

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

October 2021 Volume: 12 Issue 10



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a chartered affiliate chapter of MOAA. Over these years we have achieved many outstanding accomplishments: awarded five "Five Star" and two "Four Star" Levels of Excellent (LOE) Awards; six Col. Marvin Harris Communication Awards for our web site and newsletter; we hosted one of the most successful Ohio Council of Chapter (OCC) conventions in recent years; Chapter members have served as President, Secretary and Surviving Spouse Liaison of the OCC. Chapter members participated in four "Storming of the Hill" events designed to meet with the Ohio Congressional delegation to discuss legislative issues affecting America's military. We continue to actively support one ROTC and three JROTC programs in our valley with MOAA medals, scholarships, and Second Lieutenant items for newly commissioned officers. We have annually donated financial assistance to local Veterans organizations and charities both in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Our members are active in area Veterans programs by serving on boards, participating in Veterans programs and volunteering at the Youngstown VA Clinic. The bottom line is that we are a successful and vibrant chapter with members supporting their local veteran and community programs. Our success as a MOAA affiliate chartered is a testament to the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter membership.



MOAA has unveiled a new emblem to reflect the newest branch of military service, the U.S. Space Force (USSF).
TIAB

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

September marked the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. There were over 267,000 reservists called up for service in during that operation, and many came from the 475th Quartermaster Group of Sharon, PA. On Saturday, 25 September, veterans from the 475th that participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm the gathered in Sharon for a 30th anniversary reunion.

The reunion was organized by MSVC member retired Lieutenant Colonel Larry Scheetz, who was with the 475th during the operation.

Desert Shield was the troop buildup in Saudi Arabia began on 7 August 1990, prior to the ground assault called Desert Storm which commenced on 24 February 1991, in order to drive Iraqi forces was out of Kuwait.

The 475th QM Group was responsible for water and fuel distribution to the troops for the war. Keynote speaker for the reunion was retired Lt. Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis commander of the 22nd SUPCOM, and in charge of all the logistic operations during the war remarked, "You guys were remarkable; you moved more fuel than the U.S. uses in two years. Chapter members Retired Colonel John Koshan, commander of the 475th and deployed with the unit on 27 September 1990 stated, "We struggled a little bit in the beginning, there was a sharp learning curve, but no unit ran out of fuel, we made a difference."

The reunion was well attended and many participants shared their stories of one of the most remarkable victories since World War II. Congratulations to Larry Scheetz for a well-executed and memorable reunion.



Cont. on pg. 6

[VA, National Support Network teach Veterans how to fight cybercrime](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the Cybercrime Support Network to protect Veterans who are disproportionately targeted for identity theft and other online scams. (9/28/21)

[PRESS STATEMENT: VA embarks on process to design new model to deliver seamless integrated care](#) - Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said Oct. 5 the department will embark on designing a new integrated access and care coordination model to better deliver seamless care. (10/5/21)

[Veterans Legacy Memorial expands to include VA-grant funded state, territorial and tribal Veterans cemeteries](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial site October 2021 to include individual pages for nearly 500,000 Veterans interred in 93 state, territorial and tribal Veterans cemeteries. (10/4/21) From the site you can search for family or friends and leave tributes on their page.

[VA stands ready to offer COVID-19 booster vaccines](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs has started administering Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine boosters under Emergency Use Authorization. (9/24/21)



[VA annual report shows decrease in Veteran suicides](#) - New data included in the Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report notably shows a decrease from 2018 to 2019 in the total number of Veteran suicide deaths, and a decrease in the rate of Veteran suicides per 100,000. (9/8/21)

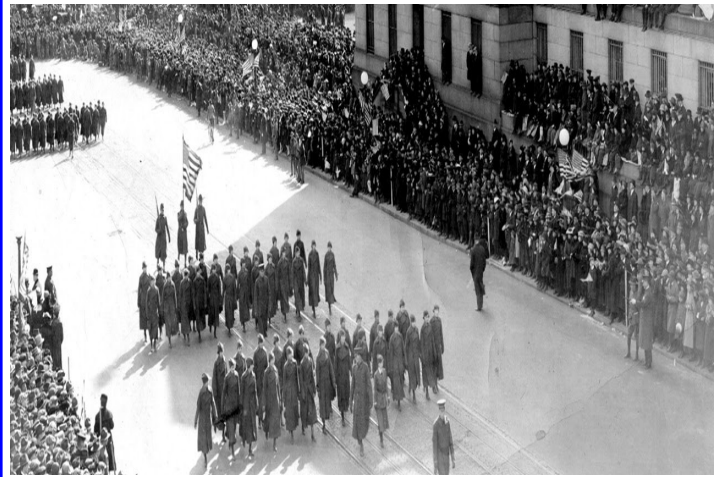
[Preventing Firearm-Inflicted Suicide among Female Veterans](#)

By understanding the experiences and perspectives of female Veterans, their spouses/partners, and VA providers, findings from this study will inform the development of gender-sensitive interventions for approaching firearm lethal means safety.

[Get support for your Veteran-Owned Small Business](#)

If you have a Veteran-Owned Small Business, you may qualify for advantages when bidding on government contracts—along with access to other resources and support—through the Vets First Verification Program.

The Ohio Women who Changed History as Marines During World War I



On August 12, 1918 — with just a few months of World War I remaining — the United States Marine Corps Reserve officially began accepting applications from women for the first time. Of nearly 5,000 applications from women around the country, the Marines selected only about 300. Three of those women — Ouida Okey of Graysville in Monroe County, Mildred Cowell of Marietta and Mary A. Williams of Youngstown — were from Ohio. [Read about the exploits of these Ohio women veterans.](#)



[MSVC/MOAA member Jim Hosack, Sr. was honored in a Vindicator article September 27.](#)

Jim has also been a speaker at one of our meetings about his time at the White House during President Clinton's tenure.





Advocacy in Action 2021: How Your Work Has Made a Difference

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform

Resolve the long-term effects of Agent Orange on our Vietnam veterans, as well as the service-connected illnesses from the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan from Burn Pit Exposures.

TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Parity

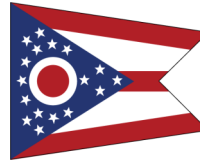
You made sure our legislators understood that kids from military families transitioning to adulthood lack the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans.

Basic Needs Allowance

Food insecurity among junior service-members is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been a while since MOAA launched "Advocacy In Action" in April, calling on members to overcome the pandemic and once again meet or correspond with our legislators either virtually, via email, or over the phone regarding legislative issues that affect America's military and their families. You've made a difference despite all these logistical challenges, and congratulate you for being part of MOAA's overall results: members contacted all 535 congressional offices (19 from Ohio) by sending over 20,000 messages to the Hill, and conducted 350 meetings in various formats. Three of MOAA's legislative priorities are listed below and can be found at the legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



OHIO

[H. B. No. 407](#) Establish the Safe Shelter Initiative Program for Ohio veterans

[H. R. No. 104](#) To recognize the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan, and to urge the United States Congress to investigate failures that led to the collapse of the government of Afghanistan.

[S. B. No. 160](#) A B I L L To amend sections 173.42, 3712.06, and 3727.75 and to enact section 3721.141 of the Revised Code to require certain entities to inform veterans about available health care benefits and to name this act the Veteran Information Act. **Has been referred to the Judiciary Committee. 6/19/21**

[H. B. No. 29 2021-2022](#) A B I L L To amend sections 317.24 and 317.241 of the Revised Code to allow a person who was discharged from the United States Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to obtain an Ohio veterans identification card. **State Senate amendments refused by the House. 6/28/21**



Pennsylvania

There are several bills before the [General Assembly](#) pertaining to veterans housing, homelessness and Veteran's Affairs funding.

There are several House and Senate bills before the assembly to abolish "no excuse" mail-in ballots. [Senate Bill 402 P.N. 387](#) & [House Bill 195 P.N. 1189](#)

Your Editor is now able to receive updates on legislation of interest to MSVC members from both state legislatures, but things do move slowly so please contact your state representatives to urge them on.



Legislative Contacts:

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

Pres. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) 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



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## Recognizing the Work of Surviving Spouses

By: Gail Joyce

"They bring new blood, fresh ideas, organizational skills, energy, creativeness, a 'can do attitude'— they have made us a better organization." These are the words of a chapter president about the work of surviving spouses in their local chapters and communities.



This month, we recognize the work of our local chapters and councils at MOAA's annual meeting, honoring the recipients of the [Levels of Excellence Award](#) as well as the winners of the Colonel Steve Strobbridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award and the Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award (see announcement of these winners in [the October issue of Council & Chapter News](#)).

We also want to recognize the work of several other of our brightest shining stars: Judith Thomas of Houston; **Janet Oglesby of Ohio**; and Cheryl Toland of Mount Rainier, Wash.

*This Newsletter is published by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC), which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Any advertisements that appear in this publication/website also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. 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, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2016, Military Officers Association of American All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick A. Hosler, USA, Ret.; P.O. Box 5342; Poland, OH 44514; E-mail: [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com).*

## **MSVC Swings Big for YSU ROTC**

By David J. Di Tallo

After a one year hiatus, the YSU Golf Outing in Support of ROTC/Military Science resumed play at the Avalon Lakes Golf and Country Club, Warren, Ohio on Sunday, September 19, and Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) was once again on hand as both players and sponsors.

According to YSU Assistant Professor of Military Science and MSVC-MOAA member LTC Jared Ellis, USA, the event hosted 107 golfers and raised over \$11,000. There were plenty of on-course assistants and other volunteers, including 29 Army ROTC cadets from YSU and Kent State University and three MSVC members. Another four MSVC members competed in the Four-Person Scramble format.

According to YSU ROTC alumnus Rich Tropea, founder of the event, this was the fifth year the golf outing was held and the largest amount of money raised to date.

On a separate note, LTC Ellis was promoted the evening prior at YSU's 2021 Cincinnati Dinner by COL Brent Clemmer, USA, U.S. Army Cadet Command, which was attended by eight MSVC members. Congratulations, Jared!

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## **UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021**

**15 OCT**– Lunch Meeting, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers

**07 NOV**– Vietnam Veterans Laying of the Roses, 1:00 PM, Downtown Youngstown.

**11 NOV**– VETERANS DAY Ceremony, 11:00 AM, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.

**19 NOV** – Lunch Meeting, 11:30, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

**11 DEC** – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, 12:00 to 4:00 PM, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

## **MSVS MEETING, THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

**The Chapter will begin conducting Friday lunch meetings starting on FRIDAY, 15 OCTOBER** at 11:30 AM at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. This will be our annual business meeting and election of chapter board of directors. A slate of candidates were nominated during our 16 September meeting, additionally, we will be voting on proposed changes to our chapter by-laws. It is also the 10th Anniversary of the charter of our Chapter. Our speaker is Major General Daniel Hahn, USA, Retired, President of the Ohio Council of Chapters. He will present the MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence Award on behalf of Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, USAF, Retired, President of MOAA. State COVID requirements will be observed.

Excerpts from the article in the **Record Argus** in Greenville PA

There were 267,000 reservists called up for service in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. And on Saturday, the 475th Quartermaster Group gathered almost 30 years to the day when they got that call for a reunion. The reunion was organized by retired Lt. Col. Larry Scheetz, being members of the unit, for some camaraderie with their brothers and sisters in arms.

"This may be the last time we all get together as military veterans," Scheetz said.

Operation Desert Shield/Storm, also known as the First Gulf War, began with the shield buildup on Aug. 7, 1990, in response to Iraq invading Kuwait. The shield was the troop buildup prior to the ground war and the gathering of a 35-country coalition of forces. Desert Storm began shortly after midnight of Jan. 17, 1991, with the beginning of the air war. The ground assault began on Feb. 24, and 100 hours later, all objectives had been met, and Iraq was driven out of Kuwait.

The 475th QM Group was responsible for water and fuel distribution to the troops for the war. The reunion was organized by retired Lt. Col. Larry Scheetz, being members of the unit, for some camaraderie with their brothers and sisters in arms.

"You guys were remarkable; you moved more fuel than the U.S. uses in two years," said keynote speaker retired Lt. Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis.

Pagonis was the 22nd SUPCOM commander during Desert Storm and was in charge of all the logistics during the war. Pagonis was actually the first American on the ground in Saudi Arabia to begin the buildup. Pagonis worked directly with General Norman Schwarzkopf, the man who overall commanded the coalition forces in Desert Storm/Shield. "It takes a soldier to win the war, but you can't do it without food, fuel and water," Pagonis said. Pagonis brought up the Scud missile attack that killed 28 soldiers and wounded 260 on Feb. 25, 1991, in which the 475th QM was a part of. Pagonis noted it was one of the last two Scud attacks of the war. "It was the saddest day of my life," Pagonis said.

Retired Colonel John Koshan was the 475th group commander in Desert Storm. "We struggled a little bit in the beginning, there was a sharp learning curve," Koshan said.

Koshan had been in command of the 475th for three years when the call to deploy came on Sept. 27, 1990. "No unit ran out of fuel, we made a difference," Koshan said. "It was an honor to be in command, thank you for your service."



Mercer County Common Pleas Judge Dan Wallace — an armor officer during the conflict — chats with Larry Scheetz, Tina Hannasch and Lori Johnson at the Desert Shield/Storm 30th Anniversary on Saturday. *Earl Corp/R-A*



(Left photo) Ret. Lt. Col. Larry Scheetz shares some words with Ret. Col. John Koshan and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elmer Sveda before starting the program at the Desert Shield/Storm 30th Anniversary on Saturday. Also pictured is Al Marzano. (Right photo) Marines Al Marzano and Joseph Myers greet each other at the Operation Desert Storm/Shield 30th Anniversary reunion on Saturday. *Earl Corp/R-A*

**MSVC/MOAA** members who attended the reunion included:

Larry and Dawnle Scheetz, John Koshen, Mike and Barb Wisniewski, Dave Roberts and Cathy Cavanaugh and Dan Wallace.



## Why Join MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: NEVER STOP SERVING.

To Join MOAA National: use the web site [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 800-234-6622

## BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM (ANNUAL) OR LIFE MEMBER:

The Chapter currently has 118 members: 44 Life members, 24 Premium (Annual) Members, and 50 Basic members. Premium (Annual) and Life level of membership allows members full access to all MOAA benefits, travel service, free information publications, and discounts at many MOAA supported businesses. Basic member are MOAA National members, but pay no National MOAA dues and only have access to the MOAA website receiving just the electronic newsletter. Paying Premium or Life member dues also funds the programs sponsored by MOAA, and more important MOAA's lobbying efforts with Congress. Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life member. Use the MOAA web site [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 1-800-234-6622

## KEEP MOAA NATIONAL INFORMED

Personal information listed on the MOAA National membership roster can only be changed by you, the individual member. Correct your information via your login at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

- address
- email
- telephone number
- rank or military status

Membership Minute  
By David J. Di Tallo, 2nd Vice Pres/  
Membership Dir.

MSVC-MOAA continues to see growth in its membership ranks, thanks to the efforts of chapter members leveraging their personal contacts and others taking advantage of our "Bring a Friend" program. And a healthy dose of brand new Second Lieutenants from Youngstown State University and two of their Army ROTC instructors!

This year we have been pleased to welcome LTC Jared Ellis, USA, 2LT Ryan Geisse, USA, LTC Genevieve Geramiuk, USA (Ret), Col Brian Kennedy, USMC (Ret), MAJ David Long, USA (Ret), MAJ Stephen Motika, USA (Ret), 2LT Katie O'Brien, USA (Ret), 2LT Sophia Patonis, USA (Ret) 2LT Kyle Ritehour, USA, Mr. William Weaver (former USN and Friend of the Chapter, and MAJ James Woodward, USA.

Thank you for joining MSVC!

Total MSVC membership stands at 134 and MOAA membership at 117.

Also, we have collected \$200 in unpaid dues for 2021, with \$340 (17 members) still outstanding. Regrettably, one member resigned from MSVC in lieu of paying dues.

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There has been some confusion over dues to MOAA and MSVC/MOAA. We are an affiliate of MOAA and thereby collect dues for the chapter, your MOAA national dues are separate from the chapter though you can pay **BOTH** on the MOAA website.

If you have any questions about your chapter dues please contact Dave DiTallo at david.ditallo@gmail.com 330-758-8597. Thanks.



Yup, like the time in OCS we watched the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team from the BACK side of a hill. That's the NAVY!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services, Spouse (Membership \$20/year) *FREE Surviving Spouse: FREE as of 2022



YSU Assistant Professor of Military Science and MSVC-MOAA member LTC Jared Ellis, USA is promoted to his current rank by COL Brent Clemmer, USA, U.S. Army Cadet Command at the YSU 2021 Cincinnati Dinner.

Photo by Rick Williams



MSVC members Dennis Gartland and David Di Tallo hold the chapter's Hole Sponsorship sign at the 2021 YSU Golf Outing in Support of ROTC/Military Science on Sunday, September 19 at Avalon Lakes Golf and Country Club, Warren, Ohio.

photo by Mike Gregory



MSVC members were on hand as players and assistants at the 2021 YSU Golf Outing in Support of ROTC/Military Science on Sunday, September 19 at Avalon Lakes Golf and Country Club, Warren, Ohio. Front row (left to right): David Di Tallo, (non-MSVC player), and Irv Maurer. Back row (left to right): Dennis Gartland, Rod Hosler, Harold Hutzen, Jared Ellis, and Jim Fairbanks.

photo by Rick Williams