



**Georgia Mountain Chapter**

Military Officers Association of America



Don Brown, President

GA Mountain Chapter MOAA

P O Box 1703

Dahlonega, GA 30533

**Next Year's 9th Annual Warrior  
Golf Classic 10-12 Jun 2018  
Lake Lanier Islands**

**GMCMOAA Officers:**

**Ted Chopin - 1ST VP (INT)**

**Vacant – 2D VP**

**John Bredfeldt – Treasurer**

**Tom Billings – Secretary**

**Other Members of the Board:**

**Tony Tsapralis    Lew Houser    R**  
**Larry Lobaugh    Jack Thompson**  
**Ron Viles            Paul Wingo**  
**Ray Wright**

Dear GMCMOAA Members,

By the time you read this, the For The Warriors Foundation Golf Classic will be history. Several of our chapter members took part in the event either as players or as support to the registration and drawing. Thank you to all who helped, participated, or donated to this event. The Foundation has supported the Chapter financially and we must work to continue that great affiliation.

In May, we proudly presented a Georgia Mountain Chapter Certificate of Commendation, a free one- year membership in MOAA, and a gold bar to 63 graduating cadets at the University of North Georgia. This year the “gold bar” was presented on a note card thanking the cadet for his/her commission and for becoming part of the Army corps of officers. Photographs were taken of the presentations and most were submitted to the new Lieutenant's hometown newspaper. We are expecting 17 more new Lieutenants in August and another 33 in December.

Thanks to Ron Viles, Ray Wright, and Paul Wingo for assisting in the commissioning program. Thanks also to LTC (Ret) B J Austin (a 1972 NGC grad) who also helped us and then volunteered to take charge of this program in the future.

We, as officers, and some as enlisted soldiers, learned a valuable lesson early in our careers: Don't Volunteer! However in this non-military organization that we support and attend, we must do just that. We need volunteers to step forward to fill the various upcoming leadership vacancies in our Chapter.

A nominating committee is being formed to nominate candidates for President, Vice President, and two Board of Directors members. The Chapter needs you to step up and take one of these positions. I am happy to report that Ted Chopin has stepped forward to fill one of the Vice President positions, pending his election.

The Georgia MOAA State Conference will be held in Milledgeville and will be sponsored by the Old Capitol Chapter on 21-24 September. If you would like to attend, please go on the state MOAA website and make your reservations.

We have no more Chapter meetings until September, so I wish each of you a safe and happy summer

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 21, 2017. We will plan on once again having a luncheon meeting at

the Golden Corral in Cumming. Lunch at 1100 hours, meeting at 1200. We will have a Board meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, as a luncheon meeting at a location to be determined.

Our meeting in October will be the 19<sup>th</sup> and in November on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

We will plan a Christmas Dinner on the 21st with details to follow.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments we continually attain for our chapter.

Still serving,

Don

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

Our chapter meets at the Golden Corral in Cumming, on the **third Thursday of each month** (Sep-May) at 1100 hours. The June meeting will be at the golf tournament. There are **no** Chapter meetings in July or August.

## Jun 11-13, 2017: The Warriors Golf Classic, Lake Lanier Island Resort and Golf Club

Jun 19: Father's Day

Jul 4: Independence Day

Aug 24: GMCMOAA Board of Directors meeting

Sep 4: Labor Day

Sep 21: GMCMOAA Chapter Meeting

Sep 21-24: GA MOAA State Conference, Milledgeville

Oct 9: Columbus Day

Oct 19: GMCMOAA Chapter Meeting

Nov 11: Veteran's Day (Observed on 10<sup>th</sup>)

Nov 10: Wreaths Across America

Nov 16: GMCMOAA Chapter Meeting

Nov 29: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 21: GMCMOAA Christmas Dinner, time and place TBD

Dec 25: Christmas Day

### WARRIOR GOLF CLASSIC

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, our chapter hosted our 8<sup>th</sup> annual For The Warriors Dinner and Golf Classic at the Lake Lanier Island Resort and Golf Club. This event is sponsored by our affiliate the For The Warriors Foundation.



2017 Warriors

This is our big fund raising event for the year for the Foundation and it was a huge success. It did require lots of planning, soliciting, coordinating, and effort, but that's what we do. Our teamwork and determination always makes it happen.

Some 35 wounded veterans and their family members attended the Golf Classic. All had a fun filled, relaxing weekend.

Our corporate sponsors and their Warrior enjoyed themselves while playing some intense, competitive golf under perfect weather conditions.

At the end of the round, three teams were tied at 17 under par. (Thank heavens for handicaps). The winner was decided by going back some 13 holes to determine the tie-breaker.



In the tent, awaiting the raffle.

At the end of the golf game, the feast began. Every year the Lake Lanier Islands Resort sets up a charcoal hamburger banquet with all the trimmings to treat all of our guests.

Once the meal was finished, the For The Warriors Foundation started their raffle - - and it was a **big, big raffle**. Raffle items ranged from a TV set, to golf clubs and bags, to signed baseball bats, and even two sacks of vidalia onions.

Each year, our chapter and our Foundation have gained great satisfaction, notoriety, and recognition hosting this great event.

Over the past eight years, the For The Warriors Foundation and our Chapter, have **been able to host 259 warriors and 151 family members during the Golf Classic. We have also established six scholarships at UNG and at Riverside Military Academy** for children of veterans.

We have also **donated over 500 gift bags to VA and have donated over \$75,000 in support of veteran charities.**

Thanks to all who have contributed in making this a meaningful and wonderful event.

### MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

"Promote and protect a strong national defense and lead our nation to honor its commitments to all who have served."

### GA MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MOAA

#### Mission Statement

"To advocate for our community and connect it to the nation we serve."

The Georgia Mountain Chapter of MOAA (GMCMOAA) is a non-profit veterans association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors.

Membership is open to all who hold or have ever held a commission or a warrant in any component of the U. S. Army, Navy, USMC, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

Dues are \$25 per year and are due the first of December.

### SENIOR ROTC

There is only one Senior ROTC program in our area. It is the University of North Georgia on the Dahlonega campus.

This past May, the University commissioned 63 senior cadets as 2LT's in the U. S. Army, the USAR, and the National Guard.

Our Chapter presented the newly commissioned lieutenants with a Certificate of Commendation, membership in MOAA, and a Gold Bar for their beret.

Below are some of the photographs that were taken of three new 2LT during our MOAA chapter presentation .



2LT Victoria Wilder from Fort Valley, GA receives her MOAA Certificate of Commandation from COL (Ret) Don Brown. LT Wilder is the first female from UNG commissioned in the Infantry.



2LT Jonathan Shealy from Snellville receives his Certificate from COL Brown, with his wife Lauren.



2LT Krystal Jemmott receives her Certificate from COL Brown with her Senior Instructor in High School Major (Ret) Mac Kelly, USMC.

COL Brown has been in charge of this program for several years and has done a great job for our chapter.

### JROTC PROGRAM

This year the Georgia Mountain Chapter of MOAA again paid special recognition to the outstanding Junior cadet in each of our 20 JROTC programs.

These JROTC units are scattered throughout 10 counties: 7 in Cherokee County, 3 in Hall, 2 each in Bartow and Gwinnett, and 1 each in Banks,

Dawson, Floyd, Forsyth, Lumpkin, and White counties. There are 9 Army units, 7 Air Force, 4 Navy, and 1 USMC.

Each cadet selected was presented with a MOAA Commemorative Certificate, a JROTC medal, and a \$100 gift certificate from our chapter.

The medal recognizes the cadet as the outstanding JROTC student in the Junior class. To qualify for the medal, the cadet must be in good academic standing; demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; be of high moral character; and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership. Only one medal is presented to each unit and no cadet can receive it a second time.

The recipients were selected by the Senior Military Instructor of each unit.

This year, 7 of the awardees were female cadets and 13 were male cadets.

Below are three of the selected cadets:



Jerry Bennett with Cadet Fletcher Graves, Cass High School, White, GA



BG (Ret) Mike Seely with Banks County Cadet Cierra Sailors, Senior Instructor CW4 James Porter, and 1SG John Wagenknecht



COL (Ret) Ray Wright with River Ridge HS Cadet Clifford Swindel, Woodstock, GA

COL Ray Wright (USA, Ret) is our man in charge of this outstanding program. He tells us that the awards are always met with great enthusiasm from the cadets, their parents, the JROTC cadre, and the school officials.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain Chad Cartwright

Major (Ret), USAR

#### CATCH A BREATH

For those who are "Liturgical" and follow that funny calendar with colors for sections of the year, we are now in that Red season called Pentecost - - or Festival of Weeks, derived from it being 50 days since Passover.

It is also marked as the birthday of the Christian Church when the Spirit descended upon the people and all sorts of things happened, mostly the ability to speak in languages other than their own native one.

Which brings me to the word "speak". In Genesis, God's spirit, his Ruach, entered Man and human life was brought forth into this world. The Breath of God and Ruach (his spirit) endowed us with the unique gift to spread that spirit

with every breath we exhale. We cannot speak without exhaling and in a sense we should always consider what we are about to speak as we exhale a breath.

We breath on average 24,000 breaths per day. Each breath is an opportunity to speak, and we are endowed with a choice as to the words we speak. Regardless of your own personal position as to being of a particular religion, we each have a choice on how and what we will speak about, spreading a kind of spirit to those who will hear us.

Think about this as a gift to be treasured. Words should not be wasted and they each serve a purpose -- great, small, or of little consequence, but they do serve.

I am vexed when I hear words that are carefully chosen to deceive or to convey something less than the whole story or truth. We are hearing many things today from our world and not all of it is constructive. We are inundated with advertising that speaks to our desires and to our needs. We hear words that have power to move us -- up or down.

Indeed, as leaders, we have spoken and things have been done because of our words, and because, in a sense, of our spirit.

As you move about in your daily business, using those 24,000 breaths, think before you speak and whenever possible, speak to enhance that first gift to us -- speak to enhance the lives of those you come into contact with. Live your life as if it were that first day of Pentacost and you are delivering the spirit to all.

God Bless each of you. Keep the faith.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY



Independence Day (Jul 4<sup>th</sup>) is a Federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the

Continental Congress. In it, the document declared that the 13 colonies regarded themselves as a new nation and no longer part of the British Empire.

Independence Day is commonly associated with parades, picnics, reunions, speeches, concerts, and fireworks.

## THE NAVY MUST BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE

By John Lehman, former Sec of the Navy

Under the Obama administration, all branches of the military went through budget and personnel cuts. However, the Navy fared the worst. Today the American fleet is less than half the size it was under President Reagan.

Two independent bipartisan commissions have called for the fleet to be increased from its roughly 270 ships to 350, a number President Trump has said he supports. The Navy's 2016 Force Structure Assessment calls for 355 ships. These proposals weigh budget constraints; otherwise the target would be higher.

During the 1960's, the fleet numbered above 800. But after the Vietnam War, the U. S. sought a "peace dividend" and ordered the Navy to do more with less. Historically, a sailor's maximum deployment was six months away from family in any 18 month period. Today, deployments stretch to nine months or longer. Skilled sailors are being worn out, and many of the best are leaving.

We have too few ships on too many crucial missions. Without the funding to keep them in repair, they deploy without being combat ready and are eventually forced into early retirement. Many of the Navy's combat aircraft are unable to fly without awaiting parts and repair.

Thankfully, Pres. Trump has promised to bolster America's defenses as Reagan did in the 1980's. Let us hope for a bipartisan defense recovery. The first priority must be for the White House to settle on a national strategy to replace the ad hoc decision-making of the past 20 years. Then, the new Navy secretary and the chief of naval operations can create a comprehensive naval strategy to match.

This process will provide a framework to prioritize Navy and Marine programs.

As in the Reagan years, there are opportunities to rebuild rapidly. At least 8 Perry-class frigates could be reactivated, along with a similar number of Aegis cruisers and a half-dozen supply ships. These combat craft were retired early, some at only half their service life. Outfitting them with updated weapons could create immediate work at ports on all three coasts.

The next step is to reform the overgrown defense bureaucracy and overhaul the Pentagon's dysfunctional procurement process. According to the GAO, cost overruns have ballooned to more than \$450 billion over the past two decades. The Navy needs to take authority back from the bureaucracy, end the culture of constant design changes and gold-plating, and bring back fixed-price competition.

Recall the development of the Polaris nuclear-missile system in the late 1950's. The whole package -- a nuclear submarine, a solid-fuel missile, and underwater launch system, a nuclear warhead, and a guidance system -- went from the drawing board to deployment in 4 years (and using slide rules). Today, according to the Defense Business Board, the average development timeline for much less complex weapons is 22.5 years.



USS Gerald Ford

A case in point is the Ford-class aircraft carrier. The program is 2 years delayed and \$2.4 billion over

budget. The ship was designed to include 12 new technologies, such as electric instead of steam catapults that had not yet been developed. Many of these systems don't work after 10 years of trying, and the ship will be delivered to the Navy without fully functional radar and unable to launch or recover aircraft. Yet the defense firms involved still profit under cost-plus contracts.

The three stealthy Zumwalt-class destroyers (they are very heavy cruisers) are another example. The defense bureaucracy produced a seagoing camel costing three times its original estimate and delivered with questionable seaworthiness and without functional radar or a reliable propulsion system. The program should be terminated and the three contracted ships kept purely for special operations.



F-35

The Navy is also short on aircraft, with roughly half the number needed to maintain even the current force structure. The Pentagon should make the F-35 compete against the F-18 to establish the optimum -- and the lowest cost -- mix of both aircraft. In the future, drones will play an important role on carriers and may evolve into the dominant system. But that day is not yet here.

President Reagan showed that 90% of the benefits from restoring American command of the seas are reaped immediately. President Trump will learn the same.

Russia, with its professional but small one-carrier navy, cannot challenge a rebuilt U. S. Navy. The Chinese are at least two decades away from matching American capabilities. With renewed commitment to naval and military superiority, American diplomacy will instantly regain credibility.

(Mr. Lehman was Secretary of the Navy under President Reagan.)

### DONATION TO GMCMOAA

During our MOAA Chapter meeting on 3/16/2017, COL (Ret, USMC) Pat Zaudtke presented a check for \$1500 to Don Brown to support the JROTC program.



Pat said that her parents left her some money when they passed away to use for a good cause, and she felt this was the cause she deemed appropriate.

Her father first met her mother at Camp LeJeune, NC way back when. He was a ground pounding grunt 2LT and she was a singer in the only All-Women Marine Corps band, with the rank of Lance Corporal.

After a short courtship, he was transferred to Camp Pendleton and her band was disbanded. She left the Corps and returned to Minneapolis to continue her studies in music in order to pursue a career in the opera.

Not long after that, he called her and proposed marriage. She accepted, packed her bags, went to California, and married that lieutenant.

Wilbur and Jean Zaudtke stayed in the USMC 30 years and retired as a Colonel.

We thank Pat for her generous gift to the chapter and for sharing her parent's love story. Pat, who sings with the Voices of North Georgia, apparently inherited her mother's vocal talent.

### QUOTES TO REMEMBER

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened." *Billy Graham*

"The two most important days in your life are, the day you are born and the day you find out why."  
*Mark Twain*

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities, and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."  
*President Harry S Truman*

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."  
*Winston Churchill*

### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America (WAA) was founded by the Worcester family in 2007. The actual wreath laying began in 1992.

In 2008 and 2009, the U. S. Congress decreed the second Saturday of December as "National Wreaths Across America Day."

In 2015, WAA and their national network of volunteers laid over 900,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1100 locations in the U.S. and beyond.



GMCMOAA is affiliated with, but not legally part of WAA.

Each wreath costs \$15 and can be purchased by seeing CDR (Ret, USN) Larry Lobaugh or by sending a check payable to "GA Mountain Chapter of MOAA." A receipt will be mailed or emailed to you by a chapter officer. Please provide the Fundraising Group ID "GA0091P"

If you prefer to use a credit card, go on line at:  
"www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org".

## ANNOYING ROBOCALLS

If it feels as if your cellphone has increasingly been flooded with robocalls - - you're right. About 2.3 billion robocalls were made last December, up from 1.5 billion in December 2015. That's more than 7 calls per person affected.

The best way to fight such calls, experts say, is to decline calls from numbers you do not recognize or to download a call-blocking app, such as Truecaller or RoboKiller.

If you do answer, do not respond to invitations put out. That will only verify that your's is a working number and makes you a target for more calls.

And, watch what you say. A recent robocall scheme recorded consumers saying "yes" and used it to hack those individuals' credit card accounts. *The New York Times*

## POINTS TO PONDER

Pedestrian deaths soared 25% between 2010 and 2015, according to a report by the Governors Highway Safety Association. More than 28,000 pedestrian were killed by cars during that time. The distracting use of smartphones by both pedestrians and drivers is believed to be a major factor in the increase. *NBC News.com*

# # #

In a recent survey, more than 40% of people said they'd pay more money and put up with a longer trip just to avoid flying United Airlines, after hearing about how the carrier forcibly removed a passenger. Nearly 4 in 5 people said they'd pick another airline if given a choice between two otherwise identical flights. *Mashable.com*

# # #

Amid nationwide food shortages and political chaos, the average Venezuelan adult lost 19 pounds in weight last year. *Bloomberg.com*

# # #

There were more than 850,000 new home owners in the first 3 months of 2017, compared with 365,000 new renters. Although the U. S. homeownership rate of 63.6% is still near historic low, the first quarter was the first time the number of homeowners has grown faster than renters since 2006. *Bloomberg.com*

# # #

The average hip replacement in the U. S. costs over \$40,000; in Spain it's \$7,731. In the U. S., an angiogram is \$914; in Canada it's \$35. Lipitor costs \$124 per month here, and \$6 in New Zealand.

# # #

About 400,000 U. S. veterans are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. With 30 burials and internments taking place every weekday, the historic cemetery will be filled to capacity in 25 years. *USA Today*

## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a total eclipse of the sun. It will travel along a line from Oregon and head southeast through Charleston, SC, arriving there in full shadow around 2:49 p.m. EDT.



Path of Solar Eclipse, Aug 21, 2017

This is the first time in 99 years that a total eclipse will sweep across the U. S. mainland from coast to coast. Everyone will see some of the eclipse, but the path of totality is a 70-mile wide band as shown below.

If you are interested in seeing this eclipse, you better start making plans to book your motel. Your best locations in the Southeast will be on a line from Nashville to Charleston. The Great Smoky Mtns would be a good choice.

The eclipse will last about 2 minutes and 36 seconds, as the moon's shadow races along at 1,500 miles per hour.

For more information visit [GreatAmericanEclipse.com](http://GreatAmericanEclipse.com). *Astronomy*

## STROKE SIGNALS

Often called a "brain attack", a stroke strikes suddenly. Warning signs include:

-Numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.

-Confusion, or difficulty speaking or understanding what others are saying.

-Trouble seeing in one or both eyes.

-Loss of balance or coordination, dizziness, or problems walking.

-Severe headaches with no known cause.

If you notice one or more of these signs, don't wait, even if they go away. When it comes to a stroke, it is imperative to get medical help ASAP to prevent or minimize brain damage. Immediately dial 911 for an ambulance. (*Northside Hospital*)

## DIET AND DEMENTIA

Sugar-free versions of soda may increase people's risk of suffering a stroke or developing dementia, reports *The Washington Post*.

Scientists at a Boston University studied more than 4,000 people over a 10-year period. They found that those who consumed at least one artificially sweetened drink a day were almost three times more likely to have a stroke or be diagnosed with dementia than those who had one a week.

To the researchers' surprise, a parallel study of sugary drinks did not find a similar association.

Matthew Pase, the study's leader, urged people not to see the study as an incentive to switch to regular soda, noting that sugary drinks have been linked to obesity, poor memory, and brain aging.

He did say the findings suggested consumers should be 'cautious' about their diet soda intake and switch to water or other unsweetened drinks.



Our guest speaker for the supper for our Warriors was Jim Sausley, the National Director of the Disabled American Veterans.



With the ceremonies completed, it's time to move out - - even if you have a dog.



Our golfers did not seem to bother this deer that was grazing in a nearby rough.



After a round of golf, it's time to chill and get ready for food and the raffle.



Waiting for the raffle to begin.

Mrs. Terry Lawson sang our National Anthem at



the Warriors Supper and also at the Golf Outing. She is an excellent singer and did a wonderful job.



Raffle items.





Address, City,  
State, Zip