



Military Officers Association *of* America

Montgomery County MD Chapter

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4th Monday of the Month -- Regular scheduled meeting of the Chapter executive group. The chapter meets for dinner at 1900 hours on the fourth Monday of the month. The business meeting starts at 1930. The meeting is generally at the Broadway Diner at 895 Rockville Pike and is open to any member who would like to participate in chapter deliberations. Contact a chapter officer prior to attending to confirm the date and location.

11 January Luncheon - The next luncheon is scheduled to take place at the N. Bethesda Marriott. Mike Lenett, State Senator District 19 (Montgomery County) will be the speaker.

<p>Meritage Restaurant at Bethesda North Marriott 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852 Dining Style: Casual Elegant Cuisine: Tapas / Small Plates, American Website: http://tinyurl.com/24qc72 Phone: (301) 822-9234</p>
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Mr. Lenett has been a member of the Senate since January 10, 2007 and is serving on a number of committees to include: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs; Environment Subcommittee; Ethics & Election Law; Chair, Special Committee on Renewables & Clean Energy; Joint Committee on Federal Relations; Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing; Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission; State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life; Task Force to Implement Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights and Tolerance Education.

Mr. Lenett was born in New York, New York, February 24, 1962. He attended Brandeis University, B.A.1984; Georgetown University, M.A. (American government), 1988; Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1988; LL.M. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1989.

We would appreciate your confirmation of attendance by 7 January to allow planning. The event will be \$21.00 per person. Vice President, Colonel Harvey T. Kaplan, at

kaplan@starpower.net will be the Point Of Contact for this event. Alternatively, use the E-mail address posted in the banner. Parking tickets are validated in the restaurant.

Chapter News

Luncheon - 7 September 2007 Secretary James A. Adkins, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs was the featured speaker. The following were some of the Secretary's main points:

The Federal Government has directed \$17M into Veterans Cemeteries in Maryland.

The Federal Government is examining the need for civilian beds for veterans in private facilities due to the distance of Charlotte Hall (<http://www.charhall.org/>) from many parts of the State. Charlotte Hall provides nursing care to eligible veterans. Charlotte Hall is in Southern Maryland and has a capacity of 500 occupants. Currently, it has 360 occupants.

OFFICERS

President

LCDR Art Glover
USN Ret

Past President

CAPT Jim Campbell
USAF Ret

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LTC William Wight
USAF (Ret)

2nd VP

Col Harvey T. Kaplan
USA Ret

Secretary

Col G. R. Surman
AUS

Treasurer

CAPT Tony Mitchell
USN Ret

The plans are coming within a year for a monument for women veterans of Maryland.

Maryland death benefits for military are now \$125K per family. This represents a substantial increase from recent years. A total of 8 applications are now in the system.

Secretary Adkins noted that there will be a new "benefits orientation" geared to veteran users on the Department's web site. It also will be introduced in State print publications for veterans. The concept is that people shouldn't have to dig for information. A challenge for the Department of Veterans Affairs (<http://tinyurl.com/2okqcy>) is that not all of the benefits at the State level are managed by the Department (e.g., some are health and licensing matters).

There are between 460,000 and 470,000 veterans in Maryland. Less than 100,000 belong to veterans organizations. Even so, most of the veterans who are organizational members are not active in those organizations. The Secretary's challenge is to "get the word out" on important matters to all veterans in Maryland.

Federal Disability Compensation in Maryland is lower than in most other states. The Secretary wants to determine out how to get veterans to request assistance in filing claims for such compensation from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Federal military retirees in Maryland (something under 50,000 in number) pump almost \$1B into the Maryland economy annually. The Secretary noted that only \$530M in benefits is paid by the State to this group.

Luncheon - 9 November 2007 - The Chapter social featured Frederic A. Lass, Major, Transportation (USAR). He discussed his recent call-up to Kuwait. His assignment was Group Maintenance Officer, 336th Transportation Group, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Major Lass was given 10 days to report to Camp Attabury for training. Training consisted of just 26 days of refresher training with weapons, rules of war and specific information on his assignment. From the temperate climate of the US, the Major was then transported to Kuwait and 125 degree temperatures.

Major Lass was assigned to a long haul transportation brigade that supplied material from the Kuwait ports to areas that extended to the northernmost regions of Iraq. Critical concerns in his maintenance assignment were obtaining parts and resolving recurring maintenance issues. Of the 3000 vehicles in the Brigade, some 100 were deadlined for various reasons at any one time. An additional ongoing assignment was the armor upgrading of vehicles with the corresponding need to upgrade vehicle undercarriages and suspensions to handle the increasing weight.



9 November Luncheon

When asked what were the biggest problems for the unit he replied: Improvised Explosive Devices and bad roads. Major Lass enthralled his audience with some humorous tales as well as stories of serious incidents that occurred during his tour. In all, he reflected that he gained much from the tour and was grateful for the experience.

Election of 2008 Officers - At the 7 November luncheon the 2008 slate of Chapter officers was presented to the members present and a vote taken. The elected officers include: President Col Harvey T. Kaplan USA Ret; Past President LCDR Art Glover USN Ret; 1st VP LCDR Art Glover USN Ret; 2nd VP CAPT Dave H. Peterson NOAA; Secretary Col G. R. Surman AUS; Treasurer CAPT Tony Mitchell USN Ret.

Youth Leadership Programs - The Chapter, in conjunction with the Military Order of the World Wars, has voted to sponsor sending a Rockville High School student(s) to a leadership program. Programs are held at Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, PA - 10-13 April 2008 (\$420 per student) and St. John's College, Annapolis, MD - June 2008 (\$250 per student).

MOAA members wishing to make tax deductible contributions to this program may write checks payable to the "Captain James Morris Patriotic Education Account." (In the notes/remarks line on the check: write "Mont Co. MOAA Scholarship.") Mail the check to the Chapter's Post Office box.

Walter Reed Initiative - The Walter Reed Hospital has expressed interest in the Chapter hosting a dinner for wounded soldiers and families. The Chapter will investigate a February date and the logistics involved. Cynthia Rome of Army Community Services at Walter Reed states that, absolutely, Walter Reed Hospital does need the Chapter's help for hosting a weekend evening dinner for wounded personnel recuperating at WRAMC and their family members. This will represent a commitment of

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our Chapter in terms of people and dollars. Members interested in participating please contact one of the chapter officers.

Chapter Roster - A vote was taken of the members at the 9 November luncheon on the desirability of disseminating a Chapter roster to each member. The vote was positive for the dissemination. The roster, it is hoped, will foster a closer relationship of members and aid chapter functions by the availability of car pooling and general coordination. The roster will have the minimum information and should not be disseminated to outside interests.

MOAA Benefits Information

MOAA Priorities - MOAA is active in advancing solutions to military issues. Click on the headings for One-page summaries of issues and key bills that most effect Active Duty and Guard/Reserve members:

MOAA supports improving Reserve retirement system. (<http://tinyurl.com/387qer>)

MOAA supports more robust health care. (<http://tinyurl.com/2solph>)

National Guard and Reserve Service Incentives. (<Http://tinyurl.com/2m5lbo>)

What's being done to create a Total Force GI bill.(<Http://tinyurl.com/2pwxo2>)

Basic pay must be reasonably comparable with private sector pay. (<http://tinyurl.com/2uk6rw>)

Force strengths to match operational requirements. (<http://tinyurl.com/3c3xx3>)

Increase allowances to fully reimburse member expenses. (<http://tinyurl.com/38pj6o>)

More support is needed for families left behind. (<http://tinyurl.com/2qfebh>)

Of Interest

Exchange Gift Cards Now Reciprocal - Customers at Navy Exchanges, Marine Corps Exchanges and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) stores, can now redeem their exchange gift cards at any of the three military exchange systems according to a joint announcement by the three exchange services, Nov. 1. Shoppers can buy the gift cards in amounts up to \$500 at exchange stores worldwide. They also can purchase gift cards from AAFES and Navy Exchanges online at <http://www.aafes.com> and <http://www.navy-nex.com> respectively. (The Marine Corps does not sell exchange gift cards online.) --- Armed Forces News

LINKS

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BRAC Web Site - For information associated with the implementation of base reduction activities that affects the Bethesda Navy Hospital and other Maryland sites.

[Http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRAC/index.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRAC/index.asp)

Guard/Reserve Issues - The most recent information on Guard and Reserve legislative bills. (<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>)

Take a Tour of MOAA's Redesigned Web Site - MOAA is proud to announce the 2007 redesign of its web site. (<http://www.moaa.org/>)

Profiles of Valor

Staff Sgt. Fetty - Khost City Hospital in Afghanistan was celebrating its grand opening on 20 February 2007 when chaos erupted. Shortly after the ribbon was cut, patients, nurses and doctors began running from the hospital. Among the familiar faces, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Jason Fetty noticed a man in a lab coat whom he did not recognize and immediately took action. Fetty shouted at the man to stop and then lured him away from the crowd. The man was wearing a suicide vest. The jihadi attempted to take Fetty's weapon which Fetty was reluctant to fire because of the proximity of innocents. Eventually, further away from the crowd, Fetty secured his M-16 and opened fire, twice hitting the attacker once in the leg and once in the stomach. In spite of his wounds, the attacker detonated his vest, just as Fetty ran and dove for cover. The sergeant took shrapnel to the face and leg, but no one else was injured. For his quick thinking and bravery, Fetty was awarded the Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

INSIGHT

In 1787 the president of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington, amid petty bickering and maneuvering for political advantage, admonished the delegates: "If to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disapprove, how can we afterwards defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest may repair."

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." - Thomas Jefferson

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well armed lamb contesting the vote." - Benjamin Franklin

"Heroes aren't athletes who set new sports records or Hollywood actors who make 'daring' films, or politicians who make bold promises. Heroes are people who place themselves at risk for the benefit of others." — Oliver North



Purple Heart recipients and National Guardsmen unveil special nose art on a Mississippi Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III during an aircraft naming and dedication ceremony Nov. 20 at the 172nd Airlift Wing in Jackson, Miss. The wing routinely flies aeromedical evacuation missions from Iraq to Germany, and then on to the U.S. Aircrews have transported more than 19,000 patients since the wing's mobilization for the mission in October 2005. (U.S. Air Force photo - Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith)