

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March 2020 Volume:11 Issue 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

I'd like to thank Mr. Derrick Young of the Mahoning County Veterans Honor's Court for his excellent presentation on February 21st. The Veterans Honor's Court is always looking for mentors to assist with the court. If you are so inclined and want to serve as a mentor, please contact MSVC member Jack Russell.

One of the key activities that we as a chapter sponsor is our support of ROTC and JROTC programs in the area. We recognize the outstanding cadets from the Youngstown State University Army ROTC, East High School Army JROTC and Trumbull County Technical Center's Air Force JROTC programs. Additionally, we also recognize those newly commissioned second lieutenants from the YSU Army ROTC.

MSVC will be hosting the annual Cadet Recognition Dinner on Thursday, 30 April at the YSAR CAC. All MSVC members are strongly encouraged to attend and show our support to the outstanding cadets. This is one way we can support outstanding cadets and welcome newly commissioned officers into American's armed forces. Additionally, **please consider sponsoring a cadet for this event. Dave Di Tallo has arranged to reduce the cost of the dinner down to \$20 per person.**

I will be going to Washington DC to "Storm the Hill," 22-26 March, along with other national and local MOAA leaders. This entails visiting the Ohio Congressional delegation and discussing legislative issues that are important to active, retired and reserve component personnel and their families. This is my fourth and last storming and it has been a learning and worthwhile experience. I'll report more on it later.

Finally, if you have any interest in assisting the MSVC board of directors with your talents, please let me know. There is always something that we could use help with.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES:

MOAA's Legislative Mission for 2020 MOAA Magazine

MOAA's Government Relations staff identified the following eight objectives, which broadly represent priorities with targeted actions (not all inclusive) to address anticipated threats for the coming year. As we continue the fight to sustain benefits, health care, and compensation in support of the uniformed services and their families, we will keep our members informed on progress throughout the year.

1. Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustains military-medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care.
2. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.
3. Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
4. End financial penalties for military survivors.
5. End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
6. Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.
7. Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through the VA and DoD.
8. Support legislative policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services to recruit, retain, and manage personnel.



March 2020

MSVC New Member Profile – Thomas Wilkes*by David J. Di Tallo*

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of American (MSVC-MOAA) added a new member to its ranks in November, former Navy Lieutenant Thomas Wilkes of Boardman. And he credits MOAA's monthly magazine, *Military Officer*, for joining.

Tom enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Ashland College in 1970 with a degree in Accounting. He underwent recruit training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois followed by Aerographers (Meteorology) "A" School at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey.

While there Tom was accepted into Officers Candidate School at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. He was commissioned into the Supply Corps in 1971 and served onboard USS ELDORADO (AGC-11) and USS SPERRY (AS-12) in San Diego, California as Stores, Food Service and Disbursing Officer, before being discharged in 1974.

After leaving the Navy, Tom worked for a major public accounting firm in Chicago before moving to Boardman in 1977, where he continued in the accounting profession until retiring in 2013. He and his wife, Derrie, have been married for forty-six years and have two children and five grandchildren.

Tom's father was a MOAA member, and, after his father passed away, Tom continued to receive his father's issues of *Military Officer*, which prompted him to join himself.

Welcome aboard, Tom!



MSVC new member Thomas Wilkes
(photo courtesy of Tom Wilkes)

MSVC 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 23 Apr:** United Veterans Council Dinner, 6:00 PM – Tickets Required – See Rod Hosler
- 24 Apr:** East High School JROTC Awards Ceremony & Dinner at East HS, 6-9 PM.
- ** Apr:** TCTC JROTC Awards Ceremony at TCTC, 9-11 AM. Date TBD
- 30 Apr:** ROTC/JROTC/Cadet Recognition Dinner, CAC, YARS.
- 14 May:** YARS Base Community Council Dinner, 6:00 PM – Tickets Required – Ralph DeLuca.
- 16 May:** Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, Youngstown, 0900 AM.
- 21 May:** Dinner Meeting at CAC, YARS, speaker: MOAA National Staffer.
- 25 May:** MEMORIAL DAY Ceremonies (Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Youngstown).
- 25 Jun:** Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA.

Marine Corps Museum Hosts Rare Display to mark Iwo Jima Anniversary

The [National Museum of the Marine Corps](#) is sharing one of America's most famous symbols of resolve in a rare display to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The American flags raised by Marines on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, are on display together at the museum through March 30. The flags are normally rotated and displayed individually to reduce exposure to harmful light.

The raising of the second flag was captured in a photograph by Joe Rosenthal that appeared on the front pages of U.S. newspapers the next day. It has become one of the most reproduced images of all time – appearing on a postage stamp, in a cornfield and even a butter sculpture in a chow hall in Iraq.

Some people don't realize that it was actually the second flag raised. Its large size was more visible to ships at sea than the smaller flag it replaced.

The flag was obtained by Lt. (j.g.) Alan S. Wood, USNR, at a salvage depot at Pearl Harbor just before leaving for the Iwo Jima mission. In a July 7, 1945, letter to Brig. Gen. Robert Denig, USMC, Wood said he found the flag in a duffel bag with some signal flags, believing it came from an old decommissioned ship.

"It was neatly folded and looked brand new," Wood wrote (Read his letter, and see original shipping documents sending the flag to the museum, [here](#)). "I wish I could tell you where it came from before I got hold of it as it would, no doubt, be of interest to trace it back to its origin. However at the time I naturally had no way of knowing that this fact would ever be of any interest to anyone, and so that is about all I can tell you about it."

Watch the video from the article:

<https://youtu.be/HC-xDgCwsMs>

MOAA Staff writer Amanda Dolasinski FEBRUARY 21, 2020

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MSVC Welcomes Veterans Honor Court Director

February 21, 2020

By David J. Di Tallo

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) welcomed retired U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant (SSgt.) Derrick A. Young as guest speaker for its February 21 Lunch Meeting at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio.

SSgt. Young, Veteran Coordinator for the Mahoning County Veterans Honor Court, discussed its origins and functions, which was certified by the Ohio Supreme Court November 8, 2016. Under Presiding Judge Anthony M. D'Apolito, the court offers veterans charged with low-level, non-violent felonies an opportunity to complete a rehabilitation program and avoid sentencing and a criminal record.



Retired Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Derrick Young, Veteran Coordinator for the Mahoning County Veterans Honor Court, (photo by Michael Wisniewski)

As SSgt Young explained, "Many veterans suffer from serious mental illnesses and substance abuse, which leads to homelessness, unemployment, and criminal behavior." The Veterans Honor Court provides them with resources and mentors to complete a four phase recovery program after pleading guilty, while their sentences are held in abeyance.

According to Young, after a veteran pleads guilty and is assessed into the program, he/she begins the first phase of the Honor Court by building trust a treatment team and beginning a course of initial treatment. "The second phase concludes when the veteran completes initial treatment", Young stated, "before moving to phase three aftercare and some type of 'give-back' project." Finally, in phase four, the veteran's case is dismissed and their record is sealed. SSgt Young and each enrolled veteran meet biweekly with Judge D'Apolito and their treatment team to assess their progress. As Young explained, privileges can be revoked or extended, depending on the veteran's adherence to his/her treatment plan. In cases where the veteran cannot or will not complete the treatment plan, the judge sentences the veteran pursuant to the guilty plea.

Young grew up in Warren, graduating from the newly-consolidated Warren G. Harding High School and enlisting in the Marines in August 1998. He served stateside in several infantry and recruiting assignments before deploying to Al Anbar Province, Iraq in 2005, where he was wounded in action on May 7. SSgt was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and was subsequently medically retired from active duty in 2012.



Pursuing his education in the criminal justice area, SSgt. Young earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and later a Master of Science from Youngstown State University, where he is currently is an Adjunct Professor in the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Department.



Rod Hosler, President, Mahoning and Shenango Valley's Chapter – Military Officers Association of America, presents a flag stand to Mahoning County Veterans Honor Court Veteran Coordinator Derrick Young following remarks to the chapter at its February 21 lunch meeting at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH (photo by Michael Wisniewski).

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History Moment: Know your Service

From the United States Coast Guard's Historians Office

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and, until the Navy Department was established in 1798, we served as the nation's only armed force afloat. We continued to protect the nation throughout our long history and have served proudly in our nation's conflicts. Our national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even today. In times of peace we operate as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing our laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and our vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, we serve under the Navy Department.

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times a military force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.

The Coast Guard's official history began on 4 August 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the "revenue cutters," the "system of cutters," the Revenue Marine and finally the Revenue Cutter Service, it expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the U. S. Life-Saving Service. The latter consisted of dozens of stations placed around the nation's coastlines that were manned by dedicated crews willing to risk their lives to save those in peril on the sea, a role that meshed well with the Revenue Cutter Service's core missions. Also, the legislation creating this "new" Coast Guard expressly stated that it "shall constitute a part of the military forces of the United States," thereby codifying the service's long history of defending the country along side the nation's other armed services. The Coast Guard

began maintaining the country's aids to maritime navigation, including light-houses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Light-house Service to the Coast Guard in 1939.



In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, which placed merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under its purview. The nation now had a single maritime federal agency dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

Semper Paratus is a Latin phrase, meaning "Always Ready". Sometimes shortened to ***Semper Par***. It is used as the official motto of the United States Coast Guard.

Luncheon Meeting at YARS, Friday, 21 February at 1230 pm RSVP by Wednesday, February 19 Noon

Where: Youngstown AF Reserve
Station

Community Activity Center 3976 King Graves Rd Vienna, OH 44473

Who: Members, Spouses, Bring a Guest, Surviving Spouses

Social: 1200 no cash bar

Call to Order: 1230 (12:30 p.m.)

Lunch: 1300 (1:00 p.m.)

Entrees

Club Sandwich, beverage \$8.00 Ham, turkey, bacon, American & provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo

Buffalo Chicken Wrap, beverage \$8.00 Lettuce, tomato, onion, shredded cheddar, ranch and buffalo sauce

Reuben Sandwich, beverage \$8.00 Marble rye, corn beef, sauerkraut, swiss and dressing

Fish Sandwich, beverage \$6.00 Tartar sauce and lettuce

Chef Salad, beverage, roll \$9.00 Cherry tomatoes, sliced red onions, cucumber, hard-boiled eggs, shredded cheddar, pepper jack cheese, julienne ham and turkey

Side Options if you only order side options: beverage is \$1.00, Side Salad \$3.00, Chili \$3.00 Dressings available, Balsamic, Blue Cheese, Italian, Ranch, Raspberry Vinaigrette

RSVP:

1. Email **Florence Hosler** with your reservation and menu selection. msvcmoaa@gmail.com or hoslerfm@zoominternet.net

2. Or call **Florence Hosler** @330-788-3270 and leave a message. Make sure you state your menu selection.

Please pay at the lunch meeting with cash or check.

The website has been having problems communicating with me so please use the above methods until we fix the problem.

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Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

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March 2020



The **United States Space Force (USSF)** is the space operations [service branch](#) of the [United States Armed Forces](#), and is one of the eight [U.S. uniformed services](#). The sixth and youngest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, it was the first branch of the military established since the formation of the independent [U.S. Air Force](#) in 1947. The antecedent of the Space Force, [Air Force Space Command](#), a [major command](#) of the U.S. Air Force, was formed on 1 September 1982 with responsibility for [space warfare](#) operations.^[5] The [National Defense Authorization Act for 2020](#) re-designated Air Force Space Command as the U.S. Space Force, and established it as an independent branch of the U.S. Armed Forces on 20 December 2019.^[6]

The U.S. Space Force is organized as a military service branch within the [Department of the Air Force](#), one of the three military departments within the [Department of Defense](#). The Space Force, through the Department of the Air Force, is headed by the [Secretary of the Air Force](#), who reports to the Secretary of Defense, and is appointed by the President with Senate confirmation.^[7] In terms of personnel count, it is the smallest U.S. armed service within the U.S. Department of Defense.

The most senior Space Force officer is the [Chief of Space Operations](#), unless a Space Force officer also serves as either the chairman or vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Chief of Space Operations exercises supervision over the Space Force's units and serves as one of the [Joint Chiefs of Staff](#). Certain Space Force components will be assigned, as directed by the [Secretary of Defense](#) and Secretary of the Air Force, to [unified combatant commands](#). Combatant commanders will be delegated operational authority of the forces assigned to them, while the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Space Operations will retain administrative authority over their members. *From Wikipedia*

SAVE THE DATE

YSU ROTC Alumni Picnic Reunion

Join Us on August 1, 2020!

Saturday, August 1, 2020 • 12 p.m.
POLLOCK HOUSE PAVILION

633 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44502

As winter fades, it's time to start thinking summer, and our next

ROTC Alumni Picnic - Saturday, August 1, 2020.

Voluntary donation this year is \$15 per person, which includes everything - no need to bring that big dish of baked beans again, or that delicious pie from Giant Eagle!

Please RSVP to Dave Long at borderlinepao@gmail.com if you are planning to attend the picnic. You can also text Dave at 585-857-1876.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: _____ Military Status _____ Spouse Name _____
Branch _____ Rank _____ Years Active/Reserve _____ / _____
Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services (Membership \$20/year)