

# MOAA<sup>®</sup>

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

# JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Chapter Website- [Home](#) | [Moaa Pittsburgh Chapter](#)



**MOAA Pittsburgh - A Five Star Chapter  
Chartered on Veterans Day - 11 November 1965**

**Our Mission: "Never Stop Serving!"**

***Next Luncheon Meeting - Sunday, July 13, 2025***

***Guest Speaker Pending:***

**U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (PAO Representative)**

***Chartiers Country Club***

***601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15205***

***Social Hour/Cash Bar: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM***

***Lunch and Program: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM***

***Lunch Served Promptly at 2:00 PM***

**Chartiers Country Club | Pittsburgh, PA**

***See schedule on the newsletter's last page***

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## **Pittsburgh Chapter Leaders**

**LTC (RET) Jon P. Comis  
President and  
Acting Membership Chair  
412-251-3547  
[moapitt@gmail.com](mailto:moapitt@gmail.com)**

**CPT Daniel Kysela  
Vice-President and  
Acting Secretary  
412-616-1641  
[kysela.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:kysela.daniel@gmail.com)**

**SECRETARY  
VACANT  
CPT Daniel Kysela (Acting)**

**TREASURER  
VACANT  
LTC (RET) Jon P. Comis (Acting)**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
VACANT  
LTC (RET) Daniel Hart (Acting)**

**CHAPLAIN  
VACANT  
COL (RET) Carmen DiGiacomo (Acting)**

**LTC (RET) Charles Chasler  
ROTC Liaison  
716-785-4383  
[chuckchasler@gmail.com](mailto:chuckchasler@gmail.com)**

**LTC WILLIAM B. PENTECOST jr. (RET)**  
**Legislative Liaison**

**412-254-9293**  
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**Oralia Ferretti**  
**Surviving Spouse Liaison**  
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**Pat Seda-Rivera**  
**Events Coordinator**  
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**CAPT (RET) Bob Heister**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**412-953-9576 (voicemail)**  
**[heysailor53@mac.com](mailto:heysailor53@mac.com)**

**Directors (6)**

**COL (RET) Carmen DiGiacomo**  
**[tippfado@verizon.net](mailto:tippfado@verizon.net)**

**LTC (RET) Daniel Hart**  
**[hartfitness1@verizon.net](mailto:hartfitness1@verizon.net)**

**LTJG USNR Chad Rittle**  
**[rittle99@yahoo.com](mailto:rittle99@yahoo.com)**

**CW4 (RET) Thomas Tallon**  
**[thomastallon@verizon.net](mailto:thomastallon@verizon.net)**

**VACANT**  
**VACANT**

**MOAA State Veterans Home Advisory Council Members**

**Southwestern Veteran's Center**

**CW4 (RET) Thomas E. Tallon**  
**[thomastallon@verizon.net](mailto:thomastallon@verizon.net)**

**Erie Soldiers & Sailors Home**

**MAJ Richard J. DiGiacomo**  
**[rjdigiacomozoom@zoominternet.net](mailto:rjdigiacomozoom@zoominternet.net)**

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## **Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Our Surviving Spouse Liaison, **Oralia Ferretti**, is always ready to answer any questions. Please reach out to Oralia. Her phone number and email address are located in the Pittsburgh Chapter Leader Section.

**Click the links below to view content:**

[Surviving Spouse Corner: Join Our Virtual Chapter](#)

[MOAA's Surviving Spouse Resources Website](#)

[Surviving Spouse Corner: Improve Your Mental Skills with These Brain Exercises](#)

**Surviving Spouse Advisory Council** Learn more about MOAA's Surviving Spouse programs and resources [here](#).

**Did you know there is a MOAA Surviving Spouses & Friends Facebook Group?**

[MOAA Surviving Spouses & Friends Facebook Group](#) has over 850 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues — especially regarding legislation important to surviving spouses and their families. Former SSAC member Kathy Prout is the administrator, with Kathy Thorp and Nancy Mullen assisting.

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## 2024 Advocacy in Action (AiA) Council President's Seminar

Our state of Pennsylvania will be represented at the MOAA Spring 2025 Advocacy in Action Seminar in Washington, DC, by the PACOC President Nick Taylor, Past Council President Keith Beebe, and MOAA National Board Member Chuck Anderson (PA).

[MOAA - How MOAA Plans to Build Momentum in the 119th Congress](#)



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## ***MOAAA ADVOCACY - A Top Priority for Change!***

Now is the time to sign up and email your Legislative Representatives. Currently our chapter has twenty (20) members registered as advocates, and between January 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024, we had a total of (158) actions taken by our members. It is a self-explanatory process to sign up and email our representatives. We must speak up and make ourselves heard, for those who have served, and for those who are currently serving. If there are any questions on this process, please contact our Chapter's

LTC (RET) WILLIAM B. PENTECOST Jr.

**412-254-9293**

**wpentecost@c-wlaw.com**

It is time to **"TAKE ACTION NOW!"**

*Follow the Links below to take action to write your Representatives.*

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

[MOAA - Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center](#)

[MOAA - MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#)

[Pennsylvania Senators, Representatives, and Congressional District Maps - GovTrack.us](#)

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## July Luncheon Donation Collection for the Residents at the Southwestern Veterans Center

As previously talked about and positively voted upon in 2024, the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter will begin collecting items for residents living at the **Southwestern Veterans Center (7060 Highland Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15206)**. This is the Center that our Chapter has volunteered at assisting with bingo games throughout the years.

For July's Luncheon, we will be collecting **Zippered Change Purses and Fanny Packs** at the July 13 Luncheon. Please try and bring in your donation to the veterans of Pittsburgh.

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The Chapter's May 31, 2025 **BINGO!** for the hospitalized veterans at the Southwest Veteran Center went well. Our members provided, gifts, snacks and drinks to the veterans. We may be assisting with another Bingo in the fall. More information to follow.

- [Southwestern Veterans' Center | Department of Military and Veterans Affairs | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)



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## MOAA National **CHEDDAR PLATFORM** for Dues Payment.

MOAA NATIONAL is working with a new platform CHEDDAR to make **online dues payment** a breeze. The link to payment -

[View Items | Cheddar Up](#)

If you would like to pay by check, please make checks payable to **MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter** and mail to our acting treasurer and President-

Jon P. Comis  
291 Foxcroft Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

To become a National MOAA Member, click on the link below and sign up. National Basic Membership is FREE! Then pay your Chapter dues accordingly.

[MOAA Membership](#)

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## JROTC/ROTC AWARDS SECTION

Our JROTC/ROTC presentation season went well. LTC Chuck Chasler and his team presented awards to seven programs this year. Depending on requests, the team may be back in action this fall.

If anyone is interested, please contact our chapter's ROTC /JROTC Liaison:

**LTC (RET) Charles Chasler**  
**ROTC Liaison**  
**716-785-4383**  
**[chuckchasler@gmail.com](mailto:chuckchasler@gmail.com)**

***Thanks to LTC (RET) Chuck Chasler and his team of volunteers!***

**Below is the 2025 ROTC/JROTC Completed Event Schedule.**



	ROTC/JROTC	2025	PROJECTED	
DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	ATTENDEES/MANA	NOTES/AAR
4-5-2025	Beaver HS JROTC Military Ball	Club at Shadow Lakes, 2000 Beaver Lakes, Aliquippa, PA	CPT Polly Bosdech-Weater	SGM (R) Oscar Weaver, USA
4-11-2025	Steel City (CMU) NROTC Awards	McConomy Auditorium in CMU's Jared L. Cohon University Center.	Captain/Dr. USN (RET) Eugene Ginchereau	LT Parker Sharp NROTCU Carnegie Mellon University
4-25-2025	Butler HS JROTC Military Ball	American Legion Post 778 150 Legion Memorial Lane in Butler, PA 16001	LTJG USNR Chad Rittle	MAJ (R) Colman, USA
05-1-2025	SRU ROTC Awards	Slippery Rock Township Building, 155 Branchton Rd, Slippery Rock	MAJ Rich Digiacomo	Ms. Becky Lindey Secretary, DNS, SRU
5-3-2025	PR HS JROTC Banquet	Pine Richland High School	Captain/Dr. USN (RET) Eugene Ginchereau	MSG Leydig, USAF
5-7-2025	AG HS JROTC Awards	Albert Gallatin High School	CPT USA Dan Kysela	LTC (R) Richard Cassem, USA /CSM Alexander Lashendock, USA
5-9-2025	North Allegheny JROTC Awards	North Allegheny High School	LTJG USNR Chad Rittle	LTC (R) Accamando SGT (R) Doug Eggert
	AWARDS	BALL	BANQUET	COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY

## PENNSYLVANIA VETERAN'S REGISTRY LINK-

<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/pages/outreach-and-reintegration/pennsylvaniaveteransregistry.aspx>

## Leadership Update for Pittsburgh-area VSOs

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

## VA Pittsburgh Health Systems Monthly Townhall

If any member is interested, a request in an email to Ms. Heather Steele will establish you on her mailing list. You will be sent an email monthly to inform you when and where the meetings are located. You can also attend through a Zoom Link from your home computer.

Veterans,  
VAPHS leadership and representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration

Pittsburgh Regional Office and the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies will provide updates on current initiatives and answer your questions. Your valued input helps us ensure we meet the needs of Veterans who visit us for care at our two main campuses and six outpatient clinics.

Have a question or concern but can't make this meeting? Want to recommend a topic or suggest someone for addition to the invite list? **Send us** all the details and we will respond by email.

*Hope you can join us!*

Heather Steele

**Please RSVP and plan to join in person, by video or on the phone:**

- At the **H.J. Heinz III campus**, in the building 71 Learning Exchange.
- Via **Webex video**.
- By phone at 1-404-397-1596 (toll-free), access code: 2826 278 2850.

**VAPHS**

**[pittsburgh.va.gov](http://pittsburgh.va.gov)**

**[Heather.Steele@va.gov](mailto:Heather.Steele@va.gov)**

**[VA Pittsburgh Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)**

**[VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System | Pittsburgh PA | Facebook](#)**

**[FY25Q1 VAPHS Veterans Town Hall](#)**

**[Veterans Health Administration](#)**

**[Applying for Benefits - Veterans Benefits Administration](#)**

**[Find A VA Accredited Representative Or VSO | Veterans Affairs](#)**

**VSAFE**

**[VA Decision Reviews And Appeals | Veterans Affairs](#)**

**[About the Veterans Legacy Memorial \(VLM\) - National Cemetery Administration](#)**

**[National Cemetery of the Alleghenies - National Cemetery Administration](#)**

**[Veterans Burial Allowance And Transportation Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)**

**[Pittsburgh Regional Office Home](#)**

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***New VA Outpatient Clinics Coming Soon!***



**Expected to open in 2 years!**



### **Beaver County**

**301 Beaver Valley Mall  
Boulevard in Monaca  
(former Sears  
automotive store)**



### **Westmoreland County**

**Off Rt. 30 at the Mt.  
Pleasant Road exit, near  
Hampton Inn in  
Greensburg**

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## **Veterans Service Organizations accredited representatives to Assist - [VA Accredited Representative FAQs](#) | [Veterans Affairs](#)**

**The following Veterans Service Organizations are located at the  
Pittsburgh Regional Office (FEDERAL BUILDING):**

- **American Legion**, Room 1607, 412-395-6230/6231 (Hours 8:00am-4:00pm)
- **American Veterans**, Room 1605, 412-395-6248 (By Appointment)
- **Disabled American Veterans**, Room 1606, 412-395-6241 (Hours: 8:00am-3:00pm, except Wednesdays 8:00am-11:30am)
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America**, Room 1602, 412-395-6255 (Hours 7:00am-3:30pm)
- **Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**, Room 1612, 412-395-6225 (Hours 8:15am-4:30pm)
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars**, Room 1601, 412-395-6259 (Hours 8:30am-4:00pm)



**The Pennsylvania Council of Chapter's NEXT MEETING WILL BE  
PA Council of Chapters- September 2025 at Biddle Hall, Fort Indiantown  
Gap.**

**[Who We Are - PA Council of Chapters \(pa-coc.org\)](http://pa-coc.org)**

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During the June 7th PACOC Meeting at Fort Indiantown Gap, PACOC President Nick Taylor presented the state chapters with their 2024 MOAA National Leadership awards.  
**[MOAA - Council and Chapter Awards](#)**

Below is our chapter's President Jon P. Comis accepting three Five Star Awards for our chapter.

1. Levels of Excellence Award (5 Star)
2. Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Newsletter (5 Star)
3. Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Website (5 Star)



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## **MOAA QUICK LINKS CORNER**

*This Corner will help you link to the information needed for numerous questions on the benefits of joining MOAA to federal, state and regional information, and our new chapter website.*

**Why join MOAA-**

[MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#)

**MOAA's Military State**

[MOAA - MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#)

**Policy and Procedure Guidelines-**

[MOAA - Council and Chapters Policy and Procedure Guide Details](#)

**Ask the EXPERTS! (new)-**

[MOAA - AskTheExperts](#)

**Surviving Spouses-**

[MOAA - I Am a Surviving Spouse](#)

**MOAA Legislative Action Center**

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#)

**MOAA ROTC Program**

[MOAA - MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program](#)

**MOAA Council and Chapter Dates to Know-**

[MOAA - Council and Chapter Dates to Know](#)

**The MOAA Newsletter-**

**[MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter](#)**

**Events Calendar-**

**[MOAA - MOAA Events](#)**

**MOAA Council and Chapter Awards-**

**[MOAA - Council and Chapter Awards](#)**

**MOAA Scholarship Fund-**

**[MOAA - Scholarship Fund](#)**

**MOAA Publications-**

**[MOAA - MOAA Publications](#)**

**PA Council of Chapters-**

**[Who We Are - PA Council of Chapters \(pa-coc.org\)](#)**

**Southwestern Veteran's Center-**

**[Southwestern Veterans' Center \(pa.gov\)](#)**

**Soldiers and Sailors-**

**[Soldiers' and Sailors' \(pa.gov\)](#)**

**Pittsburgh MOAA**

**[Home | Moaa Pittsburgh Chap](#)**

**[MOAA - pittsburgh](#)**

## ***Veteran Service Organizations and Mil Links***

American Legion: **[The American Legion a U.S. Veterans Association](#)**

AMVETS: **[AMVETS: Serving American Veterans](#)**

Catholic War Veterans: **[Catholic Veterans Organization - Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America](#)**

Disabled American Vets (DAV): **[DAV : Disabled American Veterans](#)**

Jewish War Veterans: **[Home - Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.](#)**

Military Affairs Council of Western Pennsylvania (MACWPA): **[About MACWPA | Military Affairs Council Western PA](#)**

Military Order of the Purple Heart: **<https://www.purpleheart.org/>**

Operation Troop Appreciation: **[Operation Troop Appreciation | Dedicated To the Armed Forces](#)**

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA): **[Home](#)**

Veterans Breakfast Club: **[Veterans Stories - Every Veteran Has a Story - Veterans Breakfast Club](#)**

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): **<https://www.vfw.org/>**

Vietnam Veterans Inc: **[Vietnam Veterans, Inc – "Esprit de Corp" among Vietnam Veterans](#)**

Wounded Warrior Project: [Veterans Charity - Non Profit Organization for Veterans](#)

316th ESC: [316th ESC](#)

171st Air Refueling Wing: [171st Air Refueling Wing > Home](#)

911th Airlift Wing: [About Us](#)

## ***Space A Information***

[MOAA - Your Introduction to Space-A Travel](#)

Poppin Smoke- **subscribe here!**

[Quickstart Guide to Military Space-A Flights - Poppin' Smoke](#)

[Where to Find Military Space-A Flight Schedules - Poppin' Smoke](#)

[Military Space-A Lodging: Eligibility and Reservation Tips - Poppin' Smoke  
Space-A Travel](#)

[Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation \(MWR\) Lodging: Resorts, Cottages, and  
Campgrounds - Poppin' Smoke](#)

[Expat Military Retiree Interviews: Learn About Life Overseas - Poppin' Smoke](#)

[Poppin' Smoke | Facebook](#)

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## **MOAA PITTSBURGH 2025 PROJECTED EVENTS**

Chapter Website- [Home | Moaa Pittsburgh Chap](#)

2025 PROJECTED				
DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	ATTENDEES/MANAGERS	NOTES/AAR
JAN-DEC 2025- 2nd Monday of all months	Google Meet Meeting	Home Computer or Phone	Chapter Leadership Staff	Short/Long Term Planning
JAN-DEC 2025 (TBD)	VAPHS Roundtable	In Person or Home Computer	President Comis/ Anyone	The VA Pittsburgh Health Systems provide new info.
JAN-DEC 2025 (TBD)	JROTC (ROTC) Ceremonies, Awards, Banquets	Western PA Region	LTC (RET) Chasler and Team	ROTC/JROTC Presenter Team
JAN-DEC 2025 (Saturdays)	PACOC Meetings: MAR 8th /JUN 14th/ SEP 13th / DEC 13th	Biddle Hall, FIG (1100 hr.)/ December meeting via ZOOM	LTC (RET) Comis/All PA Chapter Presidents/CPT (Ret.) Bob Heister PACOC Past President	PACOC Pres. Nick Taylor meets with PA Chap. Pres. who report chapter's operations and future planning/projections
JAN-DEC 2025 (TBD)	OLD GUARD LUNCH (Brainstorming Ideas)	BRAVO's Waterfront (TBD)	ALCON Roundtable	Short/Long Term Planning
JAN-DEC 2025 (TBD)	Chapter Events (field trips, sporting events)	Western PA Region	ALL	Planning
ALL 2025 Luncheons	VA DONATION BOX	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	The donations will be issued to hospitalized veterans for the holidays
04-25/ 26-2025	USARC Ret.App.Day	316th ESC, Coraopolis, PA	Chapter Volunteers (TBD)	CANCELLED by USARC
4-27-2025	LUNCH/MEETING	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Meeting to prelude Lunch
27- April/ Dec 2024	VA Donation Box	All Luncheons	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Collect clothing and grooming items for hospitalized Vets
31-May-25	VA Bingo	SWVA Facility	Pat Seda-Rivera	Assist SWVA with Bingo
1 June- 8 Dec 2024	VA Home Holiday Card Collection	Western PA	COL (RET) Carmen DiGiacomo	Members signed and issued cards to the veterans in our Regional VA
7-13-2025	LUNCHEON	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Speaker TBD
9-7-2025	LUNCHEON	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Speaker TBD
10-12-2025	LUNCH/ELECTIONS	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Annual Meeting/Elections
12-7-2025	HOLIDAY/ PARTY	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Holiday Party

# ***JULY MEETING AND LUNCHEON***

## ***ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!***

Our next Luncheon is scheduled for July 13, 2025 at the  
**Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, 15205.**

A social hour with a cash bar begins at 1:00 PM (1300 hours). A  
seated lunch will start to be served promptly at 2:00 PM (1400  
hours). Valet parking will be available under the breezeway tunnel.

Our Speaker for July 2025 is still to be determined, but our  
request to the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Pittsburgh District)**  
is currently being reviewed by their Public Affair's Office and will  
most likely be accepted. More information and menu selections  
will be sent out in the June Newsletter.

***MORE INFORMATION ON MENU SELECTIONS, COST AND HOW  
TO PAY TO FOLLOW IN AN UPDATE.***



# MOAA PITTSBURGH HISTORICAL CORNER

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**4. The Pittsburgh Chapter** celebrated the 100th birthday of Maj. Scipio White, USA (Ret), center, at its June chapter meeting. He was commissioned in July 1942 and assigned to the 93rd Infantry Division, 594th Field Artillery Battalion. The Division was sent to the South Pacific in 1944. After World War II, White served in Army Reserve units in the Pittsburgh area until he retired in August 1978. The Pittsburgh Chapter made a \$100 contribution to the MOAA Scholarship Fund in White's honor.



Major Scipio White was one of our oldest and most dedicated member throughout the chapter's history.

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# Keeshan Is A Captain Named Kangaroo

By Edward L. Blank



The kindly captain...

**T**HE MAN on the cover of today's TV Graphic may be in disguise, but it's almost a cinch millions of children would recognize him anyway.

Clowning around is how he broke into show business—accidentally.

He's Bob Keeshan, alias "Captain Kangaroo," seen here at 8 a. m. weekdays on Channels 2, 9 and 10.

Long before the captain happened, children knew Keeshan as a clown—not the one on the cover, but Clarabelle of "Howdy Doody" fame.



Clarabelle

"I didn't plan to get into entertainment, period," he said. "I was going to be a lawyer. I was doing research work for one of Bob Smith's writers."

He was referring to the Bob Smith who created "Howdy Doody" and played Buffalo Bob on it.

"Then I found myself involved in acting on television," Keeshan said. "And I still intended to be a lawyer. But two or three years later the tail was wearing the dog, and I gave up any thought of law."

"I was given things to do, bring props on and so on. About the second week they said: 'Let's put a clown costume on you so it fits better.'"

"I did, and a few weeks after that we designed the makeup and started putting makeup on me and writing material."

Thus, Clarabelle was born in 1947. The impish clown was mute. He (she?) communicated by honking a horn fastened to the box worn on the front of his belt. His trademark was a seltzer bottle, with which he sprayed Buffalo Bob and Chief Thunder Thud.

With his masculine movements and her feminine name, Clarabelle's sex was never clarified.

"We never did decide that," said Keeshan, who left "Howdy" late in 1952 to do a pair of local New York kiddies' shows.

"'The Time for Fun,'" he said, "involved a clown, but that was really transitional for me. It was just coincidental that he happened to be a clown."

"It showed the real life of a clown, not the performing life."

"Then I played Tinker. He was an elderly man, a grandfatherly type—somewhat similar to Captain Kangaroo. He was a toymaker in a toy shop. Tinker was the direct antecedent of Captain Kangaroo."

"Kangaroo" debuted Oct. 3, 1955. For the first seven years, Keeshan traveled a lot to promote the show, "but it got to be really rough after awhile," he said.

The above article was written by our past Chapter Chaplain LT Ed Blank when he was a writer for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Ed knew many celebrities in his lifetime.

Bob Keeshan was born to Irish parents in Lynbrook, New York. After an early graduation in 1945 from Forest Hills High School in Queens, New York, during World War II, he enlisted in the United



States Marine Corps Reserve but was still in the United States when Japan surrendered. He attended Fordham University on the GI Bill. He received his bachelor's degree in education in 1951 and went on to work in Children's television entertainment.

## The Retired Officers Association PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

"Serving Those Who Serve America"



THE  
RETIRED  
OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION

<http://trfn.clpgh.org/scroc>

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2002

### NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

We had a Great December 2, 2001 meeting: National TROA Keynote Speaker, Colonel James F. Pauls, drew 105 officers, spouses and guests to our function. We had 34 guests, and 18 new members joining that day. COL Pauls offered one year free membership at National TROA for joining our chapter that day. I submitted the names and he made good on the promise. COL(R) Bill Trefz, Director, convened the membership for the 2002 Election. The initial slate of officers were unanimously elected by a voice vote. COL Pauls gave such a succinct, informative 30-minute briefing on TRICARE for life entitlements that when he finished at 1600 hours

he had a line 10-deep (plus) waiting to ask specific individual questions. Thank You COL Pauls!

**Volunteers needed (1-Hour).** We need 3 officers to audit our books at our February 2002 meeting at the Country Club. Our Treasurer, Major Ralph Benson, will have them available for inspection at 1200 hours, February 11, 2002, to comply with our chapter by-laws. Our new JAG Officer, Captain Jerry Wienand, took care of changing our name with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on our articles of incorporations (pro bono). Thank You Sir. Thank you Major Benson for obtaining and

designing our new Chapter Banner.

**Finally...** The Chapter Directory will be published and distributed to each member in Good Standing (Current Dues Paid) on January 1, 2002, before the February 2002 Meeting. Thank You Major Ralph Benson and LT Mathilda Benson for maintaining our Chapter Directory. Also, thank you LTC(R) Gary Storie and wife, Cathy, for designing, publishing and distributing our Chapter Directory.

CW4(R) Tom Tallon,

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#### Chapter Officers

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**SECRETARY**  
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RALPH BENSON  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
GARY A. STORIE  
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#### NEXT MEETING

**Date:** February 10, 2002

Social Hour: 1:00 PM Meeting: 2:00 PM

**Where:** Chartiers Country Club, Grand Ballroom

**Menu Entrée:** Orange Roughy Florida Style OR Baked Stuffed Pork Chop Tossed Salad with Italian or Peppercorn Dressing. Sugar snap peas and Julianne Carrots  
**Desert:** Carrot Cake. Price, \$18 (tax & gratuity included) Valet Parking (\$2).

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Ralph M. Erwin

Early Reservations Requested RSVP 2/7/02

Please call Ralph or Matilda Benson at 412-673-4961 or email: bensonra@attbi.com for reservations



**GOD  
BLESS  
AMERICA!!**

## MOAA PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

# "Serving Those Who Serve America"



JULY 2008

## MOAA PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

### Dear Fellow Officer:

As a member of the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter you may not be familiar with the many valuable services provided by this organization. We are a local organization, essentially autonomous and self-supporting, and also dedicated to serving the interests of officers and their spouses and survivors.

The MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter has been a chartered affiliate of the associations since 1965, its current membership includes officers representing all seven uniformed services and all grades from warrant officer to general officer.

Through its various committees and auxiliary, the chapter sponsors a wide range of programs and activities throughout the year.

These are some of the highlights:

- There is a bi-monthly social event for members, spouses, and guests. Normally it is a dinner meeting held on the second Sunday, second month, at 2 PM, at Chartiers Country Club. The afternoon begins with a social hour from 1-2 PM, lunch at 2 PM followed by a guest speaker and business meeting, which will conclude by 4 PM. In December an evening formal dinner dance is held at the Chartiers Country Club.
- Our legislative committee is deeply involved in promoting state and national legislation in the interests of service members, active and retired, enlisted men, officers, and their dependents and survivors.
- Our personal affairs

committee is always standing by to "take care of our own."

- A bimonthly newsletter is sent to each member.
- Each year the chapter undertakes a major community service project. Annual awards are presented to distinguished ROTC cadets in area colleges and high schools.

We welcome you as a new member in joining our Pittsburgh Chapter. This is an excellent opportunity to renew old friendships and make many new ones. Chapter dues are only \$10.00 a year. The first year you join there will be no dues.

### NEXT MEETING

Date: August 10, 2008

Social Hour: 1:00 PM Meeting: 2:00 PM

Where: Chartiers Country Club

Menu-options: Grilled Marinated Flank Steak or  
Broiled Fillet of Boston Scrod

Price, \$22.00

Valet Parking

Guest Speaker: Major Vincent J. Bellisario

Please see inside for details and reservations

## MAJOR VINCENT BELLISARIO AUGUST 10TH SPEAKER

MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter will be treated to a very interesting speaker on August 10th. Vincent Bellisario will present a multi-media powerpoint presentation on the current state of the US Army. Currently assigned at Fort Leavenworth, KS as a Command and General Staff College student, Major Bellisario has seen and experienced a tremendous amount of action in his 13 years as an Army officer. Major Bellisario was com-

missioned a 2nd Lieutenant from the ROTC program at the University of Northern Colorado in May 1995. He completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Fort Sill, OK in the fall of 1995. He was assigned to 1st Armored Division, in Baumholder Germany '96-99 and assigned to the 4th BN 29th Field Artillery, 1st BN 6th Infantry, Advisor to 16th Airborne BN (Polish). While assigned to the 1st Armored Division he par-

ticipated in Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia) and Operation Joint Guard (Bosnia). Major Bellisario completed Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 2000.

He was assigned to Fort Lewis, WA to establish the first Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). From 2000-2004, Major Bellisario held the following 3rd SBCT positions: FSO 1st SQDN 14th Cav-

### Club Officers

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## CHAPTER LUNCHEON SPEAKERS SCHEDULED 2023-2025.

SPEAKERS/GUESTS	POSITION	2023					2024				2025				
		FEB	MAY	SEP	OCT	DEC	APR	JUN	SEP	DEC	APR	JUL	SEP	OCT	DEC
Holiday Party															PARTY
CAPT USN (RET) Eugene Ginscheau	Chapter Member and Book Author													S	
GEN USAR (RET) Robert Pleczkowski	USARC Speaker												S		
Public Affairs TBD	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers											S			
Nick Pisciotano	PA Senator (VEAP)									X					
Holiday Party										PARTY					
LT Eyobe Mills	U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh								X						
Mr. Dave Defide, Sr.	DLC Customer Programs Mgr.							X							
Nick Taylor	PACOC President						X								
Holiday Party						PARTY									
Deluzio, Chris/ Cox, Seron	PA Congressman/ (SS)				X										
1st SGT McMahon, Dennis J III	Guard Tomb of Unk Soldier			X											
Neff, Tim (Speaker)	Soldiers & Sailors (Dir. of Education)		X												
Michaels, Frank (USN Cpt.)	MOAA NATIONAL Council and Chapter Affairs	X													

### NATIONAL MOAA VACATIONS Council and Chapter Advertising Program

Our Pittsburgh Chapter placed advertisements for MOAA Vacations on our Website and in our recent Newsletters. We will continue to participate in the program. **This qualifies us to receive a \$200 payment from MOAA National.**

See details on the program:

[ChapterAds - MOAAVACATIONS](#)

Visit us online at [www.MOAAvacations.com](http://www.MOAAvacations.com)

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[mail@MOAAvac.com](mailto:mail@MOAAvac.com)



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\* MOAA and all of its affiliates are nonpartisan organizations.

**The 2025 Luncheons are currently scheduled as follows:**

**13 JULY 2025**

**07 SEPTEMBER 2025 / Office Nominations**

**12 OCTOBER 2025 / Elections**

**07 DECEMBER 2025 / Holiday Party**

All Luncheons are on a Sunday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, (Dinner served at 2:00) at the Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

**Community Service Activities will be added as they are planned. Ideas/suggestions welcome. Volunteers welcome.**

**Interested in joining and/or attending and not yet a member. Please contact President Jon Comis or acting Membership Chair Marcel Minutolo by email or phone. Their contact information can be found in the Pittsburgh Chapter's Leadership Box.**

MOAA Pittsburgh | 601 Baldwin Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15205 US

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