

Chapter member Janet Oglesby observes (from back right) as chapter members Maj. Rick Williams, USA (Ret), and Maj. Carl A. Nunziato, USA (Ret), play video games with students in 2019.



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT Mahoning and Shenango Valleys (Ohio) Chapter

Meeting the Needs of Student Veterans



Student veterans at Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio have a state-of-the-art space on campus. The Carl A. Nunziato Veterans Resource Center includes a lounge, televisions and video games, a community room, computer labs, and a kitchenette stocked with donated snacks.

It opened in September 2014 thanks to the efforts of several veteran alumni who led the campaign to raise \$1.4 million for the center's creation. Among them, its namesake: Maj. Carl A. Nunziato, USA (Ret), a Life Member of MOAA and member of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter. In 2018, YSU renamed the center — originally called the Veterans Resource Center — in Nunziato's honor.

Nunziato, a native of Youngstown who earned his commission as a second lieutenant through the YSU ROTC program, served two tours in Vietnam, during which he lost both of his legs after getting hit by a mortar during an enemy attack. He spent two years recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center before earning his degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland and then returning to his hometown, where he worked for nearly 30 years in the banking industry.

Nunziato isn't the only MOAA member who has had an integral

role at the center.

Coast Guard CWO Don Oglesby, who died in 2014, had presented the MOAA medal to a YSU ROTC cadet since 2010. Chapter-matched memorial donations in Oglesby's honor were used to create the video game area for the center. The chapter continues to upgrade the entertainment center as necessary.

Chapter member Maj. Patrick "Rick" Williams, USA (Ret), who has served as associate director of the Office of Veterans Affairs at YSU since 2013, manages the resource center.

"While we can't take care of every aspect of the college experience, we try to project ourselves as a 'one-stop shop' for veterans," he said. "The majority of veterans on campus would tell you they love having a place on campus to get all their answers to veteran-related issues." ■■■

— By Blair Drake, contributing editor



CHAPTER VISITS

All visits are tentative and subject to change due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Tennessee Council of Chapters,
Lebanon, July 15, Capt. Erin E. Stone JAGC, USN (Ret), program director, Council and Chapter Affairs (CCA)

Northeast South Dakota Chapter,
Watertown, July 28, Col. Terri Coles, USA (Ret), senior director, CCA