

Dear Member of GRUC-MOAA:

On February 15th the Chapter's Board met and voted unanimously to terminate operations and end our affiliation with MOAA. Several unsuccessful attempts over the past four years to encourage more member participation in Chapter affairs have led to this decision.

Last month we mailed a letter asking you to indicate your interest in taking a position in any of the Chapter's offices or committees. The letter included a postage paid return envelope. Of 56 letters sent only 24 replies were received; of these responses none expressed an interest in serving in our top elective offices.

Many of you have served in Chapter leadership positions in the past and, I'm sure, you would do so again were it not for the issues which age brings. Nonetheless, all of us should take pride in knowing that over the years, through our membership dues and donations of money and time, we have helped the Chapter achieve its missions of advocacy for our veterans and support of the youth of our community.

The events page of our website (<https://grucmoaa.org>) will soon be updated to list activities through August and, depending upon member interest, a farewell gathering may be planned for August 17, our last day of service as a Chapter. Also, we will continue to fulfill our commitments to the organizations we have always supported.

On a final note, despite our closing, Wreaths Across America (WAA) in Rome, NY will live on through our partnership with Chapter 944, Vietnam Veterans of America. Chapter 944 has a large and very active membership which has enthusiastically agreed to assume coordination of WAA under our present format. We believe that this is the best possible arraignment because Chapter 944 shares our community mission and has pledged to support the organizations we have helped in the past.

I extend my sincere thanks to each one of you for your support of our Chapter and its leadership.

Best regards always,

Joe Maurer

President