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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

P.O. BOX 36 ROME, NY 13442-0036

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Greetings All!

The Greater Utica Rome Military Officers Association of America is hosting the Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner meeting and elections on Sunday December 7, 2014 at Delta Lake Inn on Fish Hatchery Road, Rome NY from 1300 HRS to 1700 HRS.

By popular demand we are having the same wonderful buffet dinner we've enjoyed in the past. Dinner will include:

- Grilled Steak Portobello
- Chicken Francaise
- Broiled Haddock Oreganato
- Mashed Potatoes
- Vegetable Medley
- Rolls and Butter
- Fresh Garden Salad w/Choice of Dressing
- Red or White Wine with dinner
- Coffee or Tea and Dessert

We are pleased to announce that **Col Michael Norton, Commander of EADS** will be our guest speaker at the dinner. Col Norton's biography can be found on the web at this URL: <http://www.1af.acc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123417864>

If you are one of the lucky ones whose uniform hasn't shrunk, please wear it. Mess Dress, Class 'A' or Jacket and tie are required. Cost is ONLY \$32.00 per person (\$23.00 Active Duty), and guests are welcome. The dinner will be open to the public. Note: price includes meal and gratuity.

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

We do expect a large turnout, so please, **PAID reservations** are requested as soon as possible on or before **Wednesday, Dec. 3th**, 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!

AFJROTC Color Guard Presents the Colors

The Color Guard from the **Rome Free Academy Air Force JROTC** program will open our formal ceremonies with a presentation of The Colors. 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 those 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 veterans 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 \$250 along with some gifts were donated to The House of the Good Shepherd which brought great joy to the recipients. Please remember the young children trying to adapt to the challenges this world puts before them.

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MOAA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

The following letter was received from National MOAA:

August 5, 2014

Dear Commander Haley,

Congratulations on your chapter being selected as a 2013 Levels of Excellence Award winner! You and your spouse are invited to join us at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA on October 27-29, 2014 for the Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner and MOAA's Annual Meeting. We are inviting all presidents of 2013 four and five-star chapters to this special event in recognition of your significant accomplishment.

This year's Annual Meeting includes a number of interesting events beginning Monday evening, October 27 with the Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner, where chapter presidents will be presented with their four and five-star streamers by MOAA's Chairman of the Board. On Tuesday, October 28, there will be a Chapter Roundtable discussion, information workshops and the MOAA Annual Meeting. On Tuesday evening there will be a Community Heroes Awards Dinner to recognize the extraordinary efforts of everyday citizens, uniformed service members, and military spouses who support currently serving, military families and veterans.

On behalf of the chapter, long time active member **Joe Maurer** and his wife **Marguerite** attended and accepted the chapter's Four Star Level of Excellence Award. Joe will share more details from Washington during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner.

RFA Enlistee Award

This past June, at the RFA awards ceremony, **Harry Winberg** presented the chapter's first ever Enlistee Award (\$300) to **Ian Hesse**. Ian quickly acknowledged the award with his a hand salute to Col Winberg. Harry will be working with a Proctor Academy guidance counselor next spring to initiate the same award there. The award is given to the student with the highest score on the military entrance exam [ASVAB] and has his date set to enter the military after graduation.

JROTC Scholarships

This past May 2014, \$1,300 in scholarships were awarded for the three high school JROTC programs. At RFA, **Patrick Haugen** received the \$400 John Rhude Scholarship, **Ashley Jones** received the \$200 Mildred Swarts Scholarship, and **Miranda Smith** received the \$200 MOAA Scholarship. At Proctor, **Luke Pomichter** received the \$200 MOAA Scholarship and at Notre Dame, **Cornelius Deep** received the \$200 MOAA Scholarship. On behalf of several of our members, additional awards were provided at each of the schools. Donations are always accepted to continue the John Rhude and Mildred Swarts Scholarships.

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“Honor Flights”

In April, the chapter sponsored retired TSGT Richard Boston USAF, and Vietnam War Veteran from Rome on an Honor Flight from Syracuse, New York to the Washington D.C. memorials. We look forward to sponsoring several more service members in 2015 in the flights that originate from Syracuse Hancock Airport.

Remembering and Honoring our Veterans over the Holidays

Again this year the chapter will be holding ceremonies to place holiday wreaths on the graves of veterans. This is being done in conjunction with the national Wreaths Across America program which will be placing wreaths at 12 noon Saturday Dec. 13th, on graves at Arlington and over 1000 other cemeteries and memorials throughout the U.S.

Wreaths will be placed at 4 local cemeteries:

- In Rome, NY wreaths will be placed at the Rome Cemetery on Jervis Ave. Here Civil War Veterans will be honored as well as veterans from other wars. Information on selected soldiers to be remembered will be included in a brochure made for the event. This will make the placing of these wreaths by our young people that much more meaningful. To educate is one of the main goals of the national Wreaths Across America program. Taking part at this cemetery will be a choral group of 4th graders from Gansevoort School who will sing the “Soldier’s Song” for the active duty and veterans who attend. We hope to have Congressman Hanna speak here this year. Attending the ceremony which precedes the placing of wreaths on veterans graves, are the Honor Guard and several other soldiers from EADS, Patriot Riders from the Mohawk Valley, JROTC cadets from RFA and Proctor, Boy and Girl scouts and the general public.
- In Lee, NY wreaths will be placed at the Evergreen Cemetery on RT 26 next to Stokes Elementary School. That school currently also has a choral group of students who will be singing the “Soldier’s Song” there. **MAJ James Martinez** with the help of the Lee Legion Post 1794, will be conducting the ceremony there as he did last year.
- In Westernville, NY, wreaths will be placed on Veterans Graves at the Westernville Presbyterian Cemetery. The Western Legion Post 1846 and its Ladies Auxiliary have agreed to conduct the ceremony.
- Joining the list of national and local cemeteries placing wreaths this year, is the Wright Settlement Cemetery just north of the former Griffiss AFB. The Rome Marine League has agreed to conduct this event.
- All four locations will have a short ceremony where they will be placing seven ceremonial wreaths (the five services, POW/MIA, and Merchant Marines) followed by remarks from a local official.
- The aim of this event is to get the community involved with honoring our veterans. Even more important is the education of our young people about the sacrifices of our veterans, which has made the U.S. what it is today.

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How can we help? We can help by volunteering and attending the ceremonies, and by sponsoring wreaths at \$15 each with \$5 of that going back to our chapter. Last year \$3,765 was raised for our chapter when some 774 wreaths were placed. This year, so far, we have nearly half that amount with one month remaining. We can reach last year's total only with your help and the help of more Rome area businesses. For those wishing to sponsor some wreaths, a line on the dinner reservation form will allow you to include the donation with your dinner reservation. Checks for the wreaths are to be made out to **Wreaths Across America**. If you're not attending the Pearl Harbor Day Dinner, you may include your donation with your annual dues. To volunteer for the ceremonies call Bob Haley at 336-4220, by e-mail at lakeeffect2@verizon.net, or just show up. We plan to place over 800 wreaths, we will need volunteers. It may be cold and snowy, but I like to remind people that some of our deceased veterans, whose graves we will place wreaths on, fought at the Battle of the Bulge, at Usan and Chosin in the winter of 1950 in North Korea. Check our website www.GRUCMOAA.org (Community Support) for further information on this initiative.

MOAA Gansevoort Readers

Tony Kimball continues to hold down the fort for our MOAA Gansevoort Readers program. The administration at Gansevoort invites more readers. This is a year-long service project which is immensely rewarding and greatly appreciated by the young students and their teachers. We can make a difference. If you are interested please call Tony Kimball at 339-2500.

AFJROTC Basket Raffles

The RFA Junior ROTC unit is holding its largest fund-raiser later this fall. They need our support. These 'Basket Raffles' are a great way to assist the unit, visit with fellow MOAA members along with the cadets and instructors, and win 'Holiday Gift Baskets' during the raffle. **The event date is: RFA AFJROTC Basket Raffle Sunday 16 November, 1-4PM, RFA Cafeteria.**

Annual Dues . . . \$20 for Members / \$10 for Auxiliary Members and Serving Military

Do you remember the introduction "Like grains of sand through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives"? Well, it's true; it's time to renew your membership dues for 2015. A dues statement is included with this newsletter, please update any information that is missing or has changed and submit your dues statement with payment to our Treasurer, Bob Haley. **Dues can also be paid online on the MOAA website: www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/** GRUC-MOAA dues are minimal, but they are necessary to offset our limited administrative expenses They also provide funding for all three JROTC units supporting Student Scholarships, Leadership Training Programs, Drill meet awards, and sending area veterans on "Honor Flights" to Washington, DC. If you owe dues for prior years, please consider a "catch-up" payment to bring your dues current for 2015.

Take Care!

Bob Haley

[Lakeeffect2@verizon.net](mailto:lakeeffect2@verizon.net)

2015 GRUC MOAA Events Schedule			
Date	Time	Event	Location
4-March-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	TBD
1-April-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	Teddy's Restaurant
TBD	0930-1530 HRS	2015 NYS CoC Mid-Year Conf	TBD
26-April-15	1200-1500 HRS	Spring Fling	The Beeches Inn & Conference Center
25-May-15	1000-1200 HRS	Memorial Day Ceremony	Veteran's Park, Rome NY
25-May-15	1200 HRS	Burger Burn	TBD
3-June-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	TBD
12-June-15	TBD	Flag Day Ceremony	Gansevoort Elementary School, Rome, NY
16-August-15	1300 HRS	GRUC-MOAA Picnic	TBD
2-September-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	Vescio's Franklin Hotel
7-October-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	Raspberries of Utica
TBD	Various	2015 NYS CoC 42nd Convention	TBD
4-November-15	1700 HRS	Member / guest dinner	TBAD
6-December-15	1530-2100 HRS	Pearl Harbor Remembrance	Delta Lake Inn

Please Fold and Detach Here

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner — Sunday, 7 December 2104, 1300 to 1700 Hrs.
Delta Lake Inn in Rome, NY.**

RSVP by Wednesday, 3 December 2014.

Mail your RSVP and payment to: Treasurer GRUC-MOAA, PO Box 36, Rome, NY 13442-0036

Price per person:

\$ 32.00

Active Duty : \$23.00

Name (Please Print)

Number of people in your party?

X

Street Address

Sub-total your Reservation cost:

\$

City, State Zip Code

If you haven't paid your 2014 Dues, you can still do so by including them today.

E-mail

2015 Dues Enclosed (See below):

\$

\$ 20.00 Regular Member

\$ 10.00 Active Military / Auxiliary Member

\$ 5.00 Auxiliary Member—Non-attende

Phone

Total payment enclosed:

\$

Check #:

Make check payable to GRUC-MOAA
Please do not send cash. Proceeds benefit GRUC-MOAA sponsored activities.

GRUC-MOAA is a 501c not for profit organization. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses. No portion of this newsletter can be re-published without written consent of the GRUC-MOAA Officers. The GRUC-MOAA website is WWW.GRUCMOAA.ORG. © 2014 GRUC-MOAA

2015 DUES STATEMENT

Please renew your 2015 membership by December 3 , 2014 by sending your check, payable to GRUC – MOAA, along with your dinner reservations.

* Indicates Required Information

* Name: _____ * Rank: _____

* Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Service Branch: _____

* Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: (____) ____-____

Spouse's First Name: _____ *E-mail: _____

* Dues Enclosed: _____ \$ 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-attende* *

** Non –attende membership status is for our homebound or nursing home members or members living more than 50 miles away.

Your Dues are paid up to: _____ Past Year(s) Dues \$ _____

Total Dues Enclosed \$ _____.

Total Dinner and Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

(Please return this page with your Dinner and Dues information. Thank you!)

President Bob Haley, Korean War Veteran and POW, Sgt Herb Miller, Joyce Miller, and Joe Maurer at the October 2014 Member Guest Dinner. Sgt Miller recounted the stories of Chaplain, Father Kapuan and the miracles he performed. A short video is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0vYp683aVU>



Wreaths Across America participants at Rome Cemetery, Rome, NY December 2013

