)

<http://www.chonday.com/Videos/acinsbrut4>

■ 'The moral obligation to know our veterans'

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Tony Kimball**

Vice Chancellor and Executive Director Mike Haynie at TEDx University of Nevada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSWhIUiGang&authuser=0>

■ A tribute to 'The Common Soldier'

**Auxiliary Member Sherry Skogland**

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/eEs4ke7cdNQ?feature=player\\_detailpage%25](https://www.youtube.com/embed/eEs4ke7cdNQ?feature=player_detailpage%25)

## **December 4, 2016 Pearl Harbor Remembrance**

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Tony Kimball**

By popular demand we are bringing back the same wonderful buffet dinner which will include:

- Grilled Steak Portobello
- Chicken Francaise
- Broiled Haddock Oreganato
- Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable Medley
- Rolls and butter
- Fresh Garden Salad w/dressing
- Red or White wine with dinner
- Coffee or tea and Dessert

Military member dress is Mess Dress, Class 'A' or business formal, guest dress is business formal. Cost is ONLY \$32.00 per person (\$23.00 Active Duty), and guests are welcome. The dinner will also be open to the public. Note: price includes buffet meal listed above and gratuity.

Schedule:       **1300-1400 Attitude Adjustment**  
                      **1400-1500 Ceremonies/Guest Speaker**  
                      **1500-1700 Dinner & Entertainment**

Since we expect a large turnout, please, **PAID reservations** are requested as soon as possible and on or before **Wednesday, November 30th**, to ensure seating. When completing the reservation form in this newsletter, specify the total number of people in your party.

### ***Bring Family & Friends***

Our members and especially new members are encouraged to bring family and friends to our fun gathering. It's an excellent time to introduce new members and their families. This is our premier event of the year and you should share it with those closest to you. Please sign them up. The more the merrier!

### ***JROTC Color Guard Presents the Colors***

The Color Guard from one of the JROTC programs will open our formal ceremonies. This is another opportunity for you to see firsthand what these cadets learn in the JROTC program. As GRUC-MOAA members, and as sponsors of these programs, you have the right to be proud of these cadets.

### ***Recognizing Veterans***

Of course, we are indebted to veterans of all of our wars. However, we especially want to recognize our members who are WW II and Korean War veterans. As the years pass, we want to let them know that their efforts were not in vain and that we will always remember their service and their sacrifice. Join us in our special salute to several WWII and Korean War soldiers who will be attending the dinner.

### ***Gifts for Needy Children***

Keep up the spirit of a GRUC-MOAA tradition by bringing a wrapped gift for a needy child or making a monetary donation to the House of Good Shepherd to be placed under the Christmas tree at the dinner. You can also include the donation along with your dinner reservation. Any member who is unable to attend the Annual Dinner, who wishes to donate a gift, please send it along with your annual dues. Last year over \$400 along with some gifts were donated to The House of the Good Shepherd that brought great joy to the recipients. Please remember the young children trying to adapt to the challenges this world puts before them.



# ***Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner Reservation***

## ***Sunday, December 4, 2016***

### ***RSVP by Wednesday November 30, 2016***

Please return your dinner reservation check, dues payment check, House of Good Shepherd donation check, all payable to GRUC – MOAA. Wreaths Across America donation checks should be made payable to Wreath Across America. Send forms and checks to: **Bob Haley, GRUC-MOAA Treasurer, P.O. Box 36, Rome, New York 13442-0036**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 32.00 per person\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\$23.00 per person for **Active Duty Military**

Holiday Wreaths for a Veteran Gravesite @ \$15 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make wreaths checks payable to Wreaths Across America

# 2017 DUES STATEMENT

Please renew your 2017 membership by November 30, 2016 by sending your check, payable to **GRUC – MOAA, to Treasurer Bob Haley at P.O. Box 36, Rome, New York 13442-0036**

**\*Indicates required information**

\* Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Last Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Dues Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member ***MUST provide Birth Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Regular member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Active Duty/Guard/Reserve

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Auxiliary Member

Widow/Widower of a member or qualifying individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Auxiliary Member

Non-Attendee (Non-Attendee Status is for our homebound, nursing home members, or members living more than 50 miles away).

\*2017 Dues Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Year Dues Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Total Dues Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRUCMOAA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE:**

Age	Membership Fee
50 and under:	\$300
51 to 55:	\$282
56 to 60:	\$265
61 to 65:	\$242
66 to 70:	\$213
71 to 75:	\$184
76 to 80:	\$153
81 to 85:	\$118
86 and over:	FREE!