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Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

Timely Topics

Chapter Web site: www.cacmoaa.org

(Vol 2017 – No.2)

2016-17

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February MOAA Dinner

When: Thursday, 9 February 2017

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel

925 South Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan (at I-496)

SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM

DINNER: 6:30 PM

PROGRAM: 7:30 PM

ADJOURN: 9:00 PM

Menu Selections:

#1 **Signature Steak**

with red skin potatoes and green beans.

#2 **Chicken Marsala**

chicken breast topped with mushroom sauce with red skin potatoes and green beans.

Red Velvet Cake

Make your reservations by SUNDAY, 5 February 2017

On line at www.cacmoaa.org

or contact CW3 Tony Kruckeberg, armyblkhawk@yahoo.com, or [517-575-9386](tel:517-575-9386)

Include # of attendees. Cost is \$25.00.

Make checks payable to 'Capitol Area Chapter MOAA.'

February Program

Keeping History Alive for Students

JUDITH (JUDY) STANFORD MILLER, M.Ed, M.A.

Specialist: Educational Technology, Curriculum Design, and Assessment

Student News Network (SNN)

In 2012, Judy earned a Master of Arts in Educational Studies in the Digital Media and Education thread within the School of Education at the University of Michigan. Because of this graduate work and her years of practice both in the classroom and as a digital content developer, Judy developed and tested a new paradigm of digital learning that can be leveraged in the classroom to improve student achievement and became the Student News Network (SNN).

The SNN is featuring the history and lessons from WWI and motivating students to dig a little deeper and learn more. Our featured speaker this month will talk about her work at the Student News Network and a recent trip to the D-Day Celebration in France. We have another compassionate speaker and exciting program you will want to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD (March 9th):

Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of the Military Officer Association of America will be our featured speaker at the March 9th Meeting.

A command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft, Atkins has served in several key command and staff positions, including commander, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.; commander, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa, Japan; vice commander, 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Force Korea; director of operations, U.S. Pacific Command; and special assistant to the supreme allied commander Europe during the air war over Serbia. During his career, he flew as a demonstration pilot for both the European A-10 Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins served as commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Command; commander, 11th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and commander, Alaskan North American Defense Region, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Veterans Tribute Train

Additionally, Judy Miller from SNN and Bruce Kuffer, from the Steam Railroading Institute, will provide an update about the World War I Centennial and Veterans Tribute Train project featured at our fall picnic.

Army vs Air Force Tennis @ MSU

The men's tennis teams of the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy will be in East Lansing, MI for the first time to play each other and the Michigan State Spartans over the weekend of February 17-19, 2017. MSU tennis coach, Gene Orlando, arranged this event to recognize the contribution of the Armed Services to our country, and will have Army and Air Force Color Guard participation at the Army-Air Force match.

This is an opportunity to watch some top flight tennis and to root for the Army and Air Force cadets as they take on a Big Ten opponent and also fight for bragging rights between academies. Instead of high priced tickets, admission is FREE and sometimes pizza is provided. Also, the Army team includes a local product from Williamston, Mike Sienko, whose father is MG Mike Sienko, M.D., former medical examiner for Ingham County.

The matches begin with Air Force against MSU on Friday February 17 at 6:00 p.m. Army plays MSU on Saturday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m., and the Army-Air Force match is Sunday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m. All matches are at the MSU Tennis Facility, 3571 E. Mt. Hope Ave, Lansing, MI.

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Executive Board Meeting

2 February 2017, 1130 hours at
Piazzano's, 1825 N Grand River, Lansing,

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Contact our Newsletter Editor, COL Dave
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VA To Allow Veterans To Pre-Select Cemetery Burials Before Death

BY MOAA [STAFF WRITER 13](#) · DECEMBER 9, 2016

A new VA rule change will allow veterans to apply for burial in national cemeteries before their death, instead of leaving the responsibility to family members after their death. Veterans will now be approved for burial in a VA national cemetery “pre-need” before their death rather than at the “time of need” after their death. The change was made in an effort to ease the grieving process for family members of deceased veterans and to allow ailing veterans to “put their affairs in order” before passing. Patrick Murray, an associate director for the VFW’s national legislative service, [told reporters](#):
“We think it’s something that’s a no-nonsense, easy solution to ease the burden as people enter the later years of their lives.”

Lou Cell, the American Legion’s national director for veterans affairs and rehabilitation, shared Murray’s sentiment. Cell [told reporters](#):
“A predetermination is the right thing to do. It allows the veteran and their family a small measure of comfort at a time when they can use any comfort they can get...The American Legion reviewed this policy when they were recommending these changes several months ago and assured the VA they had the American Legion’s full support.”

Veterans can be approved for “pre-need” by [submitting a form](#) via fax, mail, or e-mail. The form can be completed and submitted by the veteran themselves or by someone on their behalf in the event they cannot complete the document. Veterans will not be able to select a specific grave site. They will be qualified for burial in 135 cemeteries and an additional 33 soldiers lots across the U.S. at their time of death. Filling out the “pre-need” paperwork will not qualify soldiers for burial in Arlington National Cemetery which is operated by the Army and requires the completion of a different application system.