

**MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**



November 2020 Volume:11 Issue 10



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

On 11 November, the nation salutes all Veterans as we remember and recognize Veterans Day. Since 11 November 1919 when President Woodrow Wilson instituted the celebration of Armistice Day to 8 October 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed 11 November as Veterans Day to recognize all Veterans for their service to the nation, we continue to observe this special day. It is the Veterans of the United States of America that have continued to secure the liberties and freedoms of all American citizens through their sacrifice and blood, on and off the battlefield. On 8 Sunday, November six members of the Chapter participated in the Laying of the Roses ceremony honoring Mahoning County servicemen killed during the Vietnam War at the Vietnam War Memorial in downtown Youngstown. On Wednesday, 11 November, four Chapter members will participate in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony in the Mahoning County Courthouse.

To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad

Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired

All Americans Say:

THANK YOU!

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 11 September 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 8 May 1975 and 10 September 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.

Local MOAA Chapter Goes Virtual with U.S. Space Command

By David J. Di Tallo

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) had a virtual briefing from U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) at its monthly meeting on October 16.

Twenty four members and one guest, Mr. James Young, attended. Mr. Young served in the U.S. Air Force and was a founding member of the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission.

Following lunch, the chapter heard from Captain Amy Soileau, a member of the Commander's Action Group and Speechwriter for the Deputy Commander, USSPACECOM, via a video connection. She provided an overview of USSPACECOM, including its mission, history, and organization.

In its current configuration, USSPACECOM is the nation's eleventh combatant command, breaking-off from U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) in August 2019. As Captain Soileau explained, "Space was one of the four STRATCOM missions at the time, so now the U.S. has a single combatant command focusing on the space domain." USSPACECOM is geographic combatant command, she noted, with a world-wide area of responsibility (AOR) beginning at 100 kilometers above the earth's surface.

Captain Soileau is a former Air Force officer, graduating from Arizona State University in 2013 and commissioned via Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC). She held a variety of billets in Air Force Space Control units before reporting to USSPACECOM in 2019 and recommissioning into the U.S. Space Force in 2020. On a personal note, Captain Soileau shared she had a grandfather who was active in MOAA and took her to chapter meetings, and she also received a MOAA ROTC Scholarship while in college.



FRIDAY, 20 November LUNCH MEETING

The MSVC has gone back to our winter Friday luncheons. We will meet on Friday, 20 November 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 \$17.00 per person people. **PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS are a MUST and need to be made NOT LATER THAN Monday, 16 NOVEMBER** There can be no exceptions.

Contact Florence Hosler at 330-788-3270, hoslerfm@zoominternet.net or msvcmoaa@gmail.com



The speaker is Mr. Carl Schneider, Director of the Youngstown VA Clinic. He will provide an update and status of the new VA Clinic, it's staff and the clinic's capabilities. Dress is business casual. Mark your calendars, and I hope to see you all there. If you have concerns for social distancing, please use your own judgement.

MSVC 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11 Nov: Veterans Day Ceremony, Mahoning County Courthouse.

20 Nov: Lunch Meeting, A La Cart Canfield.

03 Dec: MSVC Board Meeting, TBD.

12 Dec: MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

No Board meeting in January

15 JAN 2021: Lunch Meeting and Installation of Officers, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, 12:00/Noon (Speaker).



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

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2020 RESULTS

It appears that the results of the 3 November presidential election are in and we can expect a new President and administration on 20 January 2021. Already members of the President elect's staff and some members of Congress are already talking about a 10% reduction on defense spending. If this is the case, we must be ever vigilant to potential cuts to those programs that affect America's military.



Legislative Contacts:

Pres. Donald Trump (R)

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315 www.brown.senate.gov

Senator Rob Portman (R) United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3353
www.portman.senate.gov

Representative Bill Johnson (R) District 6
192 East State St. Salem, OH 44460
Phone (330) 337-6951 <http://billjohnson.house.gov>

Representative Tim Ryan (D) District 13
241 West Federal St. Youngstown, OH 44503
Phone: (330) 740-0193 www.timryan.house.gov

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)
393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324
www.casey.senate.gov

Senator Patrick Toomey (R)
248 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4254
www.toomey.senate.gov

Representative Mike Kelly (R) District 16
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov



MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)

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1st Vice President: Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)

bbille.usna.82@gmail.com 330-333-0397

2nd Vice President: Michael Briceland, MAJ,

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Appointed:

Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)

alcalind@zoominternet.net 330-757-0336

Treasurer: Florence Hosler, LT, USN, (Fmr)

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Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)

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MSVC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION 2021-2023

The MSVC elected three new members to the chapter's Board of Directors for 2021-2023. Dave DiTallo and Ralph Di Lucia have accepted reelection and Mike Briceland was elected to serve as the 2d Vice President. Florence Hosler was appointed as the new Surviving Spouse Liaison. We'll have the official installation of these officers at our January 2021 meeting.

MSVC MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL - 2021

Beginning in January, we will be soliciting your 2021 Chapter Memberships dues at \$20.00 per person to offset the administrative costs incurred in the operations of the Chapter. Your quick response is appreciated. Renewal checks can be mailed to: MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514-0342.



MSVC MEMBERSHIP

ROSTER AND ACTIVITIES

CALENDAR FOR 2021

The updated MSVC Membership Roster and activities calendar for 2021-2022 will be distributed to MSVC members at the 20 November meeting. Please NOTE: The roster is for members only and will not be distributed to any other persons or organizations.



MEMBERSHIPRENEWAL 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

MAHONING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION, 21 NOVEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission is sponsoring a Food Distribution program taking place on Saturday, 21 November from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Canfield Fair Grounds. Entrance to the fairground is Gate 8 on State Route 46. The last Food Distribution on 24 October at the Cavelli Center in Youngstown distributed food to over 1,200 families. Several Chapter members helped out during this distribution. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rod Hosler and be at the Canfield Fair Grounds location at 9:00 AM. Dress for the weather and bring a mask.



All members of the public are welcome, if you know someone who would benefit from this please pass the word along.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FUND RAISER,

SATURDAY, 12 DECEMBER

The MSVC and local Reserve Organization of America (ROA) will have its annual Christmas party and Fund Raise on Saturday 12 December, 1:00 – 4:00 PM at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The dinner will be a buffet and cost approximately \$20. This is our big fund raiser and hope to provide funds to several local noteworthy veterans or military organizations. We are asking all members to bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$20.00 - \$25.00 to be auctioned off at the party. Dress is coat and tie. **Please NOTE: RESERVATIONS are a MUST and need to made NOT LATER THAT Monday, 7 December.** Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you all there. If you have concerns for social distancing, please use your own judgement.



SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER – Florence Hosler

I have been appointed the new Surviving Spouse Liaison and am glad to be of service to our chapter's Surviving Spouses. I can be reached at (330) 788-3270 or hoslerfm@zoominternet.net. Our Surviving Spouses are as much a part of our chapter and MOAA as their former spouses. They have had to endure the trials and tribulations of being a military (active duty or reserve duty) spouse, frequent moves, raising children alone and frequent absences due to their spouse's military service. It is important that ALL spouses ensure their partner's military records are up to date, ID cards can be obtained from the ID Card Section of the 910th Airlift Wing at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna, call 330-609-1095 for an appointment; and important telephone numbers and contact information are always available. Many of our spouses are now in their senior years and often live alone. I encourage all of the chapter members to contact a Surviving Spouse near you and offer to bring them to a meeting, perhaps keep an eye on them. The military has always been a close knit community whose slogan is "we take care of our own."

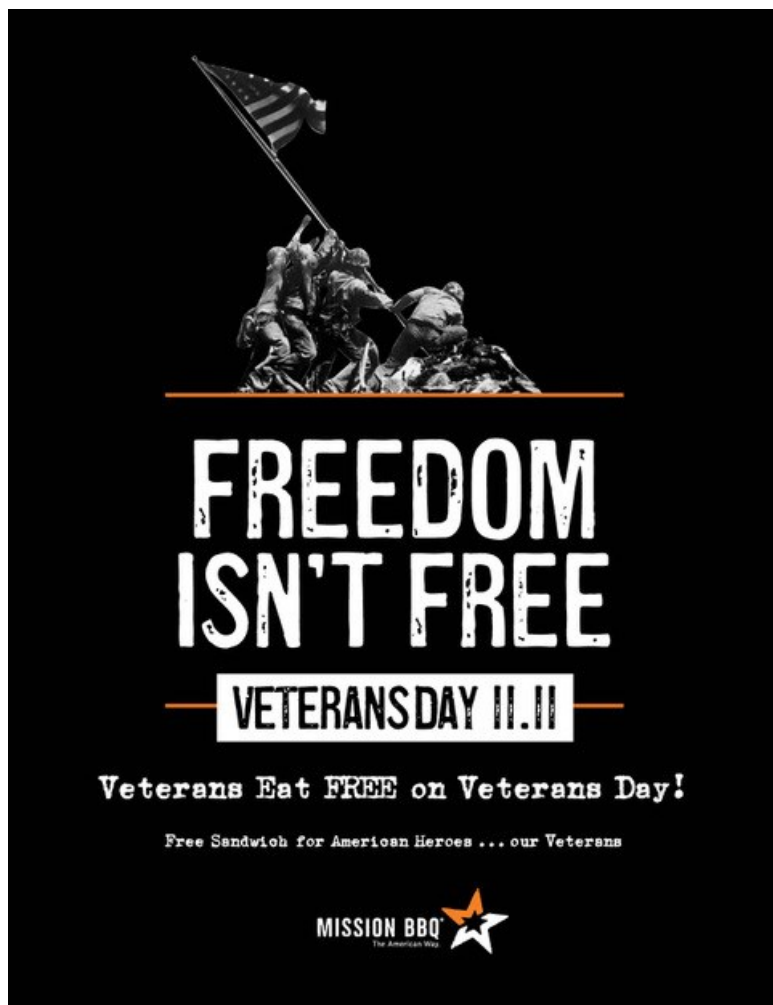
The Value of Sleep by Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN (Ret) is a member of [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

All of us need sleep to function, as sleep is one of the most important secrets in maintaining our everyday health. Sleep clears the mind by removing daily toxins at night, which is vital for our mood, disposition, decision-making ability. Studies have shown quality sleep prevents the diseases of tomorrow. Did you know sleep deprivation is a society-wide safety and health issue of our time?

Do you have trouble sleeping at night? Do you fall asleep only to wake up in the middle of the night tossing and turning? Think about what you do during the day and keep a sleep journal, as various activities can encourage or discourage a good night sleep. From exercise and diet to a stressful work environment, all of these have a huge impact on your qualitative sleep.

Insomnia also might be caused by exposure to artificial light such as smartphones or televisions. Anxiety, in general, can aggravate our sleep routine. The key here is to try to break the cycle, by practicing a repeatable nighttime routine, going to bed at the same time each night, avoiding artificial light, and finding the "thing" that relaxes you at night.

Experts say sleep is one of the best natural medicines for our bodies. It is our superpower to cope with the daily responsibilities and challenges that we endure each day. Take the time now and invest in your health by learning all you can about sleep.



Veterans Community Dental Program

The result of this effort came from an inquiry I made to a local dentist about how they can help Veterans in the community. Their first response was **dental care** and the rest is history. We are changing veterans' lives in our community. Dentists and Hygienist serve as your first line of defense against oral health problems. Dentists and Hygienists provide primary preventative care and minor restorative therapy, they often are able to perform a wider array of dental procedures as well.

I want to make sure that I cover all the bases and try to provide information on the other procedures that we are working to get supported and funded through philanthropy and foundation donations.

Dental Crowns that can repair extensively decayed or damaged teeth, and Dentures to replace missing or damaged teeth that cannot be otherwise repaired. Minor denture repairs can be done on a case by case basis.

Currently the procedures that are being offered are funded. However the cost for dentures are not and they range from \$900-\$2700 dollars, we are working to get funding to help

those that need these services to improved quality of life, appearance and self confidence.

I ensure you that I am the biggest supporter of this happening so I will be working hard to keep this going for some time to come.

Delmas E. Stubbs, U.S. Army SFC (Ret)

Coordinator, Veterans Community Dental Program

veteransdentalprogram@gmail.com

330-536-3054

Reg. Form:

<https://forms.gle/jDQEEsVp8arB7ZNJ7>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Community-Veterans-Dental-Program-100586901757099/?tn=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAdFFbO0FGRFnYQuI7x9sTg0NYIj72iVKn4THDF-4PBriXBgly4aqNfa_VQYb_5tMeVCSSQRDTx-SeV&fref=mentions

1. YSU Associate Director of Veterans Affairs and MSVC member Patrick ("Rick") Williams manages the Carl Nunziato Veterans Service Center.



CW2 Nathan Walker outside Erbil, Iraq. (Photo by CW2 Walker)

MSVC Currently Serving Update – Nathan Walker

by David J. Di Tallo

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) member Nathan (“Nate”) Walker is currently deployed to Erbil, Iraq with his Ohio National Guard unit. Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2) Walker is an Army aviator flying the Boeing CH-47 CHINOOK helicopter with Bravo Company, 3 Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment based in North Canton, OH and assigned to the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (part of the Pennsylvania National Guard).

In civilian life, CW2 Walker is Benefits Officer for the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission, which helps former members of the Armed Forces apply for veterans’ benefits. He joined MOAA and the MSVC in 2018.

According to Walker, the coalition air base he operates from outside Erbil is in the northern, Kurdish region of Iraq, where U.S. forces and others, such as Germany, Great Britain, and Italy, are conducting Operational INHERENT RESOLVE. Many of the missions he flies are to resupply U.S., coalition, and Iraqi forces.

Life at Walker’s base is somewhat restrictive, due to COVID-19 concerns. “Things such as the barber shop and Post Exchange are only now starting to open up”, he explained, “and personnel are not allowed to eat in the Dining Facility (DFAC) to combat the spread of the virus.” Hot meals are only prepared twice a day, with Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE’s) and salads as supplements. (*Editor’s Note: insert, “HOOYAH” here*).

As for the surrounding city of Erbil itself, CW2 Walker explains he has only seen it from the air. “We are not allowed off the base, although the city is huge,” according to Walker, “flying over it looks like they have nice buildings and some parks.”

On the home front, Walker reports that his wife, Jamie, and three children (Nash-age 8; Grace-age 6; and Maren-age 3), who reside in Columbiana, OH, are doing well. “My wife Jamie is a trooper”, he states. “With all of the COVID stuff and changing climate in the education system, we decided to homeschool our children, so she has her hands full 24/7.” He hopes to be home with his family by late May or early June.

When asked if he needed anything, CW2 Walker said no, but chapter members can contact him via email at walker.nathan2@gmail.com or letter mail at: CW2 Nathan Walker, TF GAMBLER, Bco 3-238/ 28 ECAB, LSA ROBERTS, APO, AE 09316

YSU Vets Center Continues New Programs

by David Di Tallo

Two new programs launched this spring at Youngstown State University’s Carl Nunziato Veterans Resource Center are going strong, despite the impact from the COVID-19/China Virus, reports YSU Associate Director for Veterans Affairs and MSVC-MOAA Member Patrick (“Rick”) Williams.

One new program is the Center’s *Warrior Awareness Training*, which was first offered to YSU faculty and staff in February. The class educates faculty and staff about military culture, challenges student veterans face, and resources available to them and is funded by a grant by Wells Fargo Bank.

“The Warrior Awareness Training we did in February was a huge hit,” Williams explained. “My classroom was full, we served lunch to the twenty participants and each one received a Certified Warrior Awareness Training certificate, magnet, and pin.” Due to the pandemic, however, Williams moved the fall class to an online forum, but he still had eight attendees, even while YSU faculty were on strike in early October. The next virtual class is scheduled for November 20th.

Also new this spring was a math tutoring program Williams started with a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. “Over the years, I have learned that many of our student veterans want to be engineers, but they lack the math skills necessary to succeed,” he explained. “As a result, many end up changing their majors.” Through March 15 math tutoring was offered in person at the Center, but it too has since moved online.

The pandemic has also forced YSU to alter its annual Veterans Day observance. According to Williams, “No social gatherings allowed on campus, so our normal breakfast, with guest speaker and color guard was cancelled.” Instead, the Center filmed a two minute video tribute to veterans that we will run on Veterans Day on several YSU social media platforms, its YouTube Channel and Facebook page, as well as the Center’s Facebook page.

<https://youtu.be/10frKvw1gNE> online 8AM Nov 11
<https://youtu.be/Gyl7VPcitrI> 10AM Nov11

The Nunziato Veterans Resource Center is located at 633 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio and is staffed by Williams and two others. It opened in September 2014 and was rededicated in May 2018 in honor MSVC member Carl Nunziato. For information on the center and its programs, go to <https://ysu.edu/veterans-affairs> or contact Williams at (330) 941-2506 or plwilliams@ysu.edu.