

The Clarion

The Military Officers Association of America Heritage Hunt Chapter



Volume 07, Issue 01 January 2023

MOAA, including the Heritage Hunt Chapter, is a nonprofit nonpartisan veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the U.S. Army, USMC, USN, USAF, USSF, USCG, USPHS or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

Christmas Social

Photos by Ken Grimm, Cliff Pitts, Bernie Ziegler



The Heritage Hunt Chapter of MOAA celebrated its December social on Dec. 8, 2022, at the Great Oak Ballroom in the Heritage Hunt Clubhouse. Eighty-six members, spouses and guests attended to witness the installation of new chapter officers for 2023, listen to a special musical performance by the Battlefield Singers from Battlefield High School, enjoy one-another's company while anticipating the upcoming holidays and contribute toys to the Heritage Hunt Toys for Tots drive.

Jim Beavers served as master of ceremonies for the evening. Posting of the colors was done by members of the Battlefield High School Junior ROTC unit. Invocation was by Don Belanus.

The highlight of the evening was the Christmas medley performance by the Battlefield Singers under the direction of Douglas Burney. This was the sixth time the group has performed for our December social and their performance seems to get better and better each time.

The 38-member group filled the ballroom with the joyous and moving sounds of Christmas. Burney introduced the program by emphasizing that this concert for the MOAA Heritage Hunt Chapter is their very favorite performance. The program included Joy to the World, Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Coventry Carol (a 16th Century carol, based on Herod's decree, conveyed from mother's perspective), Up On the Housetop, Jolly

See Christmas Social on page 3

2023 Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs Heritage Hunt Chapter - MOAA

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The Clarion

Bernie Ziegler, Editor Merle Jacobsen, Copy Editor

Editor's Notes

It's the midst of winter, but where is the snow? For we Minnesota natives, we can only hope!

We start this issue with a recap of the December social - the Battlefield High School singers Christmas concert and swearing in of our new officers.

We follow with a Toys for Tots update, an offer of free tickets to a Hylton Performing Arts Center concert, a reminder to renew your 2023 membership, introduction to a new member, a legislative update, a reminder of available personal affairs support, and an update on Wreaths Across America and flying service flags on service birthday anniversaries.

Please do your part to support our chapter suggest ideas for future newsletter articles to the editor!

While we all enjoy the many benefits of MOAA membership, we also have an obligation to support MOAA's efforts on our behalf. The MOAA legislative action center is an extremely easy and convenient way to stay abreast of legislative issues and to participate in influencing the issues for our benefit. Take a moment to check it out at http://takeaction.moaa.org/?5.

This newsletter is distributed electronically to all chapter members. If you know of a member not receiving *The Clarion*, please contact the editor.

As always, please tell your eligible neighbors and friends about MOAA membership and either pass along the membership application at the end of this newsletter or encourage them to contact Mary Jo Howarth as shown here.

Join MOAA's Heritage Hunt Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized Heritage Hunt Chapter or how to join, see the last page of this newsletter or contact membership director Mary Jo Howarth, at 703-899-1582, or email her mjhowarth4@comcast.net.

Christmas Social from page 1

Old Saint Nicholas, Carol of the Bells, Globe from the Walt Disney World Christmas show and Silent Night



(Doug Burney's very favorite carol) done as a sing-along, and concluded with We Wish You a Merry Christmas. According to a conversation with Burney following the social, it was learned that this was the only concert for the Battlefield Singers as their primary school concert was cancelled because school was closed for inclement weather the day the concert was scheduled.

Following the performance, Dennis Corrigan presented a \$500 honorarium for the boosters to Burney and Mrs. Lori George, the president of Battlefield Choirs Boosters, who, like the Battlefield Singers, attended in force.

Some of the members and guests who attended



L to R: Alex Lucas, Pete wright, Pam Lucas, Nancy Brown, Pete Hesser, Debbie and Doug Moore



L to R: Mary Ann and Merle Jacobsen, Barbara Morris, Pat and Don Rusch, Linda and Bernie Ellis



L to R: Judy Hudspeth, Bill Collier, Rob Coulter and Pam Collier



L to R: Barney Legge, Trish Buckner, Linda Concannon, Dwayne and Leslie Piepenberg, Nancy Shearer

Additional photos of the event are found beginning at page 11 and even more at www.hhmoaa.org/Photos.

Toys for Tots Update

Maureen Gilmore

The chapter collected 226 toys during the 2022 campaign. This number is a little less than the numbers precovid, but a good number nevertheless. There were three bikes among the donations. However, all gifts were most appreciated. In case, you might have missed the note of appreciation from the chapter to the HH community, it was in the January *Horn* on page 36 and read as follows:



John Denning and Ellen Ziegler donate to Toys for Tots during the December social.

A most heartfelt appreciation to our very kind Heritage Hunt neighbors from the HH Chapter of MOAA.

The Toys for Tots campaign was a wonderful success as donation boxes were filled with a variety of toys for all age groups. Because of your caring generosity, hundreds of area children experienced the loving joy and excitement of the holiday season.

What a great thought to kick off the new year!

Thanks again.

I understand that there may be a little firehouse rivalry among the Prince William Fire and Rescue stations to determine which collects the most toys. And Station #4 to where we deposit our toys, at

least recently, has been in the top 2 and was hoping to be the number 1 collection point in 2022. I do not know the results of that intramural rivalry, but I know that HH is a big contributor to whatever was the station's final number.

CAMMO Voices Concert - Free Tickets

Spring at the Hylton Center

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 8 p.m., Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10900 University Blvd, Manassas, Va.

CAMMO Voices joins with George Mason University's Veterans and Arts Initiative to present a concert that honors our Servicemembers, their spouses, and families. The evening-length celebration includes music honoring Mother's Day from the American Military Spouses Choir. They will be joined by country singer, songwriter, and combat veteran Donnie Isaacs and the ensemble @Eaze. Rounding out the event is the vocal quartet Voices of Service. For up to two free tickets each for veteran or service member, present a valid military ID at the center ticket office, Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For questions call the ticket office at 703-993-7759.

Membership Renewals

This is a reminder to everyone that if you have not already done so to please renew your membership in the MOAA Heritage Hunt Chapter for 2023. The very reasonable membership fee is \$20. Complete your renewal by simply sending a check in that amount marked for MOAA Membership to our treasurer, Dennis Corrigan at 2628 Logmill Road, Haymarket, VA 20169-1216. While you are at it, please consider adding to your check a tax-deductible charitable contribution for our Junior ROTC scholarship fund and our other charitable activities. Finally, your renewal insures you continue to receive this award-winning newsletter. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please contact Mary Jo Howarth at 703-899-1582 or mihowarth4@comcast.net.

Chapter Welcomes New Member

Col. Dennis Stuessi, USA (Ret.) and Nancy Stuessi. I was born on a farm home in southeastern South Dakota into a family with origins in Switzerland and England. Apparently, I came into this world with assistance of a small-town country doctor. Except for the loss of my mother to cancer at age 42 when I was 5 years old, I enjoyed growing up on the prairie and experiencing the challenges of farm life. I was the youngest of three children and grew up in a predominantly Swiss immigrant, German speaking community which was much like an extended family!

At a young age I became interested in baseball and received permission to drive our '39 Chevy into the small town of Beresford (population 1,200) for baseball practice and games. I was only 9 years old, but South Dakota had no restrictions on driver's age. My grade school experience was a one-room, one-teacher country school often with only one student in a grade. During high-school days, sports became my passion, and I played all three sports offered: football, basketball and track. Summer baseball was my main interest and it prepared me for four years of college varsity baseball. During my high school days, I was active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America and was awarded the FFA S.D. State Farmer of the Year award, I also regularly exhibited purebred livestock at the S.D. State Fair.

I attended Wheaton College in Illinois. Sports and Army ROTC were my focus. I played four years of varsity baseball and lettered in baseball, football, soccer and track. In spite of my preoccupation with sports, I managed to graduate in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Social Science and a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. While the Wheaton years were filled with some of the most positive experiences of my life, the best experience occurred during my last year of college when my hometown girlfriend Nancy Lee Swanson visited campus for the annual ROTC banquet and I proposed! We became engaged and were married in September of 1960.

Following four months of infantry officer basic and airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga., we moved to Fort Rucker, Ala., where I spent a year in fixed-wing aviation training. I was then assigned to the aviation detachment at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where I flew the Beechcraft Queen Air (twin engine) aircraft and had the pleasure of flying, among others, then Maj. Gen. Harold K. Johnson who later became the Army chief of staff. In June 1963, we moved back to Fort Rucker, where I spent a year as an instructor pilot in the rear seat of a Cessna O-1 Bird Dog (single engine) aircraft, the first all-metal fixed-wing aircraft ordered for and by the Army following the Army Air Forces' separation from it in 1947.

I was next assigned in September 1964 to the flight detachment of the Military Assistance Command (Vietnam). One of the most unusual things about this assignment is that I began the tour by flying a new Beechcraft Queen Air from the factory in Wichita, Kan., to Saigon by way of Newfoundland, the Azores, Spain, Germany, Italy, India, and Thailand. While in Vietnam, I was responsible for flying Gen. William C. Westmoreland and members of his staff throughout the country and to other locations. In September 1965, we moved back to Fort Rucker, where I was trained to fly the Grumman OV-1 Mohawk. Following a brief period at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where I completed surveillance and reconnaissance training, we moved to Darmstadt, Germany, in December 1965 where I flew night-time Mohawk surveillance and reconnaissance missions along the East German border and served as the company commander of an artillery battery - a most satisfying professional experience. This was an excellent opportunity to experience firsthand our heritage of Swiss culture. And, while it was not strictly a combat zone, family members were asked to have dog tags available, issued a supply of C-rations and be prepared for a short-notice evacuation of noncombatants in the event of combat.

My hoped-for three-year tour in Germany was cut to 16 months so I could transition to flying helicopters and return to Vietnam for a second tour. I was assigned to fly Bell H-13 Sioux observation helicopters in the 25th Infantry Division, but on the night that I arrived in country a good friend from the battery I commanded in Germany died in a crash and I was reassigned to his unit, the 73rd Surveillance Airplane Company, to once again fly Mohawks. This tour was difficult for me because of the intensity of the war and the number of close friends

lost in combat. It was during this tour that I made the decision to leave the active Army after eight years, join the reserves and prepare for civilian life as a missionary pilot with the Mission Aviation Fellowship. MAF is a Christian organization that provides aviation, communications, and learning technology services to more than 1,000 Christian and humanitarian agencies, as well as thousands of isolated missionaries and indigenous villagers in the world's most remote areas.

In 1970, after special flight training at MAF Headquarters we soon were enroute to a four-year assignment in Papua, Indonesia, along with our two daughters - Denise, age 9 and Dawn, age 6. To add to the adventure, Nancy, was pregnant with our third child. Because of a fatal accident involving a MAF pilot in Papua, we were asked to forego several remaining months of language instruction on Java and move to West Papua where pilots were urgently needed. On arriving, we quickly realized that local doctors were few and not well trained in delivering babies! We were advised to contact a missionary doctor living



Cessna 185 Flown by Dennis

in

the interior who would likely come to the coastal area to deliver our third child. When the day arrived, the doctor happened to be in the area but visiting his children at the mission grade school some distance from where we lived. After assurance that the baby would not arrive for a few more days we confidently retired for the evening. Near midnight Nancy announced it was time and I left to fetch the doctor. I rushed off but my return was later than planned and to the surprise of me and the doctor, our third child had been delivered by a missionary neighbor who claimed to have some medical training! LeeAnne, weighed in at eight pounds and was a very healthy baby.



Nancy, Dennis and LeeAnne at Remote Airstrip (in background)

For the next eight years, I served as one of several missionary pilots supporting MAF missionaries and doctors operating in the interior highland areas among various indigenous (and sometimes primitive and warring) peoples. Our air missions involved supplying religious education materials and medical/basic supplies needed for survival to the interior and bringing out produce and goods to generate a small income for the tribal people. On occasion, we would even transport pigs and young cattle for husbandry training programs.

Flying was exciting. Weather forecasts

were a radio message from the interior just prior to takeoff reporting on local conditions – sunny, cloudy, high winds, raining, etc. Weather changed constantly. Final approach sometimes required on-ground personnel to say "I hear you. You're off to the west. Look for a hole in the clouds about a mile to your east." Interior meant clearing 10,000-foot mountains shortly after taking off from the coast no matter the weather. Interior airstrips were bare-bones as missionaries and indigenous people had to carve them out of the jungle. Missions were frequent, as we could only carry a limited amount, and sometimes dangerous – some missionaries died when caught between warring indigenous groups – to say nothing of the three accidental flying deaths that occurred.

I also served as a flying area program manager. In addition to flying support missions, I was responsible for making sure the program and pilots throughout the area had the resources to provide the intended support to the peoples in the area. In 1979 we moved to Jakarta where I became the vice-president responsible for all MAF activities in Asia and in 1988 we returned to MAF headquarters in California where I became the vice-president for Personnel and Development. I retired from MAF in 2005.

While working with MAF in Indonesia and at its headquarters in California, I continued my Army reserve career and served multiple active-duty tours with US Army Japan (USARJ) as the J-3/G-3 for I Corps/USARJ. This was an enjoyable time as I often was accompanied by my wife who was eager to have a vacation from the heat of Indonesia and do some real shopping! The active-duty tours in Japan were often 2-3 weeks and sometimes twice a year. Along with other reserve assignments, I was able to retire from the Army in October 1990 after serving 30 years of active and reserve duty.

I served both of my Vietnam tours with Floyd Olsen, a Wheaton classmate and close friend. During the second tour, while flying a helicopter supporting an insertion mission, Olsen was reported as missing in action following his attempt to locate a downed helicopter and, hopefully, rescue crew members. I kept abreast of the search and rescue operations which were unsuccessful and eventually ceased. In late August 1968 in the last day of my tour, I flew a Mohawk surveillance aircraft to meet with members of Olsen's unit to discuss the details. I then flew over the likely site of Olsen's crash with cameras operating and then abruptly pulled the aircraft into a climb and rocked the wings to let Floyd know (if he was able) that I was looking for him and, at the same time, promising myself that I would return.

As relations with Vietnam improved, I decided to resume my search. Over a ten-year period with financial help from Wheaton college friends and others we were able to create Viet-Aid, a tax-exempt charitable organization, and make multiple trips to continue my search for my close friend and provide some aid to the Vietnamese. While each visit provided bits of information, I soon realized that I would probably never find Floyd and that the money raised would better be used for the humanitarian needs of the Vietnamese. I decided to merge Viet-Aid with Vets With a Mission, a non-government organization dedicated to humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese. I served on the board of VWAM for nearly 20 years. In the end, I made 16 trips to Vietnam to search for Floyd and deliver humanitarian aid.

Following retirement from MAF, my hobby and my passion continued to be baseball. I stayed active in competitive "fast-pitch softball" into my mid "fifties" and then transitioned to slow-pitch softball. I continue to look forward to a "slow-pitch" (very slow!) game of softball with my grandkids. I have learned the game of pickleball since coming to Heritage Hunt and am a member of the PB club.

My wife, Nancy, has accompanied me on this exciting journey and was often mentioned in my "performance" reviews. I could not have functioned effectively without her encouragement and genuine support for Army and mission life. Our



three daughters have provided us with nine grandchildren. We gather annually in California, Virginia, or in South Dakota.

In the words of the missionaries themselves, we pilots and our planes served as the "feet of the missionaries." I was blessed to be able to play a small part in their calling.

Please join your editor in welcoming the Stuessis to the community and our chapter and engaging them at our social events.

Legislative Update

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations provides advice and assistance to the governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on matters of concern to the veterans community. The 26 members of the JLC include the MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters.

The JLC has established a list of initiatives shown below for the 2023 Virginia legislative session which began on January 11, 2023, with the convening of the General Assembly. Please contact your delegate or senator to encourage them to adopt these initiatives.

JLC 2023-01 That the Governor and General Assembly reform the Virginia state law, Tax Relief for HJ533 (Delegate Tran) Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouse of a Member of the Armed Forces "Killed in Action" through a Virginia SJ231 (Senator McPike) Surviving Spouses of Constitutional Amendment to include died on active duty in the section that addresses Military Service Members surviving spouses of members of the armed forces killed in action. to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty" ROA HB1470 (Delegate Watts) JLC 2023-02 That the Governor and General Assembly Amend the Veteran Real Property Tax law to Real Property Tax make explicit that local jurisdictions must provide a veteran or surviving spouse the HB2361 (Delegate Wiley) Exemption Effective Date exemption as far back as the veteran or surviving spouse is eligible, but not earlier than January 1, 2011, regardless of when the veteran or surviving spouse applies. JLC 2023-03 That the Governor and General Assembly remove the 55-year age limitation on HB1436 (Delegate McGuire) Removal of Age exemption of military retirement income from state tax AUSA HB1690 (Delegate Greenhalgh) Requirement Income Tax SB1194 (Senator Reeves) JLC 2023-04 That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$400,000 (GF) to the FRA HB1565 (Delegate Convirs-Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) Department of Veterans Services so that the spouse and Guard/Reserve burial charges Fowler) for State Veterans may be eliminated at Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries, and that Virginia work with HB2362 (Delegate Wiley) Cemeteries; Eliminate Congress to secure the funding (in the VA budget) to extend the VA plot allowance to SB924 (Senator DeSteph) Spouse/Dependent and spouses at all state veterans cemeteries nationwide HB1400/SB800 (Budget Bills), Guard/Reserve Burial Fees Item 471 (Governor's Introduced Budget). \$400,000 GF increase to eliminate spouse/dependent and guard/reserve burial fees. HB1388 (Delegate Fowler) That the Governor and General Assembly grant free admission to Virginia State parks to Virginia National Guard members of the Virginia National Guard. SB915 (Senator Morrisey) State Park Admission HB1400/SB800 (Budget Bills), Item 375 (Governor's Introduced Budget). \$20,000 GF increase to offset decreased operating JLC 2023-06 SB1210 (Senator Mason) That the Governor and General Assembly adjust increase the amount of income excluded Virginia National Guard from State Income Tax from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and increase the pay grade eligibility to LTC Income Tax Exemption (O5 pay grade)

Status of JLC 2023 Approved Initiatives - as of January 13, 2023

Personal Affairs Support Available

Pete Wright

Recently, there were questions about what chapter resources may be available regarding personal affairs. Our Personal Affairs Committee—chaired by Pete Wright—can assist chapter members and their spouses when death and serious illness occur. The committee stands ready to provide basic information regarding military benefits, entitlements, notifications, and claims. The committee also maintains relevant web links on the chapter's website (https://www.hhmoaa.org/Personal-Affairs). Chapter members are highly encouraged to complete end-of-life planning on behalf of their family members and heirs. The national MOAA website, MOAA.org, also includes such information and handy publications, guides and checklists that may be conveniently downloaded free of charge to MOAA members (https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/">https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/). If you have any questions, please contact Pete at 703-743-1352 or P.wright@comcast.net.

Wreaths Across America Update

Photos by Herb Thompson, Public Domain

On December 17, 2022, Herb Thompson of our chapter joined thousands of other volunteers to place wreaths on the gravestones and columbarium niches at Arlington National Cemetery. According to the Wreaths Across America website the purpose of this annual event is to "Remember our Fallen U.S. Veterans, Honor Those Who Serve and Teach Your Children the Value of Freedom." Thompson is an annual volunteer who uses the opportunity to remember his deceased wife, Barbara Lee, who is buried at ANC and to fulfill the purpose of Wreaths Across America. We provide the following photos to remind our readers of "those who gave all" and to preserve their memory.









Flying Service Flags on Service Anniversaries Update

Photo by Jim Beavers

In the last issue of The Clarion, an article described the new chapter initiative to fly service flags on the birthday anniversary of each Service from one of the flagpoles outside the Golf Club Pro Shop.

Those anniversaries are:

- Army, June 14, 1775
- Navy, October 13, 1775
- Marine Corps, November 10, 1775
- Coast Guard, August 4, 1790
- Air Force, September 18, 1947
- Space Force, December 20, 2019

The anniversaries of the Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy were covered in the last issue. Recently, service flags for the Marine Corps and Space Force were raised on their anniversaries. Given the absence of any Space Force veterans at Heritage Hunt, Bill Horan, raised the Space Force flag on Dec. 20, one of the nastiest weather days so far this winter. Horan said he really wished the Space Force had been created sometime during the summer!

The only remaining initial flag raising is the Army flag on June 14. As always, Bill is looking for service veteran volunteers to do the honors. If you can help, please give Bill a call at 703-743-1839.



Clyde Woods, USMC Veteran and Chapter Member, raises
USMC Flag

Chapter Calendar

Date	Event / Action			
Feb 14	Board Meeting Cancelled			
Mar 14	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Marsh Mansion, Garden Room			
Apr 11	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Marsh Mansion, Garden Room			
Apr TBD	Spring Social			
May 9	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Marsh Mansion, Garden Room			
Jun 13	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Marsh Mansion, Garden Room			
Jul TBD	Summer Picnic			

Continued from **Christmas Social**, page 3.



L to R: Randolph and Cilla Williams, Dennis and Celeste Corrigan





L to R: John and Sally Lyver, Dorothy and Ken Grimm



L to R: Lori and Bill Horan, Ronnie and Frank Cartwright



L to R: Carole and John Denning, Pat Barrett



L to R: Dee Castle, Elizabeth and Burwin Reed, Shirley and Bud Winn, Alan and Mary Beth Hemer, Bob Castle



L to R: Ann Coulter, Don and Margaret Belanus, Bill Hudspeth



L to R: Millie Counts, Bob and Dawn Glass, Ellen Ziegler



Shirley Dominick, Dennis Stuessi



L to R: Bernie Ellis, Jim Beavers - Part of Swearing in New Officers and Directors



L to R: "Welcoming Committee" - Mary Jo Howarth, Linda Concannon



"50-50" Sales - Nancy Obrien, Jim Beavers



L to R: Betty Hitchcock, Nan Medley



Battlefield HS Honor Guard under command of C/TSgt Hollie Haines (center)



L to R: Carolyn Kirkland, Pam and Bill Collier



Just a few of the many Battlefield Singers Boosters Club attending.



Pam Lewis does the 50-50 drawing with Jim Beavers and Nancy O'Brien



Jim Beavers (left) congratulating Cy Shearer on yet another term as a director for the chapter.



Application for membership in Heritage Hunt Chapter MOAA (Call Mary Jo Howarth for more information 703-899-1582. Fill out on-line or print and fill out off-line)

Name					
Last		First (ex. James)	Initial	Suffix	
Call Name (ex. Jim)				
Address					
Street		City		Zip	
Email	Telephone MOAA ID		Li	fe member Y/N	
Spouse 1 st Name (ex.Susan)	Initial	Last Name		Call name (ex.Suie)	
Spouse Phone	Spous	e Email			
Rank Service	Dates	of Service (entered-	separated	ddmmyyyy)	
Status: Retired / Former Office	er / Surviving	spouse			
University/College	Year commiss	sioned Resident of	Heritage H	lunt? Y/N	
Annual Dues: \$20 for Regula	ar members	\$10 fo	\$10 for Surviving Spouses		
Please make	checks payab	uary 1 to December (ble to Heritage Hunt (embership in Nationa	Chapter MC	DAA	
Signature		Date			
Web page for Heritage Hunt C	Chapter of MO	AA http://hhmoaa.org	/Home		
Please m	ail to: N	lary Jo Howarth, Me 9010 Roaring Sprii			

Bristow, VA 20136