

**Upcoming Chapter Event**

**Monday, June 10** – Our Silent Auction for the Chapter Scholarship Fund and quarterly Dinner Meeting will be held at the VFW Cherryland Post 2780, which is located at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City. The social hour will begin at 5:30 pm. The guest speaker will be John Van Ettan, CAPT, USAF (ANG). He will be speaking about the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) Effort to recover BAT-21. Please R.S.V.P. to Karen or Greg Movsesian no later than June 4.



**In case you missed it – News from MOAA (Click on the links to open them):**

**Supreme Court Ruling Will Help Protect Military Community from Financial Predators.** MOAA supported the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's case, joining a court brief on the agency's behalf. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/supreme-court-ruling-will-help-protect-military-community-from-financial-predators/>

**Ask Congress to Take the Next Step in Support of Combat-Injured Veterans.** A key rule change must be made for the Major Richard Star Act to move forward. Make your voice heard. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/ask-congress-to-take-the-next-step-in-support-of-combat-injured-veterans/>

**Using TRICARE For Life Overseas.** Planning a trip? Here's what to know before you go. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/using-tricare-for-life-overseas/>

**Comprehensive VA Health Care, Benefits Bill Finally Introduced in House.** The bipartisan package includes several MOAA-supported bills and makes major improvements. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/comprehensive-va-health-care,-benefits-bill-finally-introduced-in-house/>

**VA Program Allows Advance Approval, Planning for Burial Benefits.** Don't wait to make these arrangements. Find out how to take advantage of Pre-Need Eligibility. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/va-program-allows-advance-approval,-planning-for-burial-benefits/>



**FROM THE PRESIDENT – CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.)**

President, NWMI Chapter of MOAA

At the February Board of Directors meeting the board approved chapter support of various ROTC and JROTC programs. Founding president Bob Kutulis has done an excellent job of design and implementation. At our most recent meeting, Bob briefed us on the fine results of our first-year efforts. You can read more about that later in this Newsletter.

The board also approved another year of spot ads on six NW MI radio stations. These will once again begin on Memorial Day weekend and run through the month of June. In addition, the board approved a small donation to Reigning Liberty Ranch which will place an advertisement on a tee box during the 14 June golf fund raiser at Interlochen Golf Course. This is a worthwhile event to support the Ranch which is well known for utilizing horses to help treat veteran PTSD. Want to play or contribute? Call me.

The implementation of a Chapter Website has been discussed. No decision was made, but once it is created, we will need is a chapter member to maintain the site. No experience necessary! As John Currier once told me, “Enthusiasm is everything.” Greg Movsesian has done considerable research on this issue; if interested, contact Greg Movsesian or me.

Karen Movsesian has run our silent auction fund raiser for three years, does a terrific job, and is also heavily involved in organizing our events. In addition, Karen is the chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison and the Personal Services Officer. Understandably, she wishes to be replaced in those last two positions. These can be done by a member or a member’s spouse and training is available through MOAA. Please get involved!! If interested, contact Karen or me.

Our next Dinner Meeting is at the VFW on Veterans Drive in Traverse City on Monday June 10th. It will include our annual Silent Auction as well as our guest speaker John Van Etten who, during the Vietnam War, ran the longest Combat Search and Rescue mission in history. It all became known as BAT-21. Don’t miss it!!

Mark Benjamin

## 2024 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

### Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President .....	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:thaase76@gmail.com">thaase76@gmail.com</a>
Director (USCG Liaison) .....	CAPT Andy Schanno, USCG .....	<a href="mailto:andrew.g.schanno@uscg.mil">andrew.g.schanno@uscg.mil</a>
Director .....	MajGen Michael Lehnert, USMC (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:wontolla44@gmail.com">wontolla44@gmail.com</a>
Director .....	Brig Gen Scott Dennis, USAF (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:sldennisf16@gmail.com">sldennisf16@gmail.com</a>

### Chapter Officers:

President.....	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:mebmd11@gmail.com">mebmd11@gmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:gmo50@outlook.com">gmo50@outlook.com</a>
Treasurer .....	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:thaase76@gmail.com">thaase76@gmail.com</a>
Secretary.....	Tom Bratton, USAF Veteran .....	<a href="mailto:thomas.a.bratton@gmail.com">thomas.a.bratton@gmail.com</a>
ROTC/JROTC Liaison Officer.....	Capt. Bob Kutulis, USAF (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:kutulis@charter.net">kutulis@charter.net</a>
Membership Chair .....	LCDR Mike Wildman, USN (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:wildmike50@gmail.com">wildmike50@gmail.com</a>
Legislative Liaison .....	CDR Andy Clayton, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:gaclayton@gmail.com">gaclayton@gmail.com</a>
Programs Officer.....	Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:gmo50@outlook.com">gmo50@outlook.com</a>
Communications/Newsletter ...	CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:curtis_erickson@outlook.com">curtis_erickson@outlook.com</a>
Scholarship Chair .....	Open	
Personal Affairs Officer.....	Karen Movsesian .....	<a href="mailto:themovsesians@gmail.com">themovsesians@gmail.com</a>
Surviving Spouse Liaison.....	Karen Movsesian .....	<a href="mailto:themovsesians@gmail.com">themovsesians@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain .....	LTC John Brian, USA (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:airborneranger840@yahoo.com">airborneranger840@yahoo.com</a>

### Upcoming Chapter Events

Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.)  
NWMJ Chapter Vice President and Programs  
Chair

**Monday, June 10:** Silent Auction for the  
Chapter Scholarship Fund and Quarterly Dinner  
Meeting. VFW Cherryland Post 2780, Traverse  
City. See page 1 for more information.

**Thursday, August 8:** Golf Outing and Chapter  
Picnic, Elk Rapids Golf Club, Elk Rapids.

**Tuesday, September 10:** Quarterly Chapter  
Dinner Meeting, Elks Lodge, Traverse City.

**Thursday, December 12:** Quarterly Chapter  
Dinner Meeting, Traverse City Golf and Country  
Club, Traverse City.

### Please Update Your Contact Information

Please take a moment to review and update  
your contact information on your profile at  
[MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org) . We especially need you to review  
and/or add email addresses, as many appear to  
be missing or inaccurate. Thank you!

*Thank you for stepping up to support our chapter  
and our goal to provide academic scholarships to  
deserving local students.*

### Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition News

We are collecting Olsen's Grocery receipts on  
behalf of the Veterans Suicide Prevention group  
22 2 None. These are turned in, with a  
percentage of the receipt amounts being donated  
to 22 2 None. Please give your receipts to Mark  
Benjamin or Curt Erickson.

### Upcoming NMC International Affairs Forum Event

The next NMC International Affairs Forum  
(NMCIAF) event will be held Wednesday, June 12,  
at 6:00 p.m. at the Dennon Museum Center  
Milliken Auditorium in Traverse City. The speaker  
will be Jennifer Sciubba, Ph.D., and she will talk  
about "Global Population: Myths and  
Misconceptions". Ms. Sciubba is a political  
demographer, TED speaker, and author of *8  
Billion and Counting: How Sex, Death, and  
Migration Shape Our World*.

For more information on this event, go to the  
TCIAF website at <https://www.tciaf.com/> or  
telephone them at 231-995-1844.



## ROTC/JROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

By Capt. Bob Kutulis, USAF, Ret.

In April, the chapter board approved a scholarship program for three ROTC programs and three JROTC programs. The awards are scheduled to be presented in the May frame when most schools have their awards ceremonies and graduations. This is our first year in awarding scholarships to the ROTC/JROTC detachments.

The ROTC Scholarship Award went to Cadet Carinn M. Tryon, Michigan Technological University. Cadet Tryon has a 3.87 GPA majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Aerospace Engineering. Cadet Tryon has spent significant time immersed in learning different languages. She is fluent in Spanish and studied in Columbia; she was selected to attend a Russian language immersion program sponsored by the USAF and the University of Pennsylvania; and this summer she will do on-site immersion in Latvia.

The JROTC Scholarship Award went to Cadet LTC Carolynn M. Bruchman, Calumet High School, Calumet, MI. Cadet Bruchman has a 3.87 GPA and will be majoring in Conservation Biology. She will be attending either Central Michigan University or the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. With her degree she hopes to join the Department of Natural Resources as a Conservation Officer and follow in the footsteps of her father, who is a Forester with the US Forest Service. Her detachment instructor and references all speak very highly of her leadership qualities. Carolynn is the daughter of a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant. As such, she was imbued with the spirit of patriotism throughout her life, and it shows through in all her accomplishments. Quoting her Army Instructor, "We are excited to see what the future brings for this delightful young woman".

MOAA Certificate and Medal Award for Meritorious Service were awarded to:

Cadet Visgar Johnathon ..... Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, MI

Cadet Eden Brady..... Luther L. Wright High School, Ironwood, MI

Cadet SFC Lena Myhren..... Calumet High School, Calumet, MI

Cadet William Smith ..... Houghton High School, Houghton, MI

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### Third Annual Mini Golf Outing

Friday, May 17 saw several mini golfers attack the links at Pirates Cove Adventure Park in Traverse City. This year's weather proved to be ideal for the event, as many people took to the miniature links to support Pirate's Cove's Putting for Patriots fund as well as our Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

Walter Topp III, the son of chapter member Walter Topp Jr., came out on top and claimed the right to wear the coveted blue jacket for the next year.

A big thank you to chapter member Brad Graft for making the golf outing possible!



The winning team! From L to R: Walter Topp, Jr., Mike Lehnert, and Walter Topp III

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



## MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM FOR MOAA AND NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Active  Retired  Former  Reserve  National Guard  Surviving Spouse  
Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

(To ensure delivery of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address)

Are you a member of MOAA?  Yes  No  Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.**  **BASIC**

Upgrading to **PREMIUM** membership gives you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

Visit [moaa.org/join](http://moaa.org/join) to learn more.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)?  Yes  No

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

### To complete enrollment:

- Fill in this form and email it to [wildmike50@gmail.com](mailto:wildmike50@gmail.com). Do not include credit card information. Or,
- Mail it with a check made out to NWMI Chapter MOAA, and mail it to:

**Mike Wildman, 702 Ahgosa Trl, Traverse City, MI 49686.**

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share your personal information.

### Chapter Membership and dues information

Get to know and enjoy the company of fellow officers in northern Michigan.

As members, we engage socially; award scholarships to deserving students; maintain a strong civic presence; and support legislation to preserve and enhance the benefits for active, veteran, and retired members of the armed forces of the United States of America.

Chapter eligibility is limited to MOAA members who have paid their chapter dues.

Chapter dues are \$20 per year, or \$55 for three years, and are payable on January 1 of the year after your membership has expired.

*"Never Stop Serving"*

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**Northwestern Michigan Chapter  
June Dinner Meeting  
Annual Silent Auction**

**Monday, 10 June 2024  
VFW Cherryland Post 2780  
3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City, MI  
5:30 PM**

**Guest speaker: John Van Ettan, Capt., USAF (ANG), Vietnam Veteran  
Topic: Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) Bat 21**

**Price \$35.00 per person. Our buffet dinner includes:**

- Tossed Salad
- Chicken
- Fish Filet
- Potato
- Roasted Vegetables
- Rolls and Butter
- Dessert

Name(s): Member - \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) - \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number in Your Group Attending (Please indicate # of dinners):

<u>Member and Guest(s)</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
Buffet Dinner: _____ @ \$35.00 .....	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation: .....	\$ _____
Annual Chapter Dues _____ \$20.00 .....	\$ _____
Total Amount Due . \$ _____	

**Reservations to: Greg/Karen Movsesian, 8079 Aarwood Trail NW, Rapid City, MI 49676  
or email [gmo50@outlook.com](mailto:gmo50@outlook.com) or text/call 313-318-4703**

**Negative replies requested.**