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# Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



May 2014 • Volume 4 Issue 5

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

## Personal Affairs Part 2-VA Benefits



Susan E. Skrzynski, Executive Director and Service Officer of the Mahoning County Veterans Services Commission, located at 345 Oak Hill Ave, Youngstown, OH 44502 was one of two speakers invited to our Chapter meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> to highlight some of the benefits that are available to

Veterans and their families. The Veterans Service Commission (VSC) was established over 100 years ago for the purpose of assisting honorably discharged Veterans and their dependents who have met with an unexpected hardship resulting from illness, injury or who have become destitute due to lack of employment. The Commission has a 1.9 million dollar budget funded by a .5 mill property assessment. Ms. Skrzynski, who retired from the military in 2007 after serving tours in Afghanistan, is one of 18 people who provide services for

*Continue on page 4*



Dan Madden from Becker Funeral Home was the second guest speaker of the night in a Chapter Dinner meeting at the Vienna Air Reserve Station that just happened to experience a partial electrical power failure. Although the topic was as dark and somber as the

candle lit room, Mr. Madden provided a very enlightened presentation on some of the ways a funeral home can provide assistance and benefits to a qualified Veteran and family members upon his death. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Madden stressed the importance of having proper documentation, discharge papers, and important legal and financial information readily available for the next of kin because up to 50 critical decisions need to be made within the first 24 hours of death. The more pre-planning that you can do the easier it will be for your family to carry out your wishes. With funeral costs rising from an average of \$1800 in 1975 to a projected

*Continue on page 4*

## Assistance Needed To Decorate Cemetery



If you can assist in decorating the Calvary Cemetery on Saturday, 17 May, at 0800 meet just inside the front gate. Calvary Cemetery is at the corner of Mahoning and S. Belle Vista Avenues in

*Continue on page 4*

## Many Activities in the Valleys May 15-18

May 17-18  
**2014**  
**THUNDER OVER THE VALLEY**  
**AIR SHOW**  
YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION  
[www.thunderoverthevalley.com](http://www.thunderoverthevalley.com) for schedule

**THE AVTT TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL COMING TO YSU**  
**May 15-18, 2014**  
M22 Lot, Wood Street  
**Available for viewing 24/7**  
(Volunteers will staff from 8 am - 8 pm)  
**Free Parking**  
Programming includes:  
Local Musical Performances • Guest Speakers • Ceremonies • Candlelight Vigil  
**AVTT**  
[HTTP://WWW.AVTT.ORG](http://www.avtt.org)  
Sponsored by  
Youngstown State University  
Office of Veterans Affairs  
**HONOR. RESPECT. REMEMBER.**

## Go to [www.avtt.org](http://www.avtt.org) for daily schedule

Wednesday: The Wall will be escorted by police motorcade and various motorcycle groups. If anybody would like to be a "motorcycle rider" in that escort, all motorcycles will be staging at the Harley Davidson Dealership on Rt. 46 in Niles at 3:00 P.M.

Thursday: Opening Ceremony at 2:00 P.M.

Friday: *Reading of the Names* Ceremony at 10:00 A.M.

Saturday: Candlelight Vigil at 8:00 P.M.

Sunday: Closing Ceremony at 12:00 P.M.

FYI: YSU graduation is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## President's Notes

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter continue to have good programs in conjunction with our dinner meetings. The April 24 meeting will include presentations by Ms. Susan Skrzynski, the Executive Director of the Mahoning County Veteran's Service Commission and Mr. Daniel Madden of Becker Funeral Home about "personal affairs." Each provided presentation with accompanying printed informational material about their services and how it will benefit our MOAA members. They responded to many questions and they were most informative and well received by all. Although there was no power at the Air Base when we arrived the Community Activity Center (CAC) did have our meal prepared and it was quite tasty.

Our final installment in "Personal Affairs" program will be on 22 May with a presentation by MAJ Joe Mersol of our chapter.

The chapter presented the MOAA Medal to East High School Army JROTC Cadet Jasmine Dorsett on 25 April and to Air Force JROTC Cadet Anna Hallman from the Trumbull County Technical Center on 3 May. Additionally the chapter will be hosting both Senior and Junior Army ROTC Cadets at our 22 May meeting and ROTC/JROTC Awards Dinner. Newly commissioned Second Lieutenants Lorin M. Delgros, Quartermaster Corps and Tyler W. Strohecker, Medical Services Corps will also be at our 22 May meeting.

Of importance is our support of the YARS Open House and Thunderbird's Thunder of the Valley Airshow scheduled for 17 and 18 May. We'll need help in manning our MSVC-MOAA table in one of the hangars at this event. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. [hosler1@zoominternet.net](mailto:hosler1@zoominternet.net)

Chapter Treasurer Bruce Bille has been working to make paying for our dinners easier and convenient as well as working on a chapter web site, and Janet Olgesby continues to produce our award winning newsletter. They are truly outstanding and positive assets to this chapter.

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 17 May at 8:00 AM. Meet near the entrance and proceed to our designated area. Also, if you have no Memorial Day ceremony to attend on 26 May, I encourage you to attend the ROA sponsored ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery in Youngstown at 8:00 A.M. (See page three)

If you are only a MSVC member, but not a MOAA National, I urge you to consider becoming a MOAA National member. This gets you the *Military Officer* magazine and other MOAA mail that provides critical information on national defense and security, as well as our fragile benefits. MOSS National is our voice on Capitol Hill and the halls of government.



### IN MEMORIAM

**COL William T. Beatty, Sr., USA, Ret.**

**27 Sept. 1934 – 27 April 2014**

William Thomas Beatty Sr., 79, of Clearwater, Fla. and Volant, Pa. and formerly of Slippery Rock, Pa.

He was born to Frank Sedwick Beatty and Margaret Iona Steele Beatty. He is survived by Audrey Price Beatty who he married on July 11, 2003. He graduated from Slippery Rock High School and Slippery Rock State Teachers College, and went on to earn two master's degrees. He went to the military after college and retired as a full colonel of the Army Reserve.

John Koshan, shared this on Bill's military career. Bill was commissioned via the Pennsylvania National Guard OCS program. I met him when we were both Captains in the 475<sup>th</sup> QM Group in Farrell. Bill was a logistics officer. He became the S4 for the Group and eventually the Group Commander. He also was a Battalion commander, commanding the 402<sup>nd</sup> QM Operating Bn in Farrell, Pa. Bill was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff (DSLOG) for Logistics for the 99<sup>th</sup> Reserve Command in Pittsburgh, Pa. and then was appointed commander of the 443<sup>rd</sup> Depot, another unit of the 99<sup>th</sup> Reserve Command. He served in this capacity until he retired.

Bill was a life member of MOAA and joined the MSVC Chapter two years ago.

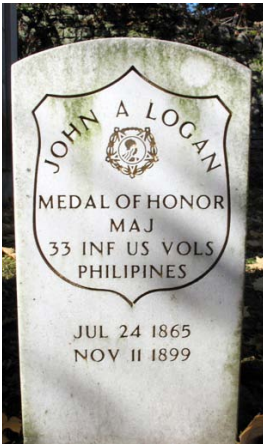
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Kidney Association.

Finally, any organization is only as good as its members and their active participation and the MSVC-MOAA is becoming one of the better chapters in Ohio and we have much to be proud of. I encourage all MSVC-MOAA members to attend our dinner meetings to meet other officers, renew old acquaintances and meet new members. It's up to **US** to keep our chapter active and vibrant.

*Rod Hosler, MSVC President*

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](mailto:hosler1@zoominternet.net)





## Why Celebrate Memorial Day at Oak Hill Cemetery?

**John A. Logan, Jr.**  
**Medal of Honor**

*Rank and organization:*  
Major, 33<sup>rd</sup> Infantry,  
U.S. Volunteers.

*Place and date:* At San Jacinto, Philippine Islands, 11 November 1899.

*Entered service at:*  
Youngstown, Ohio.

*Born:* 24 July 1865,  
Carbondale, Ill.

*Date of issue:* 3 May 1902.

*Citation:* For most distinguished gallantry in leading his battalion upon the entrenchments of the enemy, on which occasion he fell mortally wounded.

*Burial Information:*

*Location:* Youngstown, Ohio

*Cemetery:* Oak Hill Cemetery

**John A. Logan Sr.**  
(February 9, 1826 – December 26, 1886) was an American soldier and political leader. He served in

*Continue on page 4*

## Legislative Issues – May 2014

*Legislative Affairs Chair, COL John Koshan*

The Administration had submitted its FY2015 Defense Budget request in March. The proposal called for \$495.6 Billion dollars, a top line virtually unchanged from the two prior years.

With no growth and the full impact of SEQUESTRATION set for 2016, the Pentagon's budget basically reduced personnel costs to free up funding for other programs. Specific cuts include end strength reductions, military pay reductions, TRICARE increases, and housing allowance and commissary reductions.

During the month of April, the various congressional committees and sub-committees began the review and markup of the 2015 Defense Authorization Bill that would result from the Administration's Defense Budget request. Each sub-committee goes through the process of hearings to gather inputs both pro and con for the various budget proposals. MOAA has played an extensive role in providing information to the various hearings. Their message has been:

- Sustain Pay and Benefits
- To reject TRICARE Fees
- To Eliminate Sequestration Cuts

A congressional sub-committee has accepted the Pentagon's end strength proposals for 2015 with serious reservations. The sub-committee rejected the Pentagon's proposal for TRICARE cuts and fees, increased housing costs and commissary reductions. The sub-committee did not take up the proposed 1% pay cap. Current law ties the annual military pay raise to the rate of private sector growth of 1.8%. However, the law allows the President to implement an alternative pay raise, an authority he exercised for this year.

Many lawmakers are concerned that cuts to pay and benefits could undermine National Security. But the Department of Defense has argued that the services need more leeway in making reductions to troop compensation as a way to preserve war fighting capabilities. (The logic of this escapes me.)

The sub-committee proposals will be taken up by the full committee and then the full house. The bill will then move to the Senate where the identical process is conducted. Both proposals then will have to be reconciled. Tough choices loom on the horizon via the Budget Control Act of 2011, known as SEQUESTRATION. Law makers have ordered steep cuts in military spending in coming years, billions of dollars must be shaved according to the law. More than \$1 trillion in defense cuts are slated to occur now through 2021. These cuts would significantly increase risks to our National Security both long and short term. (An understatement if ever.) Continued movement toward Sequestration levels will result in substantial risk in certain missions and will force significant readiness and modernization challenges creating a "Hollow Force". Overall sequester level cuts would result in a military that is too small to fully meet requirements of our National Security.

MOAA has published a talking points memo on sequester and is available at the MOAA web site. This memo will also be available at our next general meeting. Members are encouraged to use these talking points and to contact their local representatives about the sequester.



## Legislative Contacts

**MOAA Weekly legislative updates** [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) or **1-800-234-6622 ext. 215**

**Pres. Barack Obama (D)**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington DC 20500  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**OHIO**

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D)**

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Fax (202) 228-6321  
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**Senator Rob Portman (R)**

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448 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
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*Representative District 6*

**Bill Johnson (R)**

192 East State St.  
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<http://billjohnson.house.gov>

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**Tim Ryan (D)**

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**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)**

393 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
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**Senator Patrick Toomey (R)**

248 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
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*Representative District 3*

**Mike Kelly (R)**

33 Chestnut Avenue  
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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

## **VA Benefits Skrzynski from page 1**

the VSC including a five member Board appointed by the Judges of Mahoning County Common Pleas Court to decide financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. What the VSC offers is temporary financial assistance, seasonal utility payment assistance, van transportation to the Louis Stokes VA medical facility, and a nursing home outreach program to name just a few of the services and assistance available. Starting May 1st, a one-time cash assistance of up to \$1000 may be issued to the person taking responsibility for paying the final burial expenses of a Mahoning County Veteran who dies. This includes all valid expenses such as opening and closing the grave, transportation to the cemetery, and cremation services and can be applied for up to two years from the date of death. An on-site counselor from Cleveland is available every Monday. The staff at the VSC is prepared to assist the Veteran with VA claims for service connected compensation, pensions, survivors benefits, researching and obtaining DD-214's and applying for federal burial benefits. They also work hand-in-hand with Judge Robert Milich and the Veterans Treatment Court as well as a host of other military and veteran organizations. Ms. Skrzynski emphasized that all Veterans should register with the VA Clinic even though they may not qualify for financial assistance so that the Clinic can be adequately funded for the Veterans who do need free treatment. Contact numbers for the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission is 330-740-2450. The web site is MCVeterans.org. The phone number for the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission is 330-675-2586 and they are located at 280 N. Park Ave in Warren, OH 44481

## **YSU Veterans Center will receive MSVC Donation**

The board voted to match the donations the chapter received in Don Oglesby's name to be used at the YSU Veterans Center. Donations can still be accepted. Make the check out to MSVC with YSU or Oglesby in the memo, mail to address on the masthead on page one.

## **Chapter Receives National Recognition**

The May Issue of the MOAA National Newsletter for Council and Chapter *The Affiliate*

### ***The Tip of the Cap* section**

... to Mahoning and Shenango Valleys (Ohio) Chapter members who joined with members of a local Reserve Officers Association chapter to raise \$600 for The Boot Campaign. Congratulations on holding a successful fundraiser to benefit this worthwhile military charity.

**Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Winners** in Category V (fewer than 120 members)

**Newsletters—Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter**  
**Recruiting Brochure—Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter**

## **VA Benefits Madden from page 1**

\$20,000 by 2010, there are several ways to set aside funds for funeral expenses that cannot be touched by governmental agencies. The funeral home is able to contact Veteran organizations and Military Services to provide Military Honor Guards and a flag at the funeral as well as coordinate burial in a National Cemetery. Form DD-214, Military Discharge papers, is the key document for survivors to have in order to obtain benefits in a timely fashion that the deceased Veteran and his family is entitled to receive.

During the March and April dinner meetings several booklets and pamphlets were distributed to the members attending. The first of these came from MOAA which is a Personal Affairs Action Guide that will help you to organize crucial information in one compact guide so you can keep it readily accessible as an invaluable one-stop resource for your entire family. You have the option to complete this guide on your computer, with downloadable file available from [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) then publications menu. The other booklet that was passed out was a Legal and Financial Guide When a Loved One Dies from The USAA Educational Foundation. Janet Oglesby also passed out a medicine chart that can be filled out and carried in both a wallet and purse that lists all the pertinent information of the meds you or your spouse are taking. This information is sometimes critical for doctors, hospitals and emergency response personnel if an emergency arises and both husband and wife should carry this information for themselves as well as the other partner.

As we head into the summer meetings with a more relaxing and social venue, this concludes the latest series of speakers invited to present our membership with informative and educational topics regarding some of the benefits earned by serving in the military as a qualified Veteran. Particular emphasis was given to end of life benefits. Many thanks go out to Rod Hosler and Janet Oglesby for arranging for the speakers and for the materials that were made available. And thanks to the great number of Chapter members who attended our last several dinner meetings.

## **Decorate Cemetery from page 1**

Youngstown. On the average it takes 1.5 hours to do the cemetery. Remember to bring a bottle of water and a screwdriver. Questions contact Rod Hosler, see his contact info on page 5.

## **Memorial Day at Oak Hill from page 3**

the Mexican-American War and was a general in the Union Army in the American Civil War. He served the state of Illinois as a state senator, congressman and senator and was an unsuccessful candidate for Vice President of the United States in 1884. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, **he is regarded as the most important figure in the movement to recognize Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) as an official holiday.**

## New Membership Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Military Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Component \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ 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](http://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](http://www.moaa.org) or call 800-234-6622**

### Veterans Only Resident Hall at Hiram College

Hiram College partnered with the Patriot Development Group, LLC, to establish the first veterans-only residence hall in the Midwest.

The Freedom Center at Henry Hall was renovated and re-dedicated in early 2014. Renovations included the conversion of 44 double occupancy rooms into single private quarters for veterans attending Hiram under the post-9/11 GI Bill. "Our goal is to provide the best environment for the successful transition from the military back into civilian life," said Hiram DeJesus, President of Patriot Development. "What Hiram offers returning veterans is a beautiful setting just 40 minutes away from the vibrant metropolitan areas of Cleveland, Akron-Canton and Youngstown-Warren. This allows for the readjustment that experts consider crucial to bringing out the best of our country's valuable human assets."

The Patriot Development Group are a group of individuals dedicated to assisting returning servicemen and women with their transition from active military service to civilian life. They are not the VA but are connected to federal, state, and local veteran support agencies. Veterans entering their program can expect the highest degree of professionalism and commitment to assist them in the transition from "military to civilian skin". Visit their web site [www.patriotdevelopment-group.com](http://www.patriotdevelopment-group.com).

### MSVC Chapter Officers

**President** . . . . . LTC Rod Hosler, USA, Ret.  
[HOSLER1@ZOOMINTERNET.NET](mailto:HOSLER1@ZOOMINTERNET.NET) . . . . . (330) 788-3270

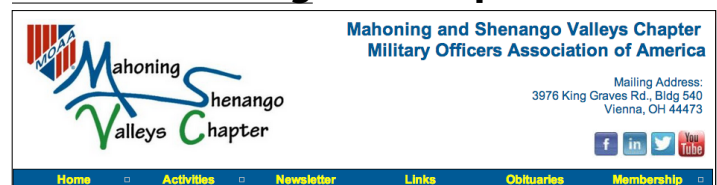
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**Treasurer** . . . . . Former LT Bruce Bille  
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### MSVC-MOAA.org New Chapter Website



Bruce Bille, has designed and has our web site up and running. It is still a work in progress as information and links will be added over the next few months. You can make the dinner reservations and pay for them on line. The pressure is on Bruce to develop a web site that could win in the MOAA national Col Marvin J. Harris Communications competition, see page four.



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Place  
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 Here

## Return Service Requested



**USAA®**  
 MSVC  
 appreciates  
 the donation  
 by USAA

## May Membership Meeting—ROTC/JROTC Recognition of MOAA Award Recipients

*When:* Thursday, 22 May 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:* 1745 (5:45 P.M.)

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

*Program:* 1930 (7:30 P.M.) Welcome to join the dinner guests for the program

*Suggested Attire:* Cadets and 2LTs will be in uniform, if you wish to wear your Class A uniform, you may. Sport coat is requested.

*Topic:* Personal Finances

*Speakers:* MAJ Joe Mersol, USA, Ret.

*Menu:* Garden tossed salad, London broil, stuffed chicken breast, twice baked potato, mixed vegetables, dessert, rolls, coffee/tea, tax and gratuity included for \$20.00

*RSVP:* 1. Call Janet Oglesby, 330-568-4456 (leave a message if no answer).

**Monday  
 May 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Noon**

2. Email Janet at [djo52800@neo.rr.com](mailto:djo52800@neo.rr.com)

3. Use the web site [www.msvc-moaa.org](http://www.msvc-moaa.org) and pay with PayPal. It isn't required to have a PayPal account to use the system. You will answer "no" to the message asking if you have a PayPal account then you will be asked for credit card information. PayPal is a secure system.

4. Pay at the door with a cash, check, credit or debit card.



*Directions:* The air base is on King Graves Road which can be accessed either off Rt. 193 or Rt. 11. After passing through the security gate on Arnold Rd., take the second left onto (Spaatz Rd.). The Community Activities Center (CAC), "Herk's Place", is building #113. (You'll see a loading dock, back entrance of CAC) Parking is available on either side of the building but it is easier to enter the dining area from the upper parking lot. (There are a few stairs.) The handicapped entrance is at the front of the building. There are signs that indicate that location.