



## **Dovermoaa.org)**

September 2021

**This interactive newsletter is about the upcoming in-person meeting on the 16th, retired military pay exemption, and notice that 100 percent disabled veterans are exempt from school and possibly from property taxes.**

### **Dinner Meeting**

When: Sept 16 (third THURSDAY per discussion and decision last several newsletters) NOT a Saturday! **NOTE THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR REGULAR MEETING DAY.**

Program: Cake Cutting Ceremony honoring our Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. NO SPEAKER. We will use the time to share what happened to us, good and bad, since we last met.

Location: [Roma Italian Ristorante](#) on 3 Presidents Drive, Dover DE (*click for more about the venue and directions*)

Social Hour 5 pm

Dinner: 6 p.m.

Program: 7 p.m.

Adjournment: 8 pm.

Menu: your choice of Chicken Piccate (\$27); Crab Cakes (\$29); Roma Steak (pasta dish, not whole steak) (\$30); or Pasta Lasagna with Meat Ball (\$23). Price includes 20% tip, side salad, bread and oil, and dessert. For this dinner, the dessert will be a Birthday Cake!

Would you please call Tom Smith at 301-904-0228 or email him [rotorhead65@aol.com](mailto:rotorhead65@aol.com) to tell him your menu selections.

**Chamber Events.** As a Dover MOAA member, you are also a member of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce. You may attend any event or business opening (fun and primarily FREE--and get the inside scoop on biz in our area! And let them know about us and our JROTC scholarships, etc.) Just go to the CDCC website and look at the upcoming events. Visit <https://www.cdcc.net/> for more information and to sign up to attend.

## **Advocacy:**

Tax Exempt Retired Military Pay: As discussed in the May and June newsletter, if you want to help bring about the elimination of all state tax on our retired military pay to help Delaware be like half the other states and to attract young, healthy retirees to our state, please contact Bill ([williamwilliams4@verizon.net](mailto:williamwilliams4@verizon.net)) to volunteer. Your services will be required to call elected officials, possibly visit legislators, attend meetings or be in the audience at Leg Hall, talk to your friends about it and get them to call or email their legislators...general advocacy stuff. We are looking at the next legislative session to take action. Right now, we are organizing and collecting volunteer names. This IS a bill, SB 188, but it will die on the vine without public attention like others before it.

School Tax exemption for 100 percent disabled Vets. Ron Sarg, our legislative affairs chair and member of the Delaware Veterans Commission, reports a big victory! After persistent advocating efforts, HB 214, which relieves service-connected 100% disabled veterans from paying school taxes, was signed into law by Governor Carney on Aug 10, 2021. Exemption from property tax was also part of this bill, but that must be handled county by county. So, call your Levy Court Commissioner about this issue.

Delaware Veterans Home. I have made it my mission to draw attention to issues regarding the DVH. First, it was a lack of testing. Even though the Governor said testing was to start in June, it was not until mid-July that the first staff or resident was tested.

Then it was not allowing compassionate care visits (which the CMS guidelines allowed but the DVH ignored).

Then it was the lockdown itself that seemed to cause too many to die. There was a 30% non-Covid death from March 2020 to March 2021

The staff tells me the patient care has slipped due to some cost-cutting measures and poor leadership. There is at least one member of MOAA whose loved one is in the DVH. We need to get the facility back to where it once was.

Ron Sarg is aware, as is the Chair of the Delaware Veterans Commission, of the problems. They are making efforts, but they are VOLUNTEERS, and I intend to get the Secretary of State and others paid to run the place to take more care. You may have seen me in the paper or on NBC news discussing these topics, and you may see me again. I hope our MOAA chapter will stand with me on this issue.

There will be an open meeting at the American Legion in Milford (in the Shopping Center near Mexican Resuturant) at 5: 30 pm on Weds, Sep 8.

Speaking of therapy dogs and "still serving," Dolly and I will appear on WBOC and WDMJ sometime next week. Both TV channels on Tuesday are interviewing us. I plan to work "Still Serving" into the interview.

## National Advocacy:

Our National MOAA emails and *The Officer* magazine do a great job of keeping us informed. If you are not a member of the national MOAA, I highly recommend it.

## Chapter News:

Losses. We recently lost two spouses. Ken's wife Lida Ann Mikos Smith died last month. Obit attached. Dan's wife Diane Alvarez died in May. Her obit is on this site: <https://www.pippinfuneralhome.com/obituary/Diane-Alvarez>. We lost Justus Gromme in June 2020, my husband Don Jagger in August 2020. If I missed others, please let me know.

Gains: Frank Ward got married; Here he is with his new wife, Joan.



Our Chapter turned 50 years old last July 2019, but we did not get the certificate in time to present it to ourselves until we got locked down. So we will do this in September. We will sing happy birthday to ourselves as well as cut a cake.

For our birthday, Kristin Garramone, director of Service for Roma's, will set up a WINE BAR. It will be three whites and three reds of Kristin's choosing, but most likely tailored to the majority's eating. The wine will be SERVED, not "no host," but you will get faster service because the wine will be in the room. And you can see the labels before you order. As I said, this is a BIRTHDAY and WELCOME BACK present from Roma's in September. IF YOU LIKE THIS CONCEPT, we can have it as a permeant feature, but there will be a cost per person, and you will sign up for it when you order your meal. Kristin assures me the price will be less this way than if requested by the glass. I will be looking forward to seeing how this works. Everyone pay attention so we can decide if we want the feature in the future. You can still order other drinks besides wine. This will only benefit the wine drinkers, but it will help all who ask the waitress to go to the bar because s/he will not have to make so many trips for wine.

5-star Chapter. We made the top of the chapters once again...and for the tenth year in a row. We have two presentations to make because we won last year but did not meet. CONGRATULATIONS everyone! This award is based on what we do as a chapter, what our members do, how many new people we recruit, and how many members we retain.

Wreaths across America. Thanks to CAPT Anne Devers, we made a LOT of money for our treasury by supporting this important philanthropic project. We get a "kickback" for every 5 wreaths we sell. Furthermore, by supporting this project, we are helping to honor the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery. Please note that if you buy a wreath, you can designate it to be laid at ANY military cemetery. If you do not define, it will go to Arlington. Also, IF you want to help lay the wreaths, we will put out information about that as the holidays approach. You can purchase wreaths all year long. And if you copy the below, you can send it to your friends on email or you can upload photos on FB (it will do it automatically). This is about contributing this for November, veterans' day, holidays, and Memorial Day for the spring.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166217>

**In-person meetings!** Faithful readers of this newsletter know that we voted on moving our meetings from Saturday to Thursday, and everyone who voted agreed to Thursday. A few said Thursdays were better. I realize this will take a bit of getting used to, but Roma said they did not have enough staff to take good care of us on their busiest night, Saturday. If it does not work out, we can go back to Saturdays next year.

As a final note, we are **still looking for folks who want to help run our Chapter.** We need a secretary, a newsletter editor, a program chair. I had to fire the last newsletter chair because he was not getting them out fast enough. As you see, he did not even know how to face the computer screen, only how to walk on the keys.



Never Stop Serving,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Eugenia Thornton".

Eugenia "Gene" Thornton  
Chapter President