



Fort George G. Meade Chapter

Officers Call



Jul/Aug 2010

Presidents Message:

Greetings All!

Just this week I was proud to receive a copy of the MOAA Federal Charter which became Public Law 111-95 on 6 November 2009.

Enactment of the MOAA Federal Charter culminates more than five years of effort that began with a recommendation from the North Carolina Council of Chapters. The new charter provides council and chapter leaders access to state level veteran's advisory panels. Without the charter some states prohibited such access.

So congratulations to all of you who helped in this struggle to overcome resistance to new charters on Capitol Hill. You responded when we asked you to contact congress to ask for their support and with the help of MOAA members nation wide. We generated 140 bi-partisan cosponsors for the House bill and 41 co-sponsors for the Senate measure. We will certainly highlight this hard earned achievement at an upcoming luncheon.

SAVE THE DATE: Your Board of Directors will meet on Saturday, 17 July at 10am at the golf course club house. Our focus will be planning for the Fall and early Spring luncheons and we would love TO HEAR FROM YOU! Please consider joining us to learn about our many activities or offer suggestions for future speakers etc. I attend the meeting primarily for the for the great pancake breakfast...join me?

Jim Pede
Chapter President

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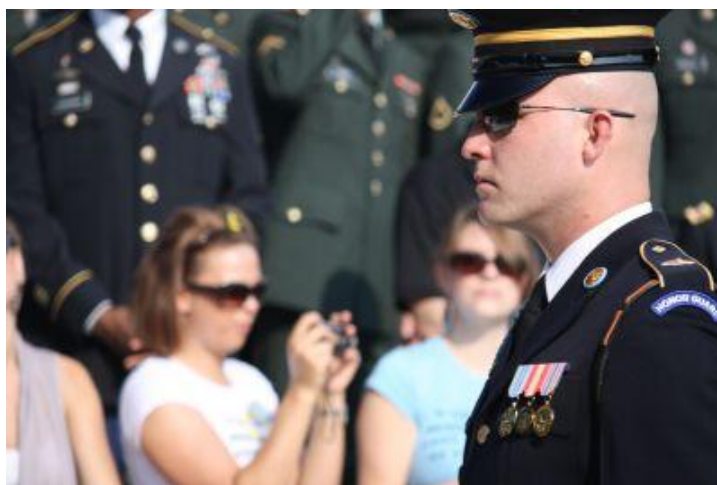
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Soldiers and visitors observe the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns watch during Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2010, at Arlington National Cemetery. (Army/ANC photo by Public Affairs Specialist Jacqueline Leeker/Released) (Photo by U.S. Army)



The 3d U.S. Infantry conducts a Changing of the Guard, at the Tomb of the Unknowns, during Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2010, at Arlington National Cemetery. (Army/ANC photo by Public Affairs Specialist Jacqueline Leeker/Released) (Photo by U.S. Army)

In Memory LTC Joseph D. Cover, USA-Retired

LTC Cover passed away peacefully at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on Saturday May 1st after an extended illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Kathleen “Kae” Cover. Internment was at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday June 4th. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorial donations in Joe’s memory may be made to the: Officers Christian Fellowship, 3784 South Inca, Englewood Co 80110-3405.

Honor Flight

“Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. Now, with over one thousand World War II veterans dying each day, our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.

Members of the Maryland Council of Chapters, including your Webmaster, are among a small group of volunteers who meet these heroes as they arrive at BWI Airport for their trip to the World War II Monument, Arlington Cemetery, and other monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C. We stand on the curb and clap as they go by,” then we escort them to the actual curb and send their bus off with another cheer and a salute from the active duty (and some retired) folks on hand. Later in the day, some of us meet the bus on its return to BWI, and help the Veterans and their Guardians get through security and down to their gate. This does not include escorting the Veterans to DC – they bring their own “Guardians” for that (usually one-to-one). We just make sure they feel welcome at the airport on their arrival and departure. The airlines give us Gate Access Passes so we can go down to the gate. Honor flights arrive at BWI six or seven times a week - usually on Saturday mornings. Please call Jim Shiffrin at 410-766-5732 for more information. The web site for Honor Flight is: <http://www.honorflight.org>

Operation Welcome Home

Since March 2007, Operation Welcome Home volunteers have greeted over 250 flights and more than 60,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. We invite you to come on out and help us welcome them home! Upcoming flights can be found with a visit to the following web site: <http://www.operationwelcomehomemd.org/> since dates and times change frequently, please call 410-630-1555 for the latest schedule information. We meet in the lower level of BWI Airport, at the International arrivals door. Parking will be validated. Chapter POC: Jim Shiffrin, 410-766-5732.

ROTC/JROTC Awards

The chapter presented MOAA awards to the following schools this past spring: AFROTC at the University of Maryland, Army ROTC at Bowie State University. We also presented JROTC medals at the following area high schools: Atholton HS, Howard County HS, and Oakland Mills HS all three in Columbia, MD; Meade HS, Laurel HS, Woodlawn HS, and Milford Mill Academy. Many thanks go to our chapter volunteers who took time from their schedules to make presentations to a deserving cadet. If you are interested in presenting an award next year please contact Jim Pede for more information. Get involved in the community and the chapter!

Legislative - MOAA Talking Points Captain Norm Henry Taylor, USN-Retired

At the most recent MOAA Maryland Council meeting, Captain Dave Peterson from the Montgomery County Chapter provided the following legislative talking points on MOAA. Keep this information handy whether you are discussing legislation with State or Congressional representatives and their staff.

7th largest in membership (and largest in MOAA Region 1)...12,889
12th for total number of military retirees...51,258
15th for number of military retirees age 65 or older...17,887
12th for number on active duty...25,836
13th for the number of SBP annuitants...6,200
12th for the number of annuitants affected by the offset...1,346
13th for the number of disabled military retirees affected by the offset...12,899
9th for the total number of Tricare eligibles...226,972

Data are as of the end on FY09 and were those included in the background/prep material for this most recent "Storming of the Hill" event.

TOPS Corner LCDR Jason Harris, Chapter TOPS Officer, USNR, JAH100@gmail.com

Thursday, August 19th – Recruit Military at M&T Bank Stadium
1101 Russell Street
Baltimore, MD 21230 11 AM – 3 PM, **Veteran Focused**
www2.recruitmilitary.com/expos

Thursday August 26th – Military.com at Four Points Sheraton BWI
7032 Elm Road
Lithicum, MD 21240 10 AM – 2 PM, **Professional**
www.military.com

Friday, August 27th – Transition Careers, Pentagon
Pentagon Conference Ctr (Conference Room B)
Pentagon, (Arlington, VA) 10 AM – 2 PM
Military & Civilians with Pentagon ID www.transitioncareers.com

USO Book Drive

The USO book drive continues at BWI airport. So far in 2010 the chapter has donated over 900 paperback books and magazines and nearly \$200 in food/snack donations. Thanks for your support and keep up the good work.

William Holloman, Army's First Black Helicopter Pilot by Associated Press, Boston
Globe June 21, 2010

RENTON, Wash. — A man from Washington State who became the Army's first black helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War has died. William H. Holloman, a Tuskegee airman in World War II who also served in Vietnam, was 85.

The Tuskegee Airmen association said Thursday that Mr. Holloman died June 11 in Renton after suffering a heart attack. He was a St. Louis native who lived in Kent. As an 18-year-old, Mr. Holloman entered the Army Air Corps and trained with the all-black program at the Tuskegee, Ala., Army Flying School. Tuskegee Airmen said that after the war, Mr. Holloman worked as a commercial pilot but was recalled in 1966 to serve in Vietnam.

Notable Quotes

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
Dwight D. Eisenhower

"I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate." George Burns

Last WWII Code Talker Dies Los Angeles Times, Pg, 16, June 24, 2010

The last of the American Indian code talkers of South Dakota who served during World War II has been laid to rest. Clarence Wolf Guts of Wanblee was buried Tuesday in Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis. The 86-year-old died June 16 at the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

Wolf Guts was one of 11 Lakota, Nakota and Dakota code talkers from South Dakota. During the war, they transmitted messages from an Army general to his chief of staff in the field using their native language, which the Germans and the Japanese could not translate.

A Reminder – Chapter Dues

Your mailing label has a date in the lower left hand corner. If the date listed is 12/31/2009 or earlier your dues are now payable for the 2010 year. Annual chapter dues are \$12 for one year or 3 years for \$30. Auxiliary dues are \$5 per year.

Upcoming Schedule of Events for remainder of 2010

Board Meeting: The Courses Clubhouse Sat July 17th at 10 am

Luncheon: Thursday September 16th, 2010 at Club Meade, 11:30 am

Luncheon: Thursday November 18th Club Meade 11:30 am



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Daniel Meegan, right, the 1st Platoon leader with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army Europe, hands a young girl a pencil after sharpening it for her with his knife in the village of Chino 2, Zabul province, Afghanistan, outside Forward Operating Base Baylough June 21, 2010. Delta Company deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Eric Cabral (Photo by U.S. Army)

**The Fort George G. Meade Chapter
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We're on the web