

Rhode Island National Guard Retirement Updater



A Quarterly publication of the
Rhode Island National Guard Retirees Association

Builders of the only memorial to the National Guard in R.I.



Vol. XXXI, No. 2, June 2025 issue

On the Web at <http://ringretirees.homestead.com>

Mother Nature has struck! We need your help to fund a large repair job of the memorial.
(see page 5 for details)

Bob Urquhart awarded the Rhode Island Commendation Medal

The RI Medal was presented to LTC (Ret) Bob Urquhart for his many years of tireless service and dedication to the Rhode Island National Guard Retirees Association. He and CSM (Ret) O'Mara have both served the RING Retirees Association since its inception with dignity and integrity, putting in numerous hours of hard work to ensure the successful completion of numerous projects.

Bob also received The President's Award, which again recognized the numerous hours he has donated to the organization while Luigi Stanziale served as president.

From all of us to Bob and Bill we extend our gratitude and thanks.



The New Adjutant General Speaks at March Meeting



We were privileged to have our new Adjutant General; Brigadier General Andrew Chevalier speak at our March 14th quarterly meeting. He has more than thirty-five years of experience in the Rhode Island National Guard. His last assignment was the RING Director of the Joint Staff. BG Chevalier rose through the ranks in the 1/126th Aviation Battalion and was deployed as the operations (S-3) officer 1/126th Aviation in 2004-2005 and as the Battalion Commander of the 1/126 Aviation at Camp Buehring Kuwait in 2011-2012. He succeeded MG Christopher Callahan as the 45th Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard

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The RING Retirement Updater is published quarterly to precede the quarterly meetings of the RING Retirees Association

President.....Stephen Souza

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Treasurer.....Herve Pelland

Emergency Support Fund.....Patty Ryan

Newsletter Editor.....Steve Beauregard

Membership.....Carole Angolano

Website.....Lori Casucci

By-Laws and Legal.....Bill O'Mara

RI Legislation.....John Gallo

Veterans Affairs.....Dan Evangelista

Memorial Maintenance...Bob Urquhart



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings RING Retirees!

As the leader of this excellent organization, one of my primary responsibilities is growth. Growth in numbers of members, surely, but also, I look for growth in positivity, interest and feedback, as well as increased value to each of you as individuals. We cannot grow without *your* valuable input!

I would like to take this opportunity to solicit your ideas for many of the decisions that face the Executive Board on a regular basis. These include the following:

1. Quarterly Guest Speakers. We have had some very informative representatives address the membership at our quarterly meetings. Most recently, we hosted the newly appointed TAG of RI, BG Andrew Chevalier. The updates on both the Air and Army National Guard answered many questions and addressed subjects that you generally would not hear about in regular news outlets. Considering the fact that most of us have spent many years as members, and then retirees, of the RING, the subjects covered were quite enlightening and informative. An exciting guest speaker is just one example of how we can involve more members in our quarterly meetings. Please reach out to any member of the Executive Board with your recommendations.

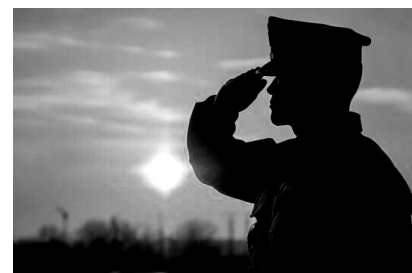
(Continued on page 5)

CONTACTS for RINGRA Information and Services:

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 Carole Angolano.....Member Data and ID Cards.....401-603-6011
 Lori Casucci.....Website.....401-262-1490
 William O'MaraBy-Laws and Legal.....401-438-7867
 John P. Gallo.....Rhode Island Legislation.....401-728-3845

IN MEMORIAM

MSG (Ret) Donald Iafrate
 March 7, 1949-March 10, 2025



Visit Our Website for Legislation Updates

Our Website is offline for repairs and updates.

From page 1

BG Chevalier grew up in North Kingstown and graduated from Bishop Hendricken. He earned a Bachelors degree in business management at URI and he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and went to flight school. He also received a Master's degree in National Security Leadership at the Naval War College. He attended many other military and civilian schools during a illustrious career.

The new Adjutant General was introduced to the membership and given a warm welcome by LTG Reginald Centraccio. Below is an outline of the General's speech.

Guest Speaker: BG Andrew Chevalier, TAG RING

LTG (Ret.) Reginald Centraccio introduced BG Chevalier as the guest speaker.
BG Chevalier discussed the following:

1. The history of the RING.
2. BG Chevalier's priorities were presented: People, Partnership, Readiness, Modernization.
3. DoD Priorities:
 - a. Restore the Warrior Ethos
 - b. Rebuild the Military
 - c. Reestablish Deterrence
4. Facilities Projects:
 - a. Counter Drug Training Facility
 - b. Quonset Airway Runway Reconstruction
 - c. Quonset ANG Repair Squadron Operations
 - d. Quonset Aviation Readiness Center
 - e. Sun Valley ARNG Readiness Center Addition
 - f. Quonset ANG Headquarters
5. Vision:

"THE RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD ADVANCES AS A PREMIER, UNIT-BASED FORCE COM-
PRISED OF RESILIENT, ADAPTABLE, RELEVANT, AND READY CITIZEN SOLDIERS AND AIRMAN
ACCESSIBLE FOR WAR AND DOMESTIC CRISES"
6. Mobilization:
 - a. ANG – 70-100 Airman from the 102nd Combat-Cyber
 - b. ARNG – 861st
 - c. ARNG – Special Forces
7. State Partnerships:
 - a. Bahamas
 - b. Timor Leste – INDOPACOM
8. Recruiting:
 - a. ANG – mid 90%
 - b. ARNG – 100% - #1 for small state recruiting force
9. Leadership:
 - a. 45th TAG – BG Andrew Chevalier
 - b. Land Component General – BG Tom Sarrouf
 - c. ACC/DJS – BG Tom Hannon (Joint Staff)
 - d. Army CoS: COL Steve Guertin
 - e. DoS: COL Charlene Marshall
 - f. USPFO – COL Ed Oulette
 - g. Command Chief WO – CW5 Bob Hewett
 - h. ARNG CSM – CSM Michael Wong
 - i. ANG has reinstated Warrant Officers – 2 Warrant Officers Candidates attending training.
 - j. RI ARNG – Warrant Officer at 90% strength
 - k. National Guard is funded at 20% of the joint force cost, with 5% of the total budget

Providence Fire Chief (Ret) George s. Farrell slated to speak at our June Meeting

Chief Farrell is the Founder and Board Chairman of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub from August 2010 to present. He started his career in the Providence Fire Department in 1980 and in May 2007 he rose in rank to become the PFD Fire Chief and is also a member of many charitable and service organizations. Chief Farrell received many commendations and awards during his time with PFD. He is Married with two daughters and three grandchildren. The most recent Honor Flight was on March 30, 2025. The next flight is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. Included below is information on the Honor Flight Hub from their website.

Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub

The RIFC Honor Flight Hub is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to transport America's veterans to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at those memorials built to honor their service and sacrifice.

Since being recognized as a "Hub" of the Honor Flight Network in August 2012 we have taken 30 Honor Flights to Washington, DC. On those 30 Honor Flights, we've transported over 925 veterans that are veterans of WW II, Korean and the Vietnam War as well as dozens of other veterans who served during the Gulf Wars on Terrorism to visit their memorials and we do this free of any charge to our veterans.

Mission Statement: Transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices.

Goal: Helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit THEIR memorial.

Priority: Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes — survivors of World War II and any veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit THEIR memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis.

Eligibility: All honorably discharged men and women serving stateside or overseas.

Philosophy: Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to the service and the ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, the Honor Flight Network believes it's equally important that they get to visit and experience THEIR memorial.

If you are and Honorably discharged veteran and you are interested in going on your Honor Flight please visit our website at www.rihonorflight.com. Download and print a veterans application and then submit it to the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub by U.S. Mail to the P.O. Box address on the last page of the application.

Chief George S. Farrell (retired), Founder - Chairman
Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub
Mailing - P.O. Box 28132, Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Email – rifirechiefshonorflight@gmail.com

Web site – www.rihonorflight.com

MG Callahan appointed to RI Ethics Commission

On April 2nd Governor Dan McKee announced the appointment of retired MG Christopher Callahan to the nine-member panel for a 5 year term. The commission has the authority sanction state workers and elected officials.

MG Callahan retired in February as the 44th Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard. Some of the General's previous positions were Commander of the 56th Troop Command, Director of Aviation and Safety at Quonset Point ANG base. He Was a battalion commander in the 18th Brigade in Balad Iraq in 10

Memorial Repair

(From page 1)

Over the last 14 years mother nature has shifted the eight feet of gravel fill under our memorial. The "soldier bricks" (edging) have broken loose, also causing the outside bricks to sink. The bricks (2470 total!) have settled to the point that they need to be removed, the base needs to be repaired, and the bricks returned to their original position. Fortunately, we were able to find a landscaping company to tackle this difficult job. We are replacing the soldier bricks with cobblestones (111 ft, donated by the landscaping company), to be cemented in to stabilize the outer bricks.

The Executive Committee has accepted the quote of \$13,600; the work will be done in July – IF – we have the funds to complete it. We do have \$3,000 in the maintenance fund; obviously, we need more. We are asking our members (you) to contribute \$50 (tax deductible) for this repair. Any funds left after this work will be returned to the maintenance fund.

We only have a small window to work with, so, please consider this request as "insurance" for the next 30 years! We are proud of our memorial and need to keep it in a safe and pristine condition. Thank you for your support!

Bob Urquhart



Please make check out to: RING Retirees Association (mark in memo "Memorial fund")

Mail to: RING Retirees Association, 705 New London Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

President's Corner (from page 2)

2. Active Membership. This is an area that many organizations struggle with. The records often show "total membership" to be quite a bit higher than "total attendance" or "total responses to questionnaires". How can we reach all these paid members of our Association and turn them into **involved** paid members? Again, any suggestions or recommendations should be given to a member of the Executive Board.

3. Fundraising. We don't need hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain our organization. However, we would love to continue to assist any active or separated member of the RING when the need arises. Additionally, we have a memorial at the Exeter Cemetery which currently needs quite a bit of work. Please reach out if you would like to assist in brainstorming some fundraising strategies.

It is a pleasure leading the RING Retirees Association, and I look forward to your input! Hope to see you at the next quarterly meeting on 14 June at the Schofield Armory. Coffee/pastry at 0900, meeting at 1000.

Remember When?



In the photo is (l-r on the ground) Randy Hoagland (in the cab), Unknown, Tony Delvino, Donald Regnaire, Bob Krekorian, Paul Grimes, Bob Peck, Ray Campbell, Joe Cicero, and Ron Cote. (l-r on the truck bed) Domenic Salinaro, Lou Stanziale, Roger Provost, Dave Levesque, and Dick Petronski,



REMINDER!!! We have a group cruise aboard the NCL Breakaway, departing July 5, 2026, from Boston! This exciting itinerary includes stops in Canada and Bermuda—perfect for a relaxing adventure. Join our dedicated Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ring2026> to stay updated and connect with fellow cruisers.

Right now, we have locked in group discounted rates, which are about 15% off current market rates (and you're eligible for an additional 10% military discount and possibly more if you have a teacher certification), but the rates will increase in a few weeks! Secure your spot with just a \$150 deposit, which will be matched to give you a full \$300 deposit. Plus, if you need to cancel before final payment, you'll keep a \$300 voucher for future use or to give to someone else.

For full details and to book, contact Brian Fielder at 401-433-8754 or BrianFielder1@gmail.com - He'll work with you one-on-one to get the best possible price and your booking, which will also contribute towards a fundraising donation to the RING Retirees Association. Don't miss out—we can't wait to sail with everyone

RING RETIREES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

The purpose and objective of the RING Retirees Association is to provide benefit information to military retirees, to maintain the camaraderie of the military, and to offer services to fellow members as the need arises.

☐ **NEW MEMBER** (dues free your first year if you sign up for a total of 3 years for \$10)

☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ \$5 - 1 yr. ☐ \$10—2 yrs. ☐ \$15—3 yrs. ☐ \$20—4 yrs. ☐ \$25—5 yrs.

Name _____ Rank (optional) _____

Address _____ D.O.B. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone _____

No. of Years in the RI National Guard _____ No. of years in other branch (Army, USAF, etc.) _____

Total Years Service _____ Retirement Date _____

Unit Assigned to at Retirement _____

Second Address for December & March issues ☐ OR June & September issues ☐ (Check One):

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (Check One)

☐ **Active Member**

Any individual who has served at least six (6) years in the Rhode island national Guard and has completed twenty (20) years or more total military service and retired with an honorable discharge is eligible for membership with voting rights. The privilege of voting is extended to members who are currently paid annual members or honorary life members.

☐ **Associate Member**

Anyone who is former military with an honorable discharge, or a current member of the military, or the spouse of a former or current member is eligible to become an associate member. The privilege of voting is not extended to these individuals. They may participate on committees and activities of the organization, provided their dues are paid through the current membership year (1 October through 30 September).

Exception: Associate military retired members who provided exceptional support to the organization for three or more years may be granted full membership with voting rights by the members during a quarterly meeting.

Please make checks payable to:

RING Retirees Association

Mail to:

RING Retirees Association/Membership

c/o CW5 (Ret.) Carole Angolano

46 Balou St

Cumberland, RI 02864-2031

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received \$ _____ Date ____/____/____

Check Number _____ Check Date ____/____/____

Member ID Number _____

Received By _____

Database Processed _____ Card Sent _____

R.I.N.G. Retirees Association

705 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920-3003

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MEETING CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Schofield Armory, 705 New
London Avenue, Cranston, RI

Quarterly Meetings 0900 hours

SAT, 14 June 2025

SAT, 13 September 2025

Executive Board Meeting 1830 hours

14 May 2025

16 July 2025

13 August 2025

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

If the last two numbers on your mailing label are 25 (or lower), then this WILL be your last issue. It means your membership has expired. Renew with the form on page 7 and mail it with your check by November 2025.

In the example below, the first set of numbers (937) is the membership number; the letter (P) is the type of membership (P = Active and A = Associate); and the last two numbers (25) indicate the year your dues are up for renewal.

If you have not joined or you are due for renewal, please fill in the form on page 7 and mail it with your check. Your membership card will be mailed to you. If you have already joined, thanks for your support and pass the application form on to someone else who has not yet joined. **If you move, PLEASE LET US KNOW.** Because this newsletter is mailed Fourth Class, the Post Office will not forward it to your new address.

(937 P25)

CPT (RET) JAMES T. KIRK

1 SPOCK DRIVE

ENTERPRISE, RI 12345-6789