



Thanks to all of you for making 2017 – our 45th year of operations -- another great year!
President Joe Maurer

It is gratifying to look back on the accomplishments of our organization over the last 12 months. Through our dues, contributions of individual members, and fundraising efforts we were able to:

- Support our 3 JROTC units and 1 NDCC unit with \$2,450 in scholarships and awards, and another \$2,925 in grants for training and educational events.
- Continue sponsorship of the “Armed Forces Outstanding Enlistee Award” to the Rome Free Academy senior with the highest GPE/ASVAB score entering active duty upon graduation, and expanded this program to T.R. Proctor High School and Central Valley Academy.
- Sponsor another great “Burger Burn” for the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) students during their summer Cyber Security Course at AFRL Griffiss.
- Provide financial assistance to Fort Stanwix Chapter, Daughters of The American Revolution; Vietnam Veterans Association of America #944; Honor Flight Syracuse; Rome Marines Veterans’ Center; and Rome Veterans’ Council for their events and fundraisers.

Just as important as our financial support is our volunteer service to the community:

In the past year we increased our Rome VA Clinic volunteer force from 3 to 4 chapter members. Under the leadership of Director Bill Hamelin, we have made a big impact at the clinic which regularly serves over 7,000 veterans. Bill’s team enrolls veterans in various on-line programs designed to give them personal control over their health care.

Bill's success in this effort has been so outstanding that we are the only volunteer clinic team, among the 7 in the Syracuse, NY VA Hospital Area, authorized to enroll veterans in "Veler", a program that allows electronic exchange of veterans' health data between the VA and private providers.

Among our other volunteer activities is our very successful Wreaths Across America program. We will celebrate WWA 2017 at 6 area cemeteries on Saturday, December 16 at 12 Noon. This year's event will focus on World War I vets and it promises to be every bit as popular as last year's when some 1,485 wreaths were placed. This volunteer effort, also our biggest fundraiser, brings together up to 20 area organizations and some 240 other volunteers in honoring our deceased heroes. Founded, organized and directed by Past President Bob Haley, its success has been chronicled in *Military Officer* magazine and is the envy of every chapter in the state.

Keep in mind that all we do, not only benefits our community, but, also supports our primary mission to advocate for the currently serving, retired, and former members of the military, their families, and survivors.

Because of your active membership, we have again been named a MOAA Four Star Level of Excellence Chapter, recognizing our outstanding success for the fourth consecutive year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at The New Hartford American Legion. You're going to like it!

Best wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season,

Joe

**Wreaths Across America
in Rome on December 16, 2017**

Past President Bob Haley

The Greater Rome Utica Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America continues participation in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) tribute to deceased veterans. Remembrance wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves at Rome Cemetery, St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, St. John's Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Westernville Cemetery on December 16, 2017 following short ceremonies commencing at Noon. Local participants in the ceremonies are: school choruses,

students, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC cadets from RFA and Proctor High School, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Patriot Riders, confirmation classes from St. Peter's and St. John's churches, St. John's Youth Group, business volunteers, State and Municipal elected officials, local musicians, EADS Color Guard, various veteran organization Color Guards. It is the GRUCMOAA mission to involve as many of our local youth as possible.

Last year six cemeteries participated, GRUCMOAA was able to honor 1,100 veterans with a remembrance wreath. A brochure for each cemetery was prepared identifying the military exploits of several of the veterans honored.

Raising over \$5,000, this fundraiser ensures GRUCMOAA can continue to support the JROTC scholarships given at RFA, Proctor, Notre Dame, and now at Central Valley Academy; to finance summer training at Newport, RI for JROTC cadets, and to sponsor local veterans on both Syracuse Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.. GRUCMOAAs community involvement efforts would not be possible without the WAA program. The number of current dues paid members has decreased year over year, despite our efforts to contact members via email, postal mail, and phone contact.

- To have another successful year, we encourage members to step up and support this program again. Help is needed soliciting local businesses to sponsor wreaths, distributing flyers around town announcing the event, seeking individual sponsors, getting organizations and individuals to participate in the ceremonies, and by making brochures for each cemetery.
- Solicitation letters on Chapter letterhead are available to anyone interested in being involved recruiting businesses or individuals. We prefer that requests are made in person. Contact GRUCMOAA Treasurer Bob Haley if you can help in any way, or have suggestions on local businesses that may be willing to participate.
- For our members still actively working, if you participate with a donation, please check with your employer. They may offer matching funds for your contribution.
- Contributions to date have been received from: Varflex (\$500), Stewart's Shops (\$750), Wal-Mart Distribution Center-Marcy (2,5000), BAE Systems (\$500), Key Bank (\$250), Rome Teachers Credit Union (\$150), Dipping Donuts (\$250), Kris Tech (\$100), Worthing Industries (\$150), USAA (\$300), and Cathedral Corporation (\$100).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Haley

- The treasury began 2017 with \$8,922.24. Current balance on October 31st is \$7,104.67.
- On the expense side, the biggest expenditures have been \$2,100 for scholarships/awards to the three JROTC units and one NDCC unit, \$1,925 for Proctor and Notre Dame cadets to attend Leadership Training in Newport, RI., \$500 for Proctor cadets to attend the National Academic competition in Washington, D.C., and \$500 for RFA cadets' participation in a Leader Walk at Gettysburg.
- Any other request to help the JROTC programs or other veteran organizations can also be considered. Please submit the requests in writing (email is fine) to President Maurer for discussion at the BoD meetings held at Spresso's.

Legislative Report

Co-chairs Tony Kimball and Bill Gray, Jr.

■ CLAUDIA TENNEY, US REPRESENTATIVE, NEW YORK'S 22ND DISTRICT

- Tenney Votes "NO" on 2018 Budget

On Thursday, October 29th, Rep. Tenney voted against the passage of the 2018 Budget, which included a provision supporting the elimination the state and local tax deduction (SALT).

Eliminating the SALT deduction will unfairly burden over 62,000 people in the 22nd District and strip hardworking families of their only real tax relief. Tax reform is key to unleashing our economy, bringing back jobs and creating growth. However, eliminating the SALT deduction will hurt Upstate families, who are already struggling under Albany's gross mismanagement and skyrocketing taxes. In Albany, I stood up to both parties to fight for my constituents, and I'll continue to stand up for them in Washington against the political elite. This is an historic opportunity to pass a comprehensive tax reform plan that truly levels the playing field, and we must get it right. I will continue to fight for a plan that decreases the tax burden for all of the hardworking New York families and small business owners I represent.

The budget passed the House by a vote of 216-212.

(This means the SALT deduction will be eliminated.)

- Iran Deal

This week, I spoke on the floor to support the President's informed decision to decertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to develop, for the first time, a holistic strategy to address the Iranian menace. The flawed deal with Iran has done nothing to stem that rogue nation's aggression and misbehavior domestically, in the Middle East, and throughout the globe. Quite to the contrary, by front-loading the benefits to Iran, the JCPOA is funding these destabilizing and dangerous activities. Iran has shown no signs that it is interested in pursuing peace or even curbing its malevolent behaviors. Chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" continue as Iran rapidly develops its missile program and engages in proxy-conflicts with the U.S. and our allies. I thank the President for his proactive position and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House on this important national security issue.

- October 29th Newsletter link: [Rep Tenney October 29th Newsletter](#)
- November 5th Newsletter link: [Rep Tenney November 5th Newsletter](#)

- **Transition of membership on Congresswoman Tenney's Academy Committee**

The Officers and Directors extend their gratitude to 2nd VP / Legislative Committee Co-Chair Tony Kimball for over 12 years as a member of the Academic Committee for the 22nd Congressional District.

As Tony explained at a Spresso's meeting: "I have had the honor to be part of this committee for more than a dozen years.

It has been a richly rewarding exposure, plus a great insight into America's strength in youth.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, I am unable to provide 100% performance...a prime reason to disqualify myself from the committee."

In response to this, Director Rob Piper, CDR, USN (Ret) has stepped up to participate on this committee.

Below is the notice Tony received for the 2018 Academy Committee:

Subject: Invitation to Congresswoman Tenney's Academy Committee

Good Morning-

Congresswoman Tenney asked that I contact you to invite you to be a member of her Academy Committee. This Committee would assist her with the nomination process for those seeking a Congressional nomination to one of the military service academies (United States Military Academy at West Point; United States Naval Academy; United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy). As has been the tradition for this Congressional District for several decades, the Academy Committee will review the academics of each candidate, interview the candidate, and make recommendations to Congresswoman Tenney for those she should nominate to these academies. This is an independent, non-partisan process to ensure the fairest review and selection of this Congressional District's top students to be nominated to the academies, with this office only guiding the Committee. Congresswoman Tenney's son Trey underwent a similar review process under former Congressman Michael Arcuri when he went through the nomination process for the Naval Academy.

Typically, there are three Saturdays that will have meetings for the Committee to attend: one interview day in the New Hartford area, one interview day in the Binghamton area, and a year-end meeting, where final recommendations are made for nominations to Congresswoman Tenney. Several weeks before the interview days, each Committee member will be mailed a packet with the applications and supporting materials for each student seeking a nomination, and an academic review sheet to complete for each student.

On interview days, each interview is scheduled for 20 minutes. Our application deadline is today, October 13, and I am waiting to determine how many days we will need for interviews, and how long each day would be, and for locations, dates, and times. If we have a limited number of applications, we will try to consolidate the interviews to one day in a central location, with a year-end meeting for another day.

If you could respond to me by Wednesday, October 18 as to whether you would like to serve on Congresswoman Tenney's Academy Committee it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care.

Jason Phelps

*D. Jason Phelps
Constituent Services Director
Office of Representative Claudia Tenney (NY-22)
[555 French Road, Suite 101](#)
[New Hartford, NY 13413](#)*

■ MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ON WATCH: THE LAST HUNDRED YARDS ON THE NDA

Now is the time to act

The annual defense bill is undergoing final negotiations in conference committee, and the outcomes for many of MOAA's priorities are uncertain.

TAX LEGISLATION MAKES ITS DEBUT

Deductions on the chopping block

House Republicans unveiled their tax bill, and MOAA is analyzing how the proposals could affect servicemembers.

FEMALE VETERANS AT GREATER RISK FOR HEALTH ISSUES THAN CIVILIAN WOMEN

Health of Women Who Have Served Report release

MOAA partnered with the United Health Foundation to conduct a study of the health of women in the service. This fantastic study revealed important things for the DoD and VA to consider.

MOAA NAMED TOP LOBBYIST FOR 11TH STRAIGHT YEAR

The Hill newspaper releases 2017 rankings

In a tumultuous legislative year, MOAA has once again earned a spot among the top lobbying organizations on Capitol Hill. MOAA is honored to receive the recognition for our efforts to Never Stop Serving.

AFTER 18 MONTHS OF STUDY, VA DELAYS ADDING NEW 'AO' ILLNESS

Tom Philpott's Weekly Military Update

The decision to punt long-anticipated decisions on Agent Orange-related ailments will disappointment thousands of aging veterans.

Coming soon: The MOAA Newsletter!

You talked, we listened

We know your email inbox is inundated on a daily basis. We can help. Our revamped newsletter, The MOAA Newsletter, will allow you to hear from us as much or as little as you would like. In the coming weeks we will provide you with more information about how and when you can customize your newsletter experience. Keep an eye out for

future announcements.

VA CHANGES AFFECT SOME TFL USERS

How the changes proposed will affect you.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PARTNERS WITH WALGREENS

Director Bill Hamelin

Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination at no cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: VAFLU

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENs (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.

To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

T.R. PROCTOR NJROTC UPDATE

CDR David Buchholz, USN (Ret)

Upcoming events are:

- November 11: West Point Football game trip – 41 cadets
- December 16: Drill Meet - @Notre Dame High School
- December 16: Wreaths Across America support
- January 11-13: Gaithersburg Drill Meet/Annapolis Visit – 36 Cadets

- January 27: Area 4 Regional Drill Competition - @Proctor High School

Proctor NJROTC website: <https://sites.google.com/view/proctornjrotc>

Upcoming GRUCMOAA Events

1stVP/Webmaster Greg Bertolini

- December 3, 2017: 1300 hrs. Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner at The New Hartford American Legion, Clinton St, New Hartford, NY.
- December 16, 2017: 1200 hrs. Wreaths Across America memorials at Rome Cemetery, St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, St. John's Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Westernville Cemetery.

2018 Calendar of Events

1stVP/Webmaster Greg Bertolini

- April 4, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Delmonico's
- May 28, 2018: 1000-1200 hrs. Veterans Park in Rome, on Memorial Day.
- June 6, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Vescio's Franklin Hotel.
- June 13, 2018: 1730-1930 hrs. Burger Burn with AFRL ACE Students, Hampton Inn - Floyd Ave, Rome, NY.
- June 14, 2018: Flag Day ceremony at Peter Gansevoort Elementary School, Rome, NY.
- July 4, 2018: We encourage all to support their local community celebration of our 242 years of independence.
- July 11, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Lake Delta Yacht Club.
- August 12, 2018: 1300 hrs. Annual GRUC Picnic, / Tille Residence, Old Forge, NY.
- September 5, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Vescio's Franklin Hotel.
- October 3, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Raspberries of Utica.
- November 7, 2018: 1700-2045 hrs. Member / Guest dinner at Casa Too Mucha.
- December 2, 2018: Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner at TBD.

This year we'll be at a new venue, The New Hartford American Legion Post 1376 at 8616 Clinton St, New Hartford, NY 13413.

A buffet dinner will be served which will include:

- Ziti
- Meatballs
- Sausage & Peppers
- Roast Beef w/Aujus Sauce
- Utica Greens
- Roasted Potatoes
- Rolls and butter
- Fresh Garden Salad w/dressing
- Coffee or tea and Dessert
- Red or White wine with dinner
- Apple Pie A-La-Mode

Military member dress is Mess Dress, Class 'A' or business formal, guest dress is business formal. Cost is ONLY \$30.00 per person (\$25.00 Active Duty), and guests are welcome. The dinner will also be open to the public. Note: price includes buffet meal listed above 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 **Wednesday, November 29th**, 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!

JROTC Color Guard Presents the Colors

The Color Guard from one of the JROTC programs will open our formal ceremonies. 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 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 several WWII and Korean War soldiers 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 \$400 along with some gifts were donated to The House of the Good Shepherd that brought great joy to the recipients. Please remember the young children trying to adapt to the challenges this world puts before them.



Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner Reservation

Sunday, December 3, 2017

RSVP by Wednesday November 29, 2017

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

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Guest Names: _____

Total Dinners: _____ @ \$ 30.00 per person* = \$ _____

*\$25.00 per person for **Active Duty Military**

Holiday Wreaths for a Veteran Gravesite @ \$15 each = \$ _____

Note: Make wreaths checks payable to Wreaths Across America

2018 DUES STATEMENT

Please renew your 2018 membership by November 29, 2017 by sending your check, payable to **GRUC – MOAA, to Treasurer Bob Haley at 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 member

_____ \$10.00 Active Duty/Guard/Reserve

_____ \$10.00 Auxiliary Member

Widow/Widower of a member or qualifying individual

_____ \$5.00 Auxiliary Member

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

***2018 Dues Enclosed: \$** _____ **Life Membership Dues: \$** _____

Prior Year Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

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

GRUCMOAA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE:

Age (in 2018)	Membership Fee
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50 and under:	\$300
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51 to 55:	\$282
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56 to 60:	\$265
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61 to 65:	\$242
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66 to 70:	\$213
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71 to 75:	\$184
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76 to 80:	\$153
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81 to 85:	\$118
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86 and over:	FREE!
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