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Our Holiday Program for December 15th

This year, our program for December will be presented by the Festive Singers from Nostalgia Entertainment. The organization was established by Matt and Cindy Gruel, and in addition to holiday programs, Nostalgia Entertainment presents music from the Roaring 20's to the Groovy 60's.

They have entertained numerous organizations to include military retiree groups. We are looking forward to their visit.

The December luncheon meeting will take place on December 15th at Dover Straits, 890 East Route 45 in Mundelein. We gather at 12:30 p.m. and serve lunch at 1:00 p.m.

From the President's Desk

Ms Sheila Weinberg's presentation at our November meeting was both educational and concerning. She spoke about the Federal budget and the present and looming deficit. The Chapter initially intended to ZOOM the meeting and presentation but ended up recording it instead. We are working at getting it edited and posted on social media platform(s). Hopefully, future meetings will be on social media so that our outlying members can be reached. There will be more information to come on this project.

Another aspect of the meeting was the Chapter's participation in the annual "Toys for Tots" effort as well as staging a collection for household items (specifically, pots and pans) for the Midwest Veterans' Closet.

An article in the last MOAA magazine (p. 74) mentioned the requirement for new ID Cards for active duty and retirees and their dependents in order to access TRICARE and other benefits. The Great Lakes Naval Station ID Office (located at the Main Gate, just north of it but outside it) takes walk-ins each weekday in the mornings. Otherwise, if this isn't practical for you, you can find an ID Office and make appointments via RAPIDS at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>. Once on line, it is quite easy.

There are two bills that we hope the lame duck Congress passes soon: the Major Richard Star and the Elizabeth Dole Acts. Please show your support by going to MOAA.org, the Advocacy tab, and

the LAC heading. We understand that if these bill do not pass now, they will need to be reintroduced in the next Congress.

I hope each of you have wonderful holidays with family and friends. And, if travelling, I hope that you remain safe.

LTC John Dereu, USA (Ret.) President

Chapter News

Annual Membership Renewal

We are in the middle of our periodic membership renewal. With the new levels of membership terms/duration, the renewal method has changed.

If you owe dues, you have received a notification from me (via mail or email) along with our membership renewal form. Remember that we are now offering a Chapter LIFE membership option for only \$100. We hope you decide to continue in the comradery of your fellow military officers while supporting the veteran and active-duty community in advocacy matters and service in Illinois.

New Member

The Chapter is pleased to welcome 1LT Elliot Jones, USA (Fmr.) and Cindi Jones to the Chapter. Elliot and Cindi reside in Evanston and recently have moved here from Arizona after having previously served as the President of MOAA's Green Valley Chapter.

Capt. Jacob Jablonski, MIANG, (Active) Director of Membership

Legislative Report

Past President Mike Peck remains very active in veteran related matters in Illinois. He has submitted the following report regarding the status of Reservists as veterans in Illinois statutes and the administration of Illinois Veterans Affairs Commissions.

"At the Arlington Heights Veterans breakfast, I had the opportunity to talk with Senator Walker of the Illinois Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I urged him at that time that he look at the veteran definition which defines the term veteran in 330 ILCS 56/1. One qualifies as a veteran under the Illinois Private Employment Act if he or she meets one or more of the following requirements: 1) 180 days of active service; 2) a service-connected disability discharge, or 3) the individual member of the Illinois National Guard had never been deployed but was separated under conditions other than dishonorable as noted on NGB Form 22.

My concern is with the provisions for Illinois veteran emergency assistance as provided by the county VACs. I am concerned that members of the Reserve Forces need to be included in the definition of a veteran, i.e., the same as the National Guard.

I also urge that the Illinois Association of County Veterans' Assistance Commissions consider an in-house accreditation program. Rather than having the state make more rules, we should police ourselves by ensuring that VACs comply with the law. Only 30 of 47 VACs submitted a report last year. Not all VACs have a website to disseminate minutes of meetings. In fact, are they complying with the Open Meetings Act? These are issues that we can handle internally rather than have the legislature pass additional laws requiring compliance."

Midwest Veterans' Closet

One of the agencies supported by our Chapter is the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago. At our November 17th luncheon meeting, we welcomed Ms. Mary Carmody, the Closet's Director. Our Chapter supports the Closet's continuing need for volunteers as well as financial support. These latter two items are something any of us can easily do.

Regarding the Midwest Veterans' Closet's work, the below report identifies some of their activity for October.

"The Midwest Veterans Closet continues to impact the military community significantly. In October 2024, we provided resources to 859 individuals or families, including 455 active-duty personnel and 404 veterans, and we also provided for an additional 1947 family members. Of this number, 232 are under 18. These totals represent multiple visits. The total number of military personnel and their families supported this month is 2,806. Included in these figures is the 10/17 drive-up Mobile Market held from 12 to 1:30 p.m. serving the following number of families and family members:

169 veterans

33 active-duty

364 – combined family members"

Mark Your Calendars

Due to the number of Chapter members who travel to warmer places during January and February, we don't have luncheon meetings. Rather, we got together for "pay as you go" breakfasts with members and spouses. As in recent years, we will meet at Butterhills, 4195 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL, at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025. An email reminder will be sent.

Our monthly meetings will resume on March 16, 2025.



Dover Straits

890 E. Route 45, Mundelein

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Featuring Nostalgia Entertainment

Holiday Program

Entrees from a Special Menu, plus soup, salad and dessert

● 1230 Friendship Hour - 1300 Luncheon - 1400 Program ●

PLEASE NOTE: Business Casual Dress Requested

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● RESERVATION REQUEST (Deadline is December 13th) ●

TO: CW2 Eliseo Lopez, 26533 N. Wilton Road, Wauconda, IL 60084-2430

Phone: 847-452-2414 email: elopez1989@yahoo.com

FROM: NAME _____ RANK/SVC _____

GUEST/SPOUSE _____

Please reserve ____ places at the MOAA meeting on **Sunday, December 15th** at Dover Straits, Mundelein @ \$35.00 per person.

____ This will be my first attendance at a meeting of this Chapter.

____ I will need a ride to the meeting. ____ I would be happy to drive someone.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ payable to *North Shore and Chicago Chapter MOAA*.
(Payment at the door is not desired. Meal orders and payment are arranged in advance.)