

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



October 2020 Volume:11 Issue 9



YOUNGSTOWN VA CLINIC EXPECTED TO BE NAMED FOR MOAA MEMBER CARL NUNZIATO

The new Youngstown Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic is proposed to be named for Major Carl Nunziato, U.S. Army Retired, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and MSVC-MOAA. The legislation is now at the Senate for approval. Carl was instrumental in getting the current VA facility built as well as the new facility. He has done so much for veterans in the Mahoning Valley and deserves this honor. The new and larger clinic is located a half-mile from the old location on Belmont Ave. and is scheduled to finish October 2020, with equipment and furniture to be delivered by January, 2021. The current clinic is 25,846 square feet and the new clinic will be increased to 40,561 square feet. The facility provides primary, mental health and specialty care to more than 10,500 veterans. It is among 18 VA locations in northeast Ohio.

Carl, a combat officer was seriously wounded in 1966 in Vietnam during Operation Adelborough in which about 10,000 soldiers conducted a 10-week sweep into a war zone between Saigon and the Cambodian border. During the operation Carl was caught in the open on his way to get to an armored personnel carrier when a mortar shell blew up about 2 feet from him, seriously wounding him. This resulted in the amputation of both legs. Spending over a year in Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he was medically retired and returned to Youngstown.

Carl subsequently studied law and earned a law degree in 1971 from the Case Western Reserve University's School of Law. An advocate for Veterans, he was instrumental in getting the current VA clinic on Belmont built in 1991 and a new clinic built. Carl also has been involved in making sure buildings in the area are accessible to those with wheelchairs, and, in May 2018, the Veterans Resource Center at Youngstown State University on Wick Ave. was named for him. The legislation for naming the clinic after Carl is now in the Senate, so it will only be a matter of time for the resolution to pass.

Rod Hosler

Local MOAA Chapter Receives Awards

By David J. Di Tallo

Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Rod Hosler, President of MOAA's Ohio Council of Chapter, presented the Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award to MSVC First Vice President and former U.S. Navy Lieutenant Bruce Bille at the chapter's September 24 dinner meeting at Boardman Township Park's Elton Beard Cabin. The award recognizes the most outstanding chapters and state councils for their efforts in such areas as recruiting and retention, legislative affairs, youth programs, and support to local communities and veterans.

The youngest of Ohio's chapters and chartered in 2011, the chapter has previously garnered three Four Star and four Five Star Level of Excellence awards.

Also presented on September 24 was MSVC's fourth MOAA Five Star Harris Communications Award, which recognizes excellence in chapter and council websites and newsletters. The award is named in honor of Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), MOAA's Director of Public Relations from 1996 until 2011.

Lastly, MSVC chapter member Mrs. Janet Oglesby was in attendance and recognized for receiving MOAA's Outstanding Service Award. A founding member of the chapter, she was a guiding force in its development and served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Director of Surviving Spouses Services.



MSVC Welcomes J/ROTC Guests

By David J. Di Tallo

The coronavirus (COVID 19) may have cancelled the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America's annual Cadet Night Dinner, but members were able to welcome local high school and college ROTC guests at its recent dinner meeting on Thursday, September 24.

With twenty-one of members in attendance, the chapter welcomed its 2019-2020 ROTC Medal winner and three new area instructors for a buffet dinner at the Elton Beard Cabin at Boardman Township Park. Dinner was provided by A La Carte Catering of Canfield, OH.

Third year **Army ROTC Cadet Ting-Yu Chiu** from Youngstown State University attended, having previously received his medal, certificate, and three hundred dollar cash prize in May through then-Assistant Professor of Military Science Joseph Paydock via an online ceremony. Cadet Chiu majors in criminal justice and law enforcement, and he is also enlisted in the Ohio National Guard. As he explained during dinner, even though he assigned to a Military Police Company in Austintown, his ROTC duties and classes come first. He expects to graduate in 2022 and hopes to commission into the Aviation Branch.

The chapter also welcomed retired **USAF Senior Master Sargent Tom Marhulik**, Aerospace Science Instructor at the newly formed Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Austintown Fitch High School. SMSgt Marhulik graduated from Matthews High School in 1984 and enlisted in the Air Force the same year, eventually qualifying as a C-130H Loadmaster with the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH. He retired in 2017. The chapter is looking forward to learning more about his JROTC unit and including them in our annual awards program in 2021. Each spring MSVC awards a MOAA JROTC Medal and a fifty dollar cash award to a deserving area high school cadet.

Also on hand were two new Army ROTC instructors from Youngstown State University. Recently retired **Lieutenant Colonel David Simms** is the new contracted Military Science Instructor back-filling Joseph Paydock, who took another position within YSU this year. LTC Simms is coming off his tour as the Professor of Military Science at Kent State University, the parent command for YSU Army ROTC, so he is

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Ohio Council of Chapters

MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters President awards the Five Star Level of Excellence Award to Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter First Vice President Bruce Bille at the September 24 dinner meeting. The award recognizes the most outstanding chapters and state councils for their efforts in recruiting and retention, legislative affairs, youth programs, and support to local communities and veterans



MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters President Rod Hosler awards the Five Star Harris Communications Award to MSVC Webmaster Bruce Bille at the September 24 dinner meeting. The award recognizes outstanding chapter and state council websites and newsletters.



Photos by Mike Wisniewski

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to the ADVOCACY section, scroll down to Legislative Action Center. This identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports that require your active involvement. Remember to contact your Congressional representatives (Senate and House) to express your concerns. Please remember that there are also many state legislative issues that also require your support

[MOAA's Legislative Mission for 2020](#)

[TRICARE's Uncertain Future: How MOAA Is Working to Protect Your Benefit](#)

[Budget Delays Cost Billions and Threaten Readiness. Make Your Voice Heard](#)

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



FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER LUNCH MEETING

The MSVC is going back to our winter Friday luncheons. We will meet on Friday, 16 October at 12:00/ Noon at A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Street (Route-62 / Youngstown -Salem Rd), Canfield, Ohio. This is an indoor facility with plenty of space that can accommodate our needs. Lunch will be buffet style and be under \$20.00 per person people. Please **NOTE: RESERVATIONS for are a MUST and need to made NOT LATER THAN Monday, 12 OCTOBER.** There can be no exceptions. This is our annual business meeting and election of officers, dress for this is business casual. I hope to see you all there. If you have concerns for social distancing, use your own judgement.

Contact Florence Hosler at 330-788-3270,
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Representative Tim Ryan (D) District 13
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The names and positions in red are up for re-election.

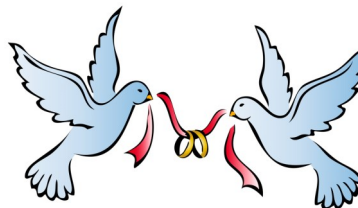
MSVC ELECTIONS

If you have any desire to be part of the chapter leadership, there are three "at large" vacancies to be filled on the chapter's Board of Directors for 2021-2023. The board meets once a month for two hours, generally on the first Thursday of each month. Dave Di Tallo and Ralph Di Lucia have accepted reelection. There are still two positions remaining. The 2d Vice President and another at Large Board Member. Please consider this important duty. We will be accepting nominations at our 17 October business meeting prior to the election. Contact Rod Hosler at **330-788-3270 or hosler1@zoominternet.net**

CONGRATULATIONS

MSVC Member

Mike and Charlene "Charlie" Briceland were married on 14 September. Congratulations and well done.



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) *FREE

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well acquainted with YSU and the ROTC program. The former Armor Officer continues to reside in Kent, OH, where he coaches youth hockey and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Change Theory with Tiffin University.

Brand new to the area are **Major Jared Elliss, USA and his wife Allyson**, who recently arrived from Fort Bliss, TX. MAJ Elliss is an Ordnance Officer and the new Assistant Professor of Military Science/Chairperson, Department of Military Science at YSU. He and Allyson recently bought a home in Liberty and have an eighteen month old son, Gabriel.

Once again, through the generosity of its members and the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), MSVC was able to sponsor all its guests and cadet awards without having to dip into its financial reserves. Each year the chapter solicits contributions through its **"Buy a Cadet Dinner" Program**, which remains ongoing. Members can make donations in conjunction with their annual dues, upon check-in for monthly events.



Photo by Mike Wisniewski MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler presents its 2019-2020 MOAA ROTC Medal to YSU Army ROTC (third year) Cadet Ting-Yu Chiu at the chapter's September 24 dinner meeting. At right is incoming Assistant Professor of Military Science and Chairperson, Department of Military Science Major Jared Elliss, U.S. Army.



Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel David Simms, newly-arrived Assistant Professor of Military Science, Youngstown State University Army ROTC joined the MSVC-MOAA at our September 24 dinner meeting for local high school and college ROTC students and instructors.



Photo by Mike Wisniewski

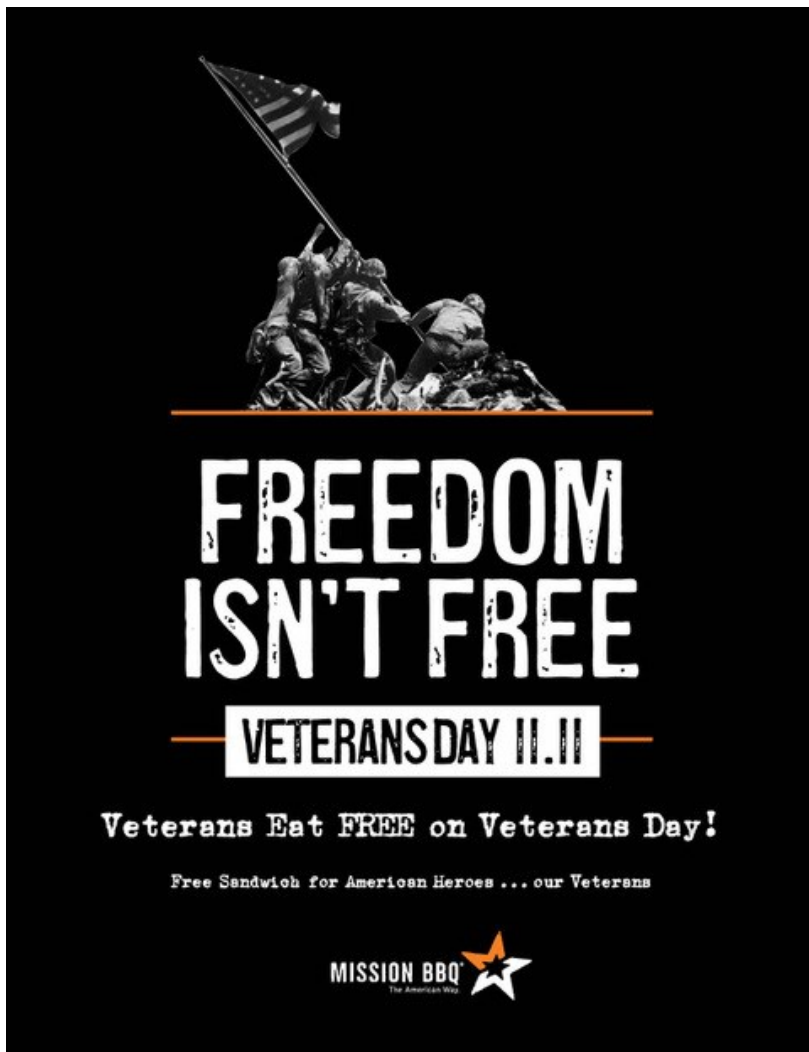
MSVC-MOAA Board Member and Director for Student Affairs David J Di Tallo welcomes retired U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sargent Tom Marhulik at the chapter's September 24 dinner meeting. SMSgt Marhulik is the Aerospace Instructor at the newly established Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Austintown Fitch High School.



Mrs. Janet Oglesby, a founding member of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter, received the MOAA Outstanding Award for her many years of service as a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Director of Surviving Spouse Affairs.



Photo by Mike Wisniewski



After our last board meeting Rod and I had lunch with Bruce Bille at the new Mission BBQ restaurant on Rt 224 in Boardman.

Having lived in several southern states while Rod was on active duty we had the opportunity to try a variety of BBQ places. Mission BBQ is now our new favorite!!

They are military, veteran and first responder friendly as well as having fantastic food. Do plan to stop by on Veteran's day for a free sandwich, and check out the menu.

You can check out their web site as well.

<https://mission-bbq.com/>

Florence Hosler

MAHONING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission sponsored a Food Distribution program took place at the Covelli Center on 14 September. Over 1,000 families were provided with food. Chapter members Rod and Florence Hosler and Don Rasile helped out during this distribution.

The next Food Distribution will be on Saturday, 24 October, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Covelli Center in Youngstown. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rod Hosler.



GENERAL ELECTIONS 2020

As you have all gathered by the TV commercials, yard signs and activities taking place across the country it is once again time for the National General or Presidential elections. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, 3 November. The big dilemma is: should I vote in person at my designated polling location; apply for a mail-in Absentee Ballot; or vote early at the county Board of Elections. Many are still concerned about the issue of the COVID-19 Virus and social distancing. By all means, use your good judgement.



TAPS

Kathleen N. Duzzny, 78, wife of COL Walter Duzzny passed away Aug. 28, 2020. Kathy graduated from Austintown Fitch High School and attended Youngstown State University. She retired as a coronary nurse from Humility of Mary Health Partners, and as the Director of Meridian Services Methadone Clinic in Youngstown. She was also a member of the Mahoning/Shenango Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, the Reserve Officers Association Auxiliary, and of the Mahoning County Chapter of the Public Employees Retirement Inc. Kathy was married to Walt for 55 years, her children are Brigadier General Walter Duzzny, USA, and Jeffrey Duzzny and many grandchildren.

CW5 William (Bill) T. Sweeney, USA, Ret., 73, passed away Thursday, September 10, 2020. He was drafted into the Army in 1969. After basic training he was accepted into the Army Officer Candidate School and Commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He entered helicopter training and immediately upon graduation was deployed to Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he was promoted to Captain and was awarded the Bronze Star and 13 Air Metals. Upon completion of his service in Vietnam and active duty, Bill continued his military career in the Army National Guard. He served as a UH-1 helicopter pilot in the Ohio National Guard and later transitioned to a Black Hawk pilot with the West Virginia National Guard. Bill deployed with his unit to Iraq at the age of 59 and was awarded a second Bronze Star and two Air Metals, while in Iraq. Bill leaves his beloved wife, JoAnn Sweeney who he married in November 1969.

MSgt Thomas L. Nevin, USAFR Ret., 59, passed away on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Tom joined the Air Force and served from November 1979 until July 2011, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. Tom deployed seven different times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, between January 2001 and September 2010. Three of those seven deployments took him to Iraq and a fourth deployment took him to Qatar to support ongoing operations. Tom was an honorary member of the MSVC of MOAA. He may be remembered for taking photographs during out monthly meetings.



VA EXPANDED PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS (PCAFC)

1 October 2020, marks an important day and a decisive victory for seriously disabled veterans who were wounded or became ill prior to September 11, 2001, as well as for their family caregivers.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie finally announced the long-awaited certification of its new information technology system for its caregiver support program, which means that starting 1 October, veterans from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam war eras with severe injuries or illnesses that occurred on or before May 7, 1975, are now eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). A second expansion phase—currently expected to begin two years after this initial expansion—will cover veterans whose injuries or illnesses occurred between May 8, 1975 and September 10, 2001.

Newly eligible veterans can learn more about the caregiver expansion and download an application to submit by mail or in person at the VA Caregiver Support website, or you can use VA's Online Application process.

According to VA, if your application for benefits is approved, and your designated caregiver is approved into the program, your benefits may be payable back to the date the application was received (on or after 1 October) if your caregiver was already providing personal care services at your home. If you do not currently have a caregiver but you are found to be eligible for the program, and your application is approved and clinical need is determined, the effective date would be the date the designated caregiver begins providing personal care services to the eligible veteran.

While we are pleased that VA has finally begun the first phase 1 October, rest assured Veteran community will continue to push to expedite the second expansion phase so that veterans and their caregivers have access to the support services they need, without unnecessary delay, and we will keep you updated on our progress.

Contact the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission (330-740-2450) or the Department of Veterans Affairs (330-740-9200) for information.

