



PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

GREETINGS

PRESIDENT JOE MAURER

I hope your summer was enjoyable and this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we enter the final months of the year, we can look back many successes. Thanks to your support we have met the challenge of advocating for our fellow veterans and their families, assisting the youth of our community and providing for the financial health of our Chapter.

GRUC-MOAA – A FIVE STAR CHAPTER!

On August 20th MOAA named our Chapter a Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Awardee for our community involvement and overall performance during 2020. Despite the restrictions of COVID-19 and the forced shutdown of activities for much of the year, we were up and running, most of the time, and fully functional. We supported our Junior ROTC units, held our annual meeting and dinner, coordinated another highly successful Wreaths Across America and provided financial assistance to our neighbors at the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 944, The House of The Good Shepherd, Daughters of The American Revolution and the Scouts. While others were shut down, our Chapter was open for business – and we did it safely and in full compliance with all the guidelines.

OUR MISSION AT THE ROME VA CLINIC

The volunteer hours dedicated to the service of our vets at the Donald Mitchell VA Clinic at Griffiss Business and Industrial Park makes our Chapter a strong contender for the Five Star LOE in any year. Each week our team performs a service that is valued by the veterans served as well as the professional staff and support team at the Clinic. As

many of you know, this volunteer mission was introduced to the Chapter by Bill Hamelin who provides details of recent activities below.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA IN ROME, NY

Our major fundraiser that provides the means for much of our programs will be held on Saturday, December 18th. The picture for the 2021 Flyer (attached) was provided by Steve Mercurio at Wright Settlement Cemetery where Rome Rotary Club members organized the event last year. Thanks to the efforts of our Rotary friends, Wright Settlement has been officially added as our sixth location for this year. Support from local businesses and organizations is proceeding at pace that promises to exceed last year's great results. Many of our Chapter members made a huge difference last year by sponsoring wreaths in memory of Bob Haley who introduced Wreaths Across America in Rome 10 years ago! Please help again this year – sponsor a wreath for Bob and one other vet you know who's gone on ahead of us.



Photos 1: Scouts and leaders from Leatherstocking Council, Powderhorn District, Troops 11, 37, & 175 placed wreaths at 2020 WAA at Wright Settlement Cemetery, Rome, NY

WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA



December 18, 2021
12 Noon

Remembrance wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves at 6 local cemeteries on Saturday, December 18, 2021. Ceremonies will be held at 12:00 Noon at:

- St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Peter's, and Wright Settlement Cemeteries in Rome
- Evergreen Cemetery in Lee Center
- Westernville Cemetery in Westernville

Anyone can sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave at any of the participating cemeteries – or any cemetery in the Rome Area – by calling Joe Mauer at (315) 725-9673 or by email to jmaurer1215@gmail.com. To sponsor a wreath, send a \$15 check (payable to Wreaths Across America to GRUC-MOAA, PO Box 36, Rome, NY 13442-0036 or go to the WAA website: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org> and donate using fundraising group NY0004P.

Volunteers who would like to help with the ceremonies and/or placement of wreaths on December 18th should contact Joe Mauer.

“STORIES OF WAR”

Instead of our usual Chicken BBQ by Scotty’s, this year our friends at Rome Teachers’ Federal Credit Union are offering a one act play at the Rome Community Theater. The play centers on the thoughts and views of veterans of three wars. Produced by Lorraine Goewey of the Credit Union, the play is narrated by Gary Ford, guest speaker for our 2020 Annual Dinner. The Credit Union will provide a share of the gate receipts to Wreaths Across America in Rome, NY. *Tickets available at the box office or online at www.Romecommunitytheater.org.* See details below:



Soldiers' Stories of War
Three Conversations
Written and presented by Gary Ford
Rome Community Theater
8911 Turin Rd , Rome N.Y.
Oct. 29- 7:30 pm Oct. 30- 2:30 pm
Tickets \$10
Tickets available at the box office or online at www.Romecommunitytheater.org
A portion of the tickets sales will be
donated to local veteran organizations

ADVOCACY IN ACTION – TAKE ACTION NOW

In May the Chapter participated in MOAA’s Advocacy in Action Campaign. Our team met virtually with Representatives Tenney (R-22), Delgado (D-19) and Malliotakis (R-11) and presented information on three pending legislative issues (Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform, Tricare Young Adult Parity and Basic Needs Allowance) of importance to veterans. The results of our efforts, to date are as follows: Rep Tenney signed on as cosponsor of all five bills pertaining to the issues within 10 days of our meeting;

whereas Reps Delgado and Malliotakis have yet to give formal support to any of the measures. However, according to our State Council, the appeal for support to members of the NY Congressional delegation was very positive and well worth the effort.

As a Chapter we will participate in AiA next year because nonpartisan legislative advocacy is a big part of our mission. Also, through our service, each one of us is highly qualified to be advocates and you don't have to wait until next Spring. You can make a difference today by sending an online thank you to Rep Tenney for her support. You can also go to www.moaa.org, click on "Advocacy" and send a message to your Representative or Senator about your views on any topic. You have a unique perspective that allows you to speak out on issues that threaten not only our military preparedness but also our nation's economic security and liberty that all Americans cherish. Your voice makes a difference. Take action now and speak out!

Thanks for your continued support. **I'm hoping to see you at our Annual Meeting and Dinner on November 7 at DiCastro's Too.**

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022 ACTIVITIES

VICE PRESIDENT GREG BERTOLINI

- April 6, 2022: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Vescio's Franklin Hotel.
- May 4, 2022: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Aqua Vino.
- May 30, 2022: Memorial Day.
- June 1, 2022: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at El Jarocho.
- June 14, 2022: Flag Day
- July 4, 2022: Celebrate 246 years of Independence.
- TBD 2022: 1730-1930 hrs. Burger Burn with AFRL ACE Students, Hampton Inn - Floyd Ave, Rome, NY.
- August 11, 2022 (Thurs): 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Lake Delta Yacht Club.
- September 7, 2022: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Oneida Lake Brew Haus.
- October 5, 2022: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at The Lake Delta Inn.
- November 1, 2022: GRUCMOAA Membership dues 2023 deadline.
- November 6, 2022: 1300-1700 hrs. Annual Veteran's Day Dinner at TBD.
- November 11, 2022: Veteran's Day.
- December 7, 2022: Pearl Harbor Day.
- December 17, 2022: 1200 (Noon) Wreaths Across America event.

NOVEMBER 7, 2021 VETERANS' DAY ANNUAL DINNER

The Board of Directors concurred on revising the purpose and date of the Annual Dinner. Henceforth, GRUCMOAA will commemorate all veterans, with special focus on notable veterans from WWII to present. This event will be the Sunday of Veterans' Day or the Sunday immediately preceding Veterans' Day.

Dinner will be held at **DiCastro's Too, 738 Erie Boulevard West, Rome, NY 13440.**

A buffet dinner will be served which will include:

- *Homemade Pasta in Sauce*
- *Roasted Chicken*
- *Pork Loin Carving Station*
- *Fresh Garden Salad*
- *House Italian or Ranch Dressing*
- *Vegetable*
- *Homemade Bread and Butter*
- *Non-alcoholic Beverages*
- *Coffee or Tea*
- *White Cake with Strawberry and Cannoli Filling*
- *Cash Bar*

Military member dress is Mess Dress, Class 'A' or business formal, guest dress is business formal. Cost is \$25.00 per person, guests are welcome. The dinner will also be open to the public. Note: price includes buffet meal, taxes, 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 Friday, October 29th, to ensure seating. When completing the reservation form in this newsletter, specify the total number of people in your party. We will use 'Sign-Up Genius' for headcount purposes, but we do request submission of paid reservations via USPS mail.

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!

Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard Presents the Colors

The Color Guard from the Vietnam Veterans of America will open our formal ceremonies. As GRUC-MOAA members, and as patrons of this program, you have the right to be proud of these service members.

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 recognize any WWII and Korean War soldiers who are 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. New for this year, Bill and Lori Hamelin have generously offered to stock a Chinese Auction for the benefit of The House of The Good Shepherd. (Needs to be confirmed with Bill) Please remember the young children trying to adapt to the challenges this world puts before them.



Annual Veterans' Day Dinner Reservation
Sunday, November 7, 2021
RSVP via Signup Genius, with payment via USPS mail.
Please ensure we receive your payment NLT Friday, October 29, 2021.

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

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Guest Names: _____

Total Dinners: _____ @ \$ 25.00 per person = \$ _____



Wreath donation for a Veterans Gravesite: _____ @ \$15 each =

\$ _____

Please make wreath checks payable to Wreaths Across America.

If this is a donation for specific veteran(s), please identify them here:

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

DIRECTOR BILL HAMELIN

Paid Membership:	28	Honorary Membership:	4
Life Membership:	18	Non-Members:	7
Paid/Life Aux Membership:	11		
<u>Free for 2021</u>	<u>5</u>	Over-due:	9
Total Paid	62		

GRUC-MOAA would like to welcome some new members: Matthew Kehoe, a prior service USA Major; Robert Failing, Capt., US Public Health Service, (Ret.); Emily Leavitt, COL., USA (RET.) Nurse Corps; and Steve Peek, 1LT., USAF, prior service.

It is with great sadness we remind everyone of two of our members who have passed this year. Russel Fielding, 1LT, USA on 3/29/2021 and Harold Greiner, CAPT., USN (RET) [99] on 2 August 2021.

Bill will be sending out periodic reminders for those still overdue for 2020/2021.

Membership form is enclosed. Please complete the 2022 membership form and return it with payment. You can also renew by visiting the GRUCMOAA web page:

http://grucmoaa.org/html/join_gruc.html to join online and use a credit card for payment.

If you aren't a National MOAA member, it's highly recommended that you become a member. A "free" membership is available! Please go to the MOAA website at: https://ebiz.moaa.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Default.aspx?TabId=153&utm_source=h&utm_medium=header&utm_campaign=Join

Any questions regarding GRUCMOAA membership, please contact Bill for assistance at 315-725-3362.

HEALTH CARE

VA ROME COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

DIRECTOR BILL HAMELIN

Due to the virus pandemic, volunteers were not permitted to operate within the VA from 16 March 2020 through 01 September 2020. However, from 01 January 2021 through 13 September 2021, our volunteers assisted 1,316 veterans and provided 747 volunteer hours at the Rome Donald J. Mitchel VA clinic. These volunteer efforts have

saved the VA \$21,857.11 in costs thus far in 2021. Our volunteers provide the required in-person authentications and can now use VA Video Connect services and telephone services to authenticate veterans remotely. We now contact veterans through email and telephone with information regarding registering for a “Myhealthvet” account. So far over 700 contact emails have been sent to veterans.

Effective 30 September, all veterans who have an Advanced Myhealthvet account (MHV) will have to upgrade to a Premium account. All Advanced accounts will be eliminated by the VA. If you have an Advanced account and desire to upgrade, please give Bill, Steve, or Joe a call at 315-334-7118 for assistance on how to best accomplish this.

Many medical appointments are being done “virtually” and are well received by most veterans.

Due to the clinic operating on a “limited” access methodology to prevent overcrowding; entry into the clinic has been modified as follows:

- When a veteran has an appointment, they are not allowed to enter the facility until 15 mins. prior to that appointment.
- Masks must be worn at all times, and temperatures are taken upon entry.
- Cloth masks are not acceptable. Masks are available when you enter if you do not have one.
- There are a few quick screening questions that are asked to complete the process.
- No one is allowed to accompany a veteran to their appointment unless it is medically required to provide assistance to that veteran during their visit.

Flu shots will begin on 16 October 2021. We are planning to start drive up FLU clinics on October 16th. You may also share the following information which will also be on the postcard the Veterans receive about the FLU shot clinic.

Visit a partnering (Community Care Network) location – September 2021, Veterans can visit a participating retail pharmacy or urgent care network and verify eligibility using this VA facility locator: <http://www.va.gov/find-locations/><<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.va.gov%2Ffind-locations%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C8a0bcf30a9724e99338c08d97393ef2d%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637667901466554221%7CUnknown%7C>

[TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=flpWctPRBHN5v649SXMx4vEa296xUHILmVtrhW5IXCA%3D&res=0](https://www.va.gov/health-care/visit-locations/locations-rome-va-1000&sd=flpWctPRBHN5v649SXMx4vEa296xUHILmVtrhW5IXCA%3D&res=0)

or by calling 1-877-881-7618. Included are most CVS, Walmart, Costco, Wegmans, Safeway and Kroger pharmacies. Present your government issued ID care (driver's license or VA ID card) and request that your vaccination documentation be forwarded to your VA provider.

Audiology and Podiatry support is now available at the clinic twice a week, an appointment is required. In the future Cardiology, ENT, ECHO, GYN, and perhaps some limited general surgery will be available. In addition, a CATSCAN machine will be installed. All these efforts and improvements are being made to enhance veteran care and reduce travel.

Women's Veteran Health Clinic: The Rome VA clinic has established a robust and excellent woman veteran clinic that is now in full operation. It is conducted by PA Debora Cardinal. Female veterans can request assignment for treatment through this clinic or they can remain with their current primary care provider. Any questions regarding the clinic or registering to utilize it can be made at 315-334-7100 extn: 57318.

VA RED COAT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The VA Red Coat Ambassador program is a special volunteer program instituted at the Syracuse VA Medical Center and its associated Primary Care clinics. This program allows volunteers to assist veterans with specialized computer programs, such as Myhealthvet and Ebenefits and act as an informal ombudsman, assisting veterans by providing answers to a myriad of questions and ensuring the veteran contacts the proper resource for any assistance they might need. Any issues faced by the veteran that cannot be resolved by the Red Coat Ambassador, can then be escalated to the immediate attention of the Clinic Nurse Manager for resolution. This methodology has greatly reduced the frustration and delay sometimes encountered by veterans navigating through the VA.

Myhealthvet allows veterans the ability to access, interact, view, or even save, their medical information, which includes lab test results, prescription ordering and tracking, medical imaging, communicating with their primary care team (and other clinics) and making in-person and video connect appointments. It also accepts veteran input on a variety of health-related items like weight, blood pressure, medical treatment from outside the VA and OTC medications.

Ebenefits is a program that is undergoing a phase out/transition. Currently it allows veterans to access their disability information, make an application for benefits, track compensation exam results, apply for VA loan certificate, track compensation payments, appeals, and many others. VA is trying to simplify access for veterans to various veterans' information and Ebenefits and is transitioning over to VA.GOV.

GRUC-MOAA volunteers receive specialized training with these programs to assist veterans with enrollment and usage of these programs. Each year they must complete the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), Information Security, and Myhealthvet training through the VA Talent Management System (TMS). In addition, our volunteers have provided in-depth training classes to the Rome VA clinic staff on Myhealthvet and Ebenefits so they can fully understand what these programs can provide for the veterans but also how the staff/providers can use this system to be more effective and efficient.

Chapter members who perform this mission five days a week are: CMDR Stephen Mercurio, USN (RET), CW4 William J. Hamelin Jr, USA, (RET), and LTCOL Joseph Maurer, USA, (RET).

VETERAN USE OF URGENT CARE FACILITIES APPROVED

As part of the VA MISSION ACT of 2018, Veterans who have received medical care from the VA, or VA sponsored community providers, anytime during the last 24 months are now eligible to utilize URGENT CARE. If you are in Priority Group 1~5, the first 3 visits in a year are free, and after that there is a \$30 co-pay for each visit. Priority Groups 6~8 will incur co-payments of \$30 for each visit. WELL NOW Locations are available throughout NY state (and US). If the veteran encounters problems, call 866-620-2071 for assistance.

Local URGENT CARE facilities are: Primary Urgent Care, 1904 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13502, 315-804-6800 and the Well Now Urgent Care facility located at 230 N. Genesee St., Utica, NY 13502, 315-271-2394. If you live in Rome, you can visit the Well Now Urgent Care facility at 103 West Dominick St., Suite 10, Rome, NY 13440. Other locations can be found at: <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/Locator/Care>

OPTICAL SERVICES THROUGH THE VA

Do You Wear Glasses? Need a new set of frames & lenses....do you get your glasses from the VA? They provide them for you at (normally) no cost. There is an extra charge for tinted glasses. If you are enrolled in the VA you are eligible through the VA. Fort Drum Optometry Clinic will also provide one free pair of glasses each year. You can walk

into the clinic and present your eyeglass prescription (must be within the last year). The Optometry Clinic is located at 10501 Euphrates River Valley Rd., Fort Drum, NY. You will have to pick them up at Ft. Drum, no delivery.

The Navy also has a program where they will provide you with one free pair of glasses each year. It does not matter what Military Service a person served in either. Here's the site for that process below:

Link to Navy Optical:

<https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Logistics-Command/Naval-Ophthalmic-Support-and-Training-Activity/Ordering/how-to-order-retiree/>

The Customer Service Line is available: 757-887-7600, option 1.

HEARING SERVICES THROUGH THE VA

Fort Drum Medical will provide hearing aids to retirees and spouse at COST.

Link to Ft. Drum:

<http://www.drum.amedd.army.mil/ContactUs/SitePages/Contact%20Us.aspx>

VETERANS NEWS

ROME VA CLINIC VETERAN SUPPORT LOCKER



The Rome VA Clinic has established a Veteran Support Locker at the clinic to provide food, clothing, and toiletries to our local veterans in need. Donations are welcomed!

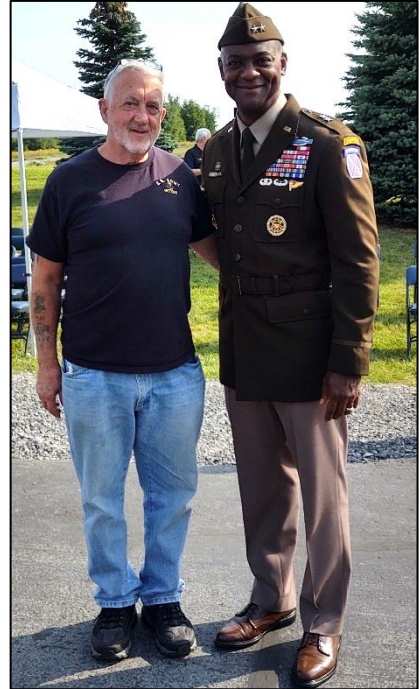
POW/MIA RECOGNITION CEREMONY AT THE ROME VA CLINIC

On September 17th, The Rome VA Clinic held a Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) Recognition Ceremony to recognize veterans who were captured as prisoners of war and to remember those who are still missing in action.



FT. DRUM RETIREE DAY

The Fort Drum retiree day was held on 28 August 2021. Major General Milford H. Beagle Jr., Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum presided over the festivities. Various displays of current military vehicles were available, as well as several informational booths regarding retiree benefits and information, such as TRICARE for Life, legal assistance, pharmacy utilization, etc. Members Bill and Lori Hamelin attended.



FT. DRUM LEGAL OFFICE OFFERRING ASSISTANCE WITH WILLS, HEALTHCARE PROXIES, LIVING WILLS, AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Military retirees, don't forget you can obtain, at no cost to you, wills, healthcare proxy/living wills, and Power of Attorneys from the Ft. Drum Legal office, located at Clark Hall, 10720 Mt. Belvedere Blvd., Ft. Drum, NY 13602. The number to make an appointment is: 315-772-5261.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

If any veteran is in need of help, they can contact the Veterans Crisis Line at: 800-273-8255, press 1, or by text at: 838255, or by chat at: veteranscrisisline.net/chat.

DOD TRAVEL INFORMATION

The Department of Defense has established an official DOD sponsored/sanctioned web page that retirees can access for reduced prices with air flights, hotels, etc. The American Forces Travel page is located at this address:

<https://www.americanforcetravel.com/>

After you select your hotel, flight, etc., and before it lets you proceed further, it will ask for some information to verify your eligibility (through ID.ME). Once your eligibility has been approved it will allow you to proceed. DOD has a contract through Priceline to provide discounts for military personnel and retirees.

ONEIDA COUNTY VETERANS REPRESENTATIVES

If you need to file a VA compensation claim, and live in Oneida County, please contact the Oneida County Veterans Service Office located within the Rome VA clinic. Representatives Joseph Perrone, and Dan Gowey are available to assist veterans through this complex process. If you have any questions regarding a medical condition that was incurred through military service, primary or secondary injuries, and wondering if filing a claim would be proper, please call or stop by their office and they will be happy to assist. Please inform your spouses, that if you, as the veteran, die from a service-connected injury, they may be entitled to Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments. They can also call or stop by for a quick determination if they qualify for these monthly payments.

Contact Information is: 315-798-5830, or jperrone@ocgov.net

LEGISLATIVE

LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR VETERANS' DURING THE 117TH CONGRESS (2021-2022)

VICE PRESIDENT GREG BERTOLINI

Bills sponsored by Rep. Tenney:

H.R. 5264 To expand eligibility for certain burial benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3923 Remembering Our Local Heroes Act.

Bills co-sponsored by Rep. Tenney:

H.R. 3405 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a week as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R.1448 Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members for Veterans Therapy Act. **Became Public Law No: 117-37 on 08/25/2021.** (Also Co-Sponsored by 21 NY Representatives including Rep. Malliotakis (R-NY11), Rep. Stefanik (R-NY21), and Rep. Delgado (D-NY19)).

H.R. 3586 Veteran Education Empowerment Act.

H.R. 2391 Veterans Fellowship Act.

H. Resolution 268 Recognizing the patriotism and contributions of veterans service organizations.

H.R. 1355 K2 Veterans Care Act of 2021.

H.R. 2436 Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021 *****ADVOCACY IN ACTION*****

H.R. 2800 WINGMAN Act

H.R. 1476 PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act

H.R. 1282 Major Richard Star Act

H.R. 2127 TEAM Act

H.R. 852 United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act

H.R. 1057 National World War II Memorial Commemorative Coin Act

H.R. 3642 Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act. **Became Public Law 117-38 on 08/25/2021.** (Also Co-Sponsored by 21 NY Representatives including Rep. Malliotakis (R-NY11), Rep. Stefanik (R-NY21), and Rep. Delgado (D-NY19)).

Bills co-sponsored by Sen. Schumer:

S. 810 Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021

S. 1147 Retired Pay Restoration Act

S. 692 Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021

S. 346 Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021

S. Resolution 125 A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

Bills sponsored by Sen. Gillibrand:

S. 1313 Honoring All Veterans Act of 2021

S. 952 Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021 *****ADVOCACY IN ACTION*****

Bills co-sponsored by Sen. Gillibrand:

S. 1280 Veteran Families Health Services Act of 2021

S. 544 A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1708 Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2021

S. 657 A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 344 Major Richard Star Act

S. 727 CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act of 2021

S. 346 Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021

S. 1915 ACE Veterans Act

S. 1872 United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act

S. 1079 Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Congressional Gold Medal Act

S. Resolution 275 A resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the mistreatment of, and discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who served the United States in the Armed Forces, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service.

S. 1532 Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act of 2021

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE LINES BEING RE-DRAWN

Subsequent to the 2020 Census results, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) began its work to redesign legislative district boundaries that will affect State and Federal legislative boundaries for the next 10 years. The IRC is a 10-member body created by New York voters comprised of the following members:

David Imamura, Chair
Eugene Benger
John Conway
John Flateau
Charles Nesbitt

Jack Martins, Vice Chair
Ross Brady
Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina
Elaine Frazier
Willis Stephens Jr.

For any questions, please contact:

Douglas Breakell, Co-Executive Director, breakelld@nyirc.gov
Karen Blatt, Co-Executive Director, blattk@nyirc.gov

IRC Members are selected based on these rules: Two are appointed by the New York State Senate Majority Leader and Temporary President, two are appointed by the New York State Senate Minority Leader, two are appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and two are appointed by the New York State Assembly Minority Leader. The final two members are then selected by these eight appointees. Neither can be enrolled as a Democrat or Republican in the past five years. Additionally, appointing authorities have consulted with organizations devoted to protecting the voting rights of minority and other voters concerning their appointments. The Commission members must be registered voters in New York State.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4(c) of the New York State Constitution, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (the “Commission”) will hold a series of fourteen public hearings across the state to receive feedback on its draft redistricting plan for state legislative and congressional election districts.

The first meetings of the IRC were held virtually on August 15th. The resulting ‘maps’ were released on September 15th. The IRC will now begin review / comment sessions throughout the state where residents can testify relating to the proposed legislative maps. **The schedule of IRC Public Hearings in our area follows below.** At completion of the public hearings the IRC will vote on and certify the new district maps prior to their presentation to the NYS Legislature for review and approval.

Southern Tier

Monday, October 25 4:00pm

Binghamton University (SUNY) **Innovative Technologies Complex** 85 Murray Hill Road

Vestal, New York 13850

Syracuse

Tuesday, October 26 4:00pm

Syracuse University College of Law **Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom** Dineen Hall, 950 Irving Ave Syracuse, New York 13210

Albany

Monday, November 1 4:00pm

University at Albany (SUNY) **Page Hall – Downtown Campus** 135 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203

To stay updated on this process sign up at www.nyirc.gov and stay connected with the IRC on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

GRUC-MOAA DUES STATEMENT

Please renew your 2021 membership by October 30, 2020 by sending your check, payable to **GRUCMOAA, to GRUCMOAA Treasurer, 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 Membership

_____ \$10.00 Active Duty/Guard/Reserve Membership

_____ \$10.00 Auxiliary Membership

Widow/Widower of a member or qualifying individual

_____ \$5.00 Auxiliary Non-Attendee Membership

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

***2021 Dues Enclosed:** \$ _____ **<or> Life Membership Dues:** \$ _____

Prior Year Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

***Total Dues Enclosed:** \$ _____

***Check Number:** _____

GRUCMOAA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE:

Age (in 2021)	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!

GRUC-MOAA Merchandise

Polo Shirts: High quality short sleeved shirts provided by A&P Master Images on Water St. Utica, NY. MasterYourImage.com. Made to order in quantities as low as 1 shirt.

Three options:

- 1) Shirt with embroidered GRUCMOAA Logo. Logo on left breast.
- 2) Shirt with embroidered GRUCMOAA Logo on left, Member Name, Rank, Branch, and Status on right.
- 3) Shirt with embroidered GRUCMOAA Logo on left, embroidered American Flag on left sleeve, Member Name, Rank, Branch, and Status on right.



Sample Option 3) Costs less than \$25.00:

2.5" x 5" Vinyl Decals (apply to outside of surface): \$3.00 each

2.5" x 5" Static Cling Decals (apply to inside of surface): \$3.00 each

2" x 3.5" Business Card sized magnet: \$1.00 each

- Sample for decals, static cling, and magnet:



Challenge Coins: \$8.00 each



- Sample Front and Back of the coin: