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Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



April 2014 • Volume 4 Issue 4

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown • MSVC—MOAA
3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540 • Vienna, OH 44473-5980

Honoring America's Heroes Through Burial in VA National Cemetery

Sean Baumgartner, director of Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery since November 2011 was our informative speaker for our March meeting at the Youngstown Air Reserve Base. Currently, there are more than one million veterans living in the State of Ohio and approximately 540,000 residing in the cemetery's service area. The Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery opened in 2000, totalling acres of 273-acres, 65 developed acres, the cemetery, included 21,000 gravesites, 10,100 columbaria niches and 3,800 in-ground garden niches for cremated remains. At full capacity, Ohio Western Reserve can provide burial space for 64,850 eligible veterans and dependents, beyond the year 2050. Total interments is 18,963. Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or while performing training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance. However, families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options and setting aside copies of any discharge documents. *Make sure your spouse or next of kin has knowledge of where your discharge documentation is located.*

VA will provide—at no cost to the Veteran's family – burial plot, headstone

or marker with inscription, Presidential Memorial Certificate, U.S. flag, government liner, perpetual care of the gravesite and will open and close the grave. Fees for services provided by funeral directors and other related costs must be paid for by the Veteran's family. VA's (Veterans Benefits Administration) pays a burial and plot allowance for those Veterans who are eligible by law. For information, please contact the nearest Veteran's Affairs regional office at 1-800-827-1000

To establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery, the family should provide: the Veteran's discharge document; report of casualty; or the Veteran's full name; military rank; branch of service; dates of entry and discharge; serial, Social Security, and/or VA claim numbers; date and place of birth; and date of death.

If the discharge document is not available, a copy may be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records Office, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. This should be done prior to the time of need. Additional information about requesting military personnel records is available at the National Archives Website, www.archives.gov.

At the time of need, a funeral director or the next of kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office. Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117. It is important to have all eligibility documentation available prior to calling the Scheduling Office.

If you have no eligibility documentation, Scheduling Office agents will assist you with the verification process. Requests for eligibility determination when no military discharge documents



President LTC Rod Hosler presents the MSVC flag set to Sean Baumgartner.

are available may require 48 hours or more for verification. Scheduling Office personnel will contact you within 48 hours of the initial process with verification results or an explanation of the delay.

The same procedures should be followed to determine the eligibility of a Veteran's spouse or dependent. In most cases, one gravesite is provided for the burial of all eligible family members, marked by a single headstone or marker. When both spouses are Veterans, two adjacent gravesites and two headstones or markers may be provided, if requested.

At Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery a burial plot is 3' x 8', casket burial is at 7' and 5', cremation can be in-ground or above-ground. Casket and cremation can be at the same plot. If a spouse is cremated and placed in above ground columbarium, and later the spouse has a casket burial, a waiver must be signed to move the remains of the spouse to the in-ground burial.

Headstones at Western Reserve Cemetery are upright granite, flat granite and niche covers.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. The DOD program "Honoring Those Who Served" calls for

continue on page 3

President's Notes

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter continue to have good programs in conjunction with our dinner meetings. The 27 March meeting included a presentation by Mr. Sean Baumgartner, the Director of the Western Reserve National Cemetery at Rittman, Ohio. It was most informative and well received.

The April 24 meeting will include presentations by Ms. Susan Skrzyński, the Executive Director of the Mahoning County Veteran's Service Commission and Mr. Daniel Madden of Becker Funeral Home about "personal affairs." Each will provide about a ten minute presentation with accompanying printed informational material about their services and how it will benefit our MOAA members.

The chapter will be presenting the MOAA Medal to YSU Army ROTC Cadet Brandi Burrows. Gold bars and second lieutenant shoulder straps to upcoming commissionees Lorin M. Delgros, Quartermaster Corps and Tyler W. Strohecker, Medical Services Corps at the 17 April YSU ROCT Awards Ceremony.

To high school students MSVC will also be providing MOAA medals to East High School Army JROTC Cadet Jasmine Dorsett on 25 April and to Air Force JROTC Cadet from the Trumbull County Technical Center on 3 May.

We will be hosting both Senior and Junior Army ROTC Cadets at our 22 May meeting and ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner.

Additionally, of importance is our support of the YARS Open House and Thunderbird's Airshow scheduled for 17 and 18 May. We'll need help in manning our MSVC-MOAA table in one of the hangers at this event.

Finally, we are preparing for Decoration Day and Memorial Day. Flags will be picked up and provided to MOAA (and ROA) to place on graves at Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown on about 10 May. I'll announce a final date at our 24 April meeting. We generally meet near the entrance and proceed to our designated area.

I encourage you to attend the 26 May, Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by ROA at Oak Hill Cemetery in Youngstown at 8:00 A.M.

I also want to remind and ask members to pay their 2014 dues. We still have about FOUR members who have not paid. Thanks for your continued support to MSVC-MOAA.

Rod Hosler, MSVC President

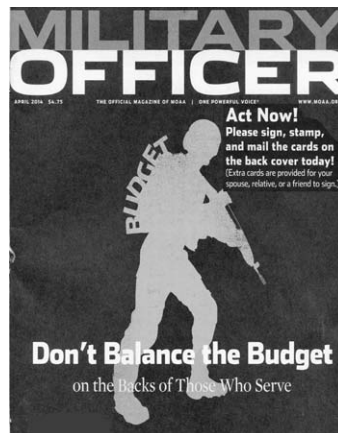


Legislative Issues – April 2014

Legislative Affairs Chair, COL John Kosban

Not a lot to report on the legislative front. Congress continues to conduct hearings on the Administration's FY 2015 Defense Budget request. This budget reflects the administration's desire to **Draw Down** the military. As a refresher, the budget proposal calls for a \$495.6 Billion budget, virtually unchanged from the past two years. Specific budget cuts include proposed end strength reduction, cuts to military compensation and healthcare, and to housing and commissary benefits. The proposed cuts coupled with the scheduled sequestration are a threat to our National Security, in that they can create a Hollow Force.

MOAA continues to lobby our legislators making the case against these budget proposals. It is important that we too make our thoughts and position known to our representatives. As we've said before the Legislative Action Center at the MOAA web site provides prepared messages and letters that members can use to send to their political representatives. These letters can be sent as is, or as a guide for a personal appeal. Let's not make cuts and shift costs onto the backs of Military personnel, retirees, and their families.



Did you mail in the post cards that were attached to the April issue of *Military Officer* magazine? If you don't receive the *Military Officer* magazine join MOAA national.

Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher. Also, the individual opinions do not reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2011 Military Officers Association of America All rights reserved.] For the benefit of the members. Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick Hosler USA, Ret. E-mail: hosler1@zoominternet.net

Legislative Contacts

MOAA Weekly legislative updates www.moaa.org or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

New Membership Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name: _____ Military Status _____ Spouse Name _____

Component _____ Branch of Service _____ Rank _____ ☐ Active *(Regular)—☐ Reserve*—☐ National Guard*

☐ Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services **Membership \$20/year**)

*Free chapter membership if under government contract.
A non military email address is preferred, return this form

☐ Widow(er)—Auxiliary Member (Auxiliary membership is available for surviving spouses of officers **Membership \$15/year**)

☐ Spouse (local MOAA chapter only, not national, spouse is member of chapter) **Membership \$20/year**

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone _____

E-mail: _____ Date of Birth _____

☐ Newsletters will be emailed, if you prefer postal service, check this box

Member of MOAA National ☐ Yes ☐ No # _____

Chapter dues from Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014

Make Check Payable to: **MSVC-MOAA** mail to address on right

You may pay regular and auxiliary dues online www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown

Attn: MSVC-MOAA

Janet Oglesby Secretary

3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540

Vienna, OH 44473-5980

To Join MOAA National: use the web site www.moaa.org or call 800-234-6622

Thank you Bruce, Nick & Janet for stepping up

MSVC Chapter Officers

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National Cemetery from page 1

funeral directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veteran's family. Veterans' organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. Additional information is available on the Internet by visiting www.militaryfuneral-honors.osd.mil.

Formal funeral services are not held at national cemeteries, but a final committal service may be performed at the cemetery. For safety reasons, these services are held in committal shelters located away from the gravesite. Burial will take place following the committal service. Immediate family members may be allowed to witness the interment only if arrangements have been made in advance with the cemetery director.

National cemeteries do not normally conduct burials on weekends or federal holidays.

Congratulations MSVC – We Won Again

MOAA national notified the chapter at the end of March that MSVC would received \$500 for chapter retention. MSVC retained 90% of your chapter members from the 2013 roster submission. To repeat, next year, there are FOUR members on our the chapter roster that need to pay 2013 dues. Another factor is how many chapter members are national MOAA members, out of our 76 chapter members, NINE need to be members of MOAA national.

The chapter has been asked to submit for a Chapter of Excellence Award. In the category of *Percent of Regular and Auxiliary Membership who are members of MOAA national* the chapter needs to be 95% or above to earn 15–25 points. Zero points hurt. In the other 23 areas of criteria, the chapter has close to the total points needed.

TRICARE ends walk-in admin services

TRICARE military health plan service centers will end administrative walk-in services in the United States on April 1. The change will not affect any TRICARE medical benefit or health care service. What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing TRICARE to invest in more important services.

Fifty percent of the visits to the centers are for in- and out-processing and requests to change primary care providers, and the rest involve billing-related questions, officials said. The Defense Department spends roughly \$50 million a year on these services, and this type of customer service can be handled more efficiently by phone or online, they added.

Beneficiaries can get more information and sign up for updates at <http://www.tricare.mil/tsc>.



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Place
 Stamp
 Here

Return Service Requested



MSVC-MOAA April Membership Meeting

When: Thursday, 24 April 2014

Where: Youngstown AF Reserve Station
 Consolidated Activity Center
 3976 King Graves Rd
 Vienna, OH 44473

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests

Lounge and Cash bar opens at 1600

Social: 1800 (6:00 P.M.)

Dinner: 1830 (6:30 P.M.) Reservations
 Required for the Dinner

Program: 1915 (7:15 P.M) Welcome to join the dinner
 guests for the program

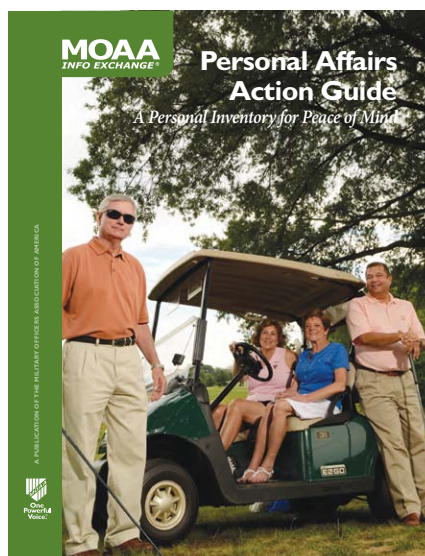
Attire: Business Casual Dress

Topic: Personal Affairs

Speakers: Ms. Susan Skrzynski the Executive Director
 Mahoning County Veterans Service Com-
 mission and Mr. Daniel Madden of Becker
 Funeral Home.

Menu: Garden tossed salad, rubbed pork loin, chicken
 francaise, garlic smashed potatoes, buttered
 corn, dessert, rolls, coffee/tea, tax and gratuity
 included for \$20.00

RSVP: Pay at the door, but the chapter pays for the meals
 ordered. **Make your reservation by email or leave
 a message by phone before noon, Monday, April
 21st. Call Janet Oglesby 330-568-4456 or email
djo52800@neo.rr.com please indicate how many will
 be attending.**



*This planning guide
 was handed out at the
 March meeting. There
 are still some printed
 copies available. It is
 also a PDF format
 that you can type
 in the information.
 Contact Janet (phone
 number and email
 is above) if you want
 one before the April
 meeting.*

*This meeting is an
 excellent time to learn
 from each other and
 the presenters.*