

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Rod Hosler*

Big News, the Chapter has been awarded the MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) for our exemplary performance as a chapter in 2021. Well done to all our members for making this award possible. Our active participation in all evaluated criteria is a testament to our Chapter members and leadership. Again, well done.

Great news, the president signed the Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform known as the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics of 2022 or the PACT Act on 10 August. Check out the Legislative Affairs in this newsletter.

### Bucket List Adventure

Florence and I had been saving out nickels and dimes to complete a phase of our "bucket list." We participated in a Road Scholar cruise of several WWII ports of embarkation on the British coast and the landing beaches of Normandy, France for Operation Overlord and D-Day. We sailed on the Aegean Odyssey, a small cruise ship for the tour of ten nights and eleven days. There were lectures by military experts and usual cruise fun.

The staff of the ship were phenomenal and the food was exceptionally fine. The tour guides were great. The ship was our floating hotel so no packing and unpacking.

We motored by coach to Pegasus Bridge, Sword Beach, Arromanches to view the "mulberry harbor," and Juno and Gold Beaches. We arrived in Cherbourg and motored to Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery, and Pointe du Hoc. On another day we traveled to Sainte-Mère-Église, to view the first town liberated during Operation Overlord and the Airborne museum. Later we reached Utah Beach. The tour returned to England for a few more days and sailed to Cobh, Ireland for our return home



Utah Beach Memorial



The church in Sainte-Mère-Église and yup Red Buttons is still hanging on!!

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Rod on Omaha Beach



The new US Navy Memorial On Utah Beach



YARBCC had a Picnic at YARS on Fri. 22, July 2022



Congressman Bill Johnson 27-year Vet of the USAF and MOAA member, with MSVC member and YARBCC Rep. Ralph DeLucia.



One of the 910th's C103s was on display in the hangar, attendees could do a walk through.

## 21 JULY PICNIC / SHOOT ROLLUP

The Chapter hosted its annual picnic and gun shoot on Thursday, 21 July at the Vienna Fish and Game Club in Vienna, OH. Eight chapter members and four guests participated and everyone had a blast. Chapter member Steve Motika conducted a demonstration of the firing of 1856 musket used by U.S. troops during the Mexican-American War. The picnic will be catered by Mission BBQ at the club house, and all participants brought a salad or desert.

## August Dinner Meeting for Thursday, 18 Aug.

The Chapter's August Dinner Meeting is on Thursday, 18 August at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at A La Cart in Canfield. The program will be the 910th Airlift Wing's Key Spouse Group that will address the support structure for families of deployed airmen. Please call in your **RSVP by Tuesday, 16 August to (330) 788-3270 or [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com)**. This will be an insightful program that addresses the deployment of 910th Airlift Wing and what is done to support dependents left behind. Hope to see you all there.

This is our annual Corn Roast and Steak Fry, and Shelly has gotten us a great deal on steaks!!

## MSVC New Member Profile – Louis (“Lou”) Foust

*by David J. Di Tallo*

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of American (MSVC-MOAA) is pleased to welcome a new member to its ranks in July, Army Lieutenant Colonel Louis (“Lou”) Foust of Brookfield, Ohio.

Lou is a self-described “Air Force Brat”, whose parents both served twenty-two years on active duty and graduated from Ramstein High School. He attended Slippery Rock University in nearby western Pennsylvania and was commissioned into the Logistics Branch through Army ROTC.

After serving eight years on active duty, Lou transferred to the Army Reserve and currently drills with the 655 Regional Support Group based at Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts as the Deputy Commander.

In civilian life, Lou is Manager of The Home Depot in Austintown and is married to his wife of twenty-five years, Tiffany, and has three children: Isaac, Isabella, and Ivy.

Welcome aboard, Lou!

## President Signs Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation

The president signed the Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform known as the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics of 2022 or the PACT Act as it is known into law at the White House on 10 August. This monumental bill marked the end of a long legislative road to comprehensive toxic exposure reform. The PACT Act sets to expand health care coverage to millions of veterans will benefit from the MOAA-supported legislative. The bill's passage came as part of a combined effort from MOAA and more than 60 other veterans service organizations, alongside veterans and their families, other advocates and advocacy groups, and a bipartisan group of legislators from both chambers.

This bill adds nearly two dozen conditions to a list of ailments presumed connected to toxic exposure by the VA; while the legislation includes a timetable for this change, the president announced at the signing the VA will move to make these changes immediately. The bill also expands VA research into burn pit-related illnesses and improves VA's screening process for those illnesses. Veterans can start filing claims now for PACT Act benefits.

MOAA continues to actively advocate for legislation to better the condition of America's military and their families regardless of rank, branch of service, or component. However, one might ask why did it take so long! Progress is being made but it is a slow process. The MOAA's legislative priorities and issues can be found at the legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>. To learn more about the PACT Act, go to the MOAA web site.

MOAA National continues to ask its members to take note of the issues at their Legislative Action Center and on the individual “Take Action” email messages. Continue reaching out to your lawmakers on these issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging on in the halls of Congress.

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and the link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to Legislative Action Center. This link identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports which require our active involvement “to take action.” The needs of our military should always be the first priority of Congress. Even though Congress is on a summer recess, you should still contact your Senators and Representatives. Please remember that there are also many state legislative issues that require your support as well.

MOAA's motto: “**Never Stop Serving,**” is a practice we all can subscribe to.