

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MAY 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

We have great news for the Chapter. MOAA National has awarded the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter it's **Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award for 2023**. Equally important is the Chapter was also Awarded the **Col. Marvin Harris Communications Award Five Star Level** for our Newsletter, LT Florence Hosler (Fmr USN), Editor and our Website, LT Bruce Bille (Fmr USN), Web Master. Great work from two truly outstanding chapter members. I would also recognize LTC Mike Wisniewski (USA, Ret.) and CDR Dave DiTallo (USN, Ret.) who provides these mediums with great photographs. Well done to all and congratulations.

At our 18 April gathering, the Chapter recognized and celebrated local ROTC and JROTC cadets for their outstanding performance in academic and military skills. See the 18 April ROTC/JROTC Cadet Night Dinner Rollup section for names of recognized cadets. The highlight of the evenings event was our keynote speaker YSU President and MOAA member Bill Johnson. If you were looking for a political theme, you'd be out of luck. Bill Johnson gave an inspirational talk about patriotism, leadership, service and striving for excellence. He also talked about his experiences coming from a humble farming class background and the opportunities afforded him when he enlisted in the Air Force that led to a college education and officer's commission. Bill Johnson ultimately retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 26 years of active duty. He also talked about his successes in private business, three terms as a U.S. Congressman, his family and their support, and finally the challenges as President of YSU. His story is one of service and accomplishments through hard work. Again, very inspirational. Thank you, Bill and Lee Ann.

18 APRIL ROTC/JROTC CADET NIGHT DINNER ROLLUP

The Chapter conducted its annual ROTC/JROTC Cadet Night Dinner on Thursday, 18 April. It was truly a great event and probably the best we've hosted. We recognized YSU Army ROTC Cadet Kent Sarno by awarding him the MOAA ROTC Medal and presented Second Lieutenant "Gold Bars" to Cadets Jacob Althouse and Daniel Ritcher for their upcoming commissioning. In attendance were LTC Joshua Woodruff the Professor of Military Science and MAJ (USA, Ret.) Kevin Bukowski, YSU Cadre, Recognized also and receiving MOAA JROTC Medals were: Cadet Maximillian McCormack-Kuilan, Youngstown's East High School Army JROTC, with Cadre LTC Joseph Alessi (USA Ret.); Cadet Steven Surack, Austintown's Fitch High School Air Force JROTC with Cadre Col. Kevin Riley (USAF, Ret.); Cadet Kalee Cotelesse, New Castle High School Air Force JROTC, with Cadre Lt Col John P. Kochansky and M.Sgt. Anthony D'Urso (both USAF, Ret.); and Cadet Deven Cano, TCTC Air Force JROTC with Cadre CMsgt. Renee Noel, (USAF, Ret.). Parents of these JROTC Cadets were also invited. Our Keynote Speaker was YSU President and MOAA member, Bill Johnson (Lt Col, USAF Ret.) and accompanying him were his wife Lee Ann and CAPT Tim Harrington (USN, Ret.). We all had a great time. The chapter had 60 members and guests present. Thank you all for your support.

THURSDAY, 16 MAY MSVC-MOAA DINNER MEETING

The Chapter host its monthly dinner **meeting on Thursday, 16 May**. Check-in starts at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Our program is Psychedelic Drug Treatment for Veterans with PTSD and will be presented by MSVC member Col. Brian Kennedy, USMC, Ret. and Iraq War combat veteran. **RSVP's are due by Monday, 13 May at msvcmoaa@gmail.com** or (330) 788-3270. You may pay for you meal online at our chapter's secure website at msvc-moaa.org. Please be sure to let Rod and Florence Hosler know if you are bringing a guest so we can prepare them a name tag and welcome them during the program. Hope to see you there.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

Alright, let's rally the troops and gear up for a briefing on MOAA's mission! Picture this: a battalion, over 350,000 strong, representing the might of all branches of the U.S. military—Active Duty, Reserve, Former, and Retirees, marching under the banner of MOAA. Their mission? To ensure that those who served retire as they've envisioned, with full honors and benefits secured.

For over 90 years, MOAA has been on the front lines in Congress, guarding against budget cuts that threaten military pay and benefits, advocating for quality medical care, and ensuring benefits like COLA increases and commissary access aren't sacrificed in budget battles. Their current campaign includes maintaining competitive pay, protecting VA disability pay, and enhancing family support through improved child-care and spouse employment programs. Lock and load, because MOAA never quits the fight for those who've served!

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MSVC 2nd Vice President LT Florence M. Hosler, Former, USN, has been a mainstay of the chapter since for over 10 years. Florence is a 1976 Nasson College (Springvale, Maine) graduate with a BA in History, enlisted in the Navy in 1978 and graduated from Navy Officers Candidate School 1979. She served as a computer language instructor for shipboard tactical computers at the Fleet Combat Training Center Atlantic in Dam Neck, Virginia. Florence completed her active duty obligation in 1983 and was promoted to Lieutenant (O-3) in 1985 completing her military obligation. She was named the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) Junior Officer of the Year from Virginia in 1981. Florence has served MSVC as the President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Surviving Spouse Liaison, "lunch lady", and now 2nd Vice President. She concurrently serves the MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters as Surviving Spouse Liaison. Florence is a resident of Boardman since 1997, active in Church affairs and spends much time keeping Rod, her husband of 45 years focused and out of trouble. She has one grown daughter, Elizabeth (Army Veteran), son-in-law Robert (Army Veteran and a precocious 11 year old grandson Anderson.



MSVC Board Members:

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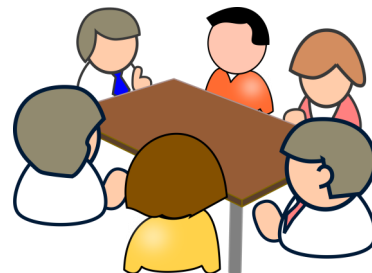
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MOAA Legislative Update

moaa.orgtakeaction

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STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio Ohio Legislature

Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Legislature



“DEATH TO AMERICA/DEATH TO ISRAEL.”

Students from New York University, Columbia University, Yale, Harvard, all “Ivy League” and many other private and public colleges are engaging in massive demonstrations reminiscent of the protests during the Vietnam War. The major difference is these demonstrators are supporting Hamas, a terrorist organization responsible for the murder of 1,200 innocent Israeli civilians, many women and children and kidnaping of over 240 hostages. Additionally, these collegiate morons and facility are engaging in antisemitic practices of physical threats and intimidations, hate speech and violence against Jewish students and faculty. This type of conduct would not be tolerated if it was against black or minority students and faculty. Why the double standard?

These pro-Hamas and violent protesters reveal their total ignorance of history, geography and political thought. For all the money spent by the “white privileged” antisemitic and racist mommies and daddies in educating their ‘children,’ their money is not well spent. Perhaps these students should be expelled and even tenured faculty fired. I hope these anti-American students appreciate their college loan payoff courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer? Many of these moronic protesters are foreign students that are damning the very country that have welcomed them as visitors. Perhaps their visa should be revoked and see who returns home. There are also professional leftist and Marxist protesters, and wealthy Marxist financiers. The real frightening outcome is that these antisemitic, anti-Israel and Anti-Americans are in fact the new NAZIs. Their rallying cry “from the river to the sea” and “death to Israel” is pure evil and is instituting a new level of the Holocaust.

When the 6 January protest is labeled as insurrection and protesters delt with accordingly, why then are the current anti-American and antisemitic pro-Hamas terrorists protesters not delt with the same way?. There is a double standard here. What is the outcome of this misjustice and who is benefiting from it. America is in trouble.

American and Americans must be strong, abide by the Constitution and the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. Adhere to the beliefs that our founding fathers set forth when they created the United States. Contrary to what the Marxist left want, to paint this nation as a source of evil and injustice, the United States for all of its faults is still the beacon of liberty, freedom and hope. Keep up the fight, and as Lincoln said “... with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right...”

Note:

These are personal observations of the author and are not representative of MOAA..

All members of MSVC may submit an editorial to this newsletter.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Why It's Not 'Happy' Memorial Day

By: Nancy Mullen

This time of year, we are all inundated with advertisements on TV, in our email, on social media, or even in stores that say, "Happy Memorial Day" or promote Memorial Day sales.

I get it — for most, it is a well-earned day off work. It often signals the beginning of the summer beach season. And yes, it is a long weekend with friends and family spent by the pool or grilling in the backyard. It is easy to forget the true meaning behind the holiday.

So, what is Memorial Day? Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, is the one day a year our country sets aside to recognize, remember and mourn our U.S. servicemembers who have died while serving our great country. It is also a day to remember our Gold Star Families, those who have lost a servicemember on active duty. This day can be especially hard on these families and those who have lost loved ones, as emotions are often elevated. For this reason, although I don't take offense, I always encourage people to not say "Happy Memorial Day." Think of it this way: Would you say, "Happy funeral"? That helps it to sink in a bit more, doesn't it?

Given that we have an all-volunteer force, fewer and fewer people have lost someone in the service or even know someone who served after the Vietnam War era. Many do not realize we still have servicemembers in harm's way, and each year we continue to have families back home who are getting that dreaded knock on the door to inform them their loved one has been lost. To some, it seems as though Memorial Day has become just another fun holiday for which the meaning has been lost. And to that I would say CELEBRATE!

Really? Yes, really! I am the Gold Star wife of WO1 Sean Mullen, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), who was killed in action in Afghanistan in June 2013. Sean loved this country and felt it was his honor and duty to serve. He would want you to go shopping, throw a neighborhood barbecue, take that beach trip, go camping with your kids — after all, he fought and died for the freedom we have to do those things. All we ask is that at some point during that celebration, you join me by lifting up your drink for a toast or say a silent prayer for those who died for our freedom and that you live a life worthy of such sacrifice.

As George S. Patton Jr. said: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

Mullen is the Second Vice Chair of [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.

Lunch Meetings (October – March): Gather at 11:30 AM, Lunch at 12:00/Noon.

Dinner Meetings (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

MAY 16 – Dinner Meeting, program: Col. Brian Kennedy, USMC (Ret) on Veteran Treatment Programs

MAY 18 – Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Youngstown.

MAY 27 – MEMORIAL DAY Ceremony, Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Youngstown

JUN 06 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.

JUN 20 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, program: TBD

JUL 03 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC. (DATE CHANGE DUE TO HOLIDAY)

JUL 18 – Picnic Meeting at Vienna Fish and Game Club, 4:30 - 7:00 PM, Vienna, OH,

AUG 15 – Dinner Meeting (Steak Fry and Corn Roast), program, TBD.

AUG 16 – D-Day Conneaut, Free bus transportation & lunch, RSVP (330-740-2450) required.

SEPT 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBA.

OCT 18 – Lunch Meeting, program: Taking care of business, MAJ Joe Mersol.

NOV 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: World War I Artifacts, Steve Motika and Al Lind.

DEC 14 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (1:00-4:00 PM)

YSU ARMY ROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

On Thursday, 25 April, MSVC President Rod Hosler, 2nd Vice President Florence Hosler, Secretary Al Lind and Board Members Ralph DiLucia attended the YSU Army ROTC Awards Ceremony. President Rod Hosler presented Cadet Kent Sarno the MOAA ROTC Medal; 2nd Vice President Florence Hosler, Secretary Al Lind and Board Member Ralph DiLucia presented Second Lieutenant "Gold Bars" and Army branch insignia to Cadets Jacob Althouse, Clayton Jablonski, and Daniel Ritcher for their upcoming commissioning.



Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter

Membership Requirements

The membership in MSVC shall be composed of: men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. MSVC memberships are open to all eligible people.

Contact : msvc-moaa@gmail.com for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>

PAYMENT OF MSVC-MOAA CHAPTER DUES

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC) dues of \$20.00 are due in January. Chapter dues are necessary for the operations of the chapter; funding speakers, insurance, IT, postage, printing, scholarships, etc. All MSVC chapter members need to pay their annual chapters dues (\$20.00) to the MSVC Treasurer at: MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH by March. Members who pay their chapter dues will receive a MSVC-MOAA chapter pen and 2024 membership card. Active or reserve duty members are exempt from paying chapter dues. Thanks for supporting the chapter.

BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM OR LIFE MEMBER:

MOAA National and Chapter membership is open to all Retired, Former, and Active Officers of the seven uniformed services and spouses can become Chapter members. Officers on active service (active or reserve duty) are exempt from paying chapter member dues.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MOAA LIFE Membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA LIFE Member, you'll receive all of MOAA's PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include spouse protection and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

MOAA PREMIUM Membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Florence Hosler, 2nd VP & Membership chair

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS AND MORE

Click on the options below to explore the full value of your MOAA membership. Benefits are open to all MOAA members unless otherwise noted.

Browse by benefit type: [Financial](#) | [Travel](#) | [Shopping and Entertainment](#) | [Security](#) | [Home](#) | [Education and Leadership](#) | [Insurance](#) | [Health](#) | [Memberships and Clubs](#)

Perks Marketplace

Up to 75% off best value products at ODP Business Solutions (Office Depot), plus discounted copy/print services and free next business-day delivery on qualifying orders over \$50.

Up to 60% off more than 100,000 hotels in the U.S. and around the world.

Discounts from UPS including **50% off** express shipping, **30% off** ground shipping and other members-only savings.

Up to 40% off top nationwide theme park tickets: Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort, Disneyland Resort, Universal Studios Hollywood, Sea World (*various locations*), Legoland (*various locations*), Six Flags (*various locations*) and more!

Up to 40% off top nationwide attractions: Kennedy Space Center, Madame Tussauds in Times Square (*and other locations*), iFly Indoor Sky Diving (*various locations*), and more!

Up to 40% off events, shows and sports: Blue Man Group, Cirque du Soleil®, MLB tickets, Broadway shows, and more!

Up to 25% off top GE Appliances brands.

Up to 25% off car rentals from nationwide brands Avis, Budget, Hertz, Thrifty, and Dollar Reservations.

Check out your perks and discounts on the [MOAA](#) site.



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DECORATION OF GRAVES FOR MEMORIAL DAY, SATURDAY, 18 MAY

After the Civil War, family and friends of Union and Confederate soldiers, killed during the war began decorating the graves of those soldiers with flowers in remembrance of their sacrifice. Today citizens around the country continue that tradition in preparation for Memorial Day, but instead of flowers we place American flags on the graves of those killed in war and veterans that have died. Our chapter is honored to be able to decorate the graves of veterans in Calvary Cemetery, South Belle Vista Ave. and Mahoning Ave. in Youngstown on Saturday, 18 May at 9:00-10:00 AM. Our section is Section 39, 20-yards east of the mausoleums. Flags will be provided. Please come out and help decorate these veteran's graves with flags. We could use the help. We do this with ROA members as well. Hope to see you all there.

MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, 27 MAY

The MSVC and ROA will jointly commemorate Memorial Day on Monday, 27 May at 8:30 AM in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Youngstown. It is one of the oldest commemorations in Youngstown. The early thirty minute program allows everyone to participate in other local gatherings or take it easy at home. Hope to see you there as we remember and recognize those that gave their lives protecting our freedoms.

MEMORIAL DAY



JROTC Awards

JROTC Cadets with MSVC Pres. Hosler and YSU Pres. Bill Johnson



Cadet Devon Cano from TCTC



Cadet Steven Surack from Austintown-Fitch HS



Cadet Kalee Cotelesse from New Castle HS



Cadet Maximillian McCormack-Kuilan from East HS





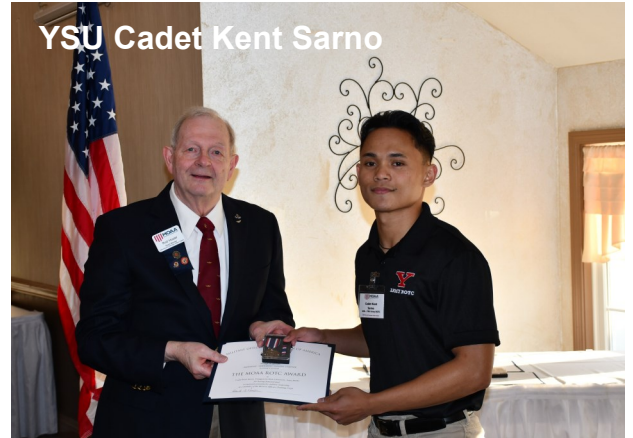
Keynote speaker YSU President Bill Johnson



YSU Cadet Jacob Althouse



YSU Cadet Daniel Ritcher



YSU Cadet Kent Sarno



MOAA 1st VP Dave DiTallo- Programs



YSU cadets with Rod Hosler and President Johnson

Board member Steve Motika
Student Affairs



JROTC parents, cadre and MSVC members



Photos by Mike Wisniewski and Dave DiTallo