



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 26, 2023

## Dover MOAA Celebrates Holidays and Successes

DOVER— On December 21 at Franco’s Pizza in Dover, the Dover Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) celebrated the Holidays and its many 2023 successes.

For a consecutive dozen years, the Chapter was once again named one of the best in its national organization. In addition, it also earned top recognition for both its newsletter and its website, [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

In May, the Chapter awarded two \$1500 scholarships to JROTC seniors. Bethany Merrell-Ford and Isabella Sosa-Reynolds.

MOAA lobbies for many laws nationally and locally benefitting veterans and military, all ranks, all services, and all military components and Public Health and NOAH.

Locally, the Chapter supported increasing paid leave for members of state government who served in the reserve component and welcomed the change in leadership of the Delaware Veterans Home.

September, library month, the Chapter heard from Dr. Hillary Weliver, Kent County Librarian. In October, Dr. Reba Hollingsworth taught how to research family history. In November, Lt. Gen. Welser, USAF (Ret.) discussed plans for an expanded AMC Museum. January will feature State Senator Eric Buckson, a member of the Veterans Committee.

Members donated to the the Food Bank of Delaware for Thanksgiving and to Kindness 4 Kidz for Christmas.

The Chapter meets at Franco’s Pizza and Pasta on Lebonon Road on the third Thursday of September to May. To learn more, please visit <https://dovermoaa.org/> or visit Dover MOAA Chapter on Facebook.

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For information contact Gene Thornton at [Genethornton@Comcast.net](mailto:Genethornton@Comcast.net) or call 302 355 1655.



*Figure 1 Col. Eugenia Thornton, (Army Ret.) President, accepts a donation for the JROTC Scholarship Fund from the Nobles Pond Veteran Association from former Chief Warrant Officer Rich Tortora. JROTC Scholarship Chair Lt. Col. Theo Dressler (USAF ret) looks on.*

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Figure 2 Rev In Kyung Park sings Silent Knight in Korean. Santa followed with a traditional German carole.



Figure 3 Toy Drive Chair Rev Dr. (Major USAF - Ret) John Riley shows his joy at the toys the chapter donated to Kindness 4 Kidz.

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Figure 4 Part of the donations for Kindness 4 Kidz.

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*Figure 5 Assistant Treasurer & Navy spouse, Cathee Smith asks Santa for lots of JROTC donations!*

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Figure 6 Lillian Tortora (L) and Dale Williams (R) place silent auction bid sheets on the generous donations recieved from friend of the chapter Joyce Yaiser and Vera Bradley Store, Christiana Mall.

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Figure 7 Dr. Reba Hollingsworth, frequent speaker for the Chapter, asks Santa Dee Panzig for peace and love during the Holidays and always. "Pray for Peace, Prepare for War" is an expression well known by Santa, who is a USMC Vietnam Conflict veteran.

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*Figure 8 Delaware Veterans Affairs Commissioner (former Army Captain) Doug Hudson and Lt. Gen. Bill Welser, USAF (Ret) are most likely discussing plans for expansion of the Air Mobility Command Museum Foundation since they are both on the board.*

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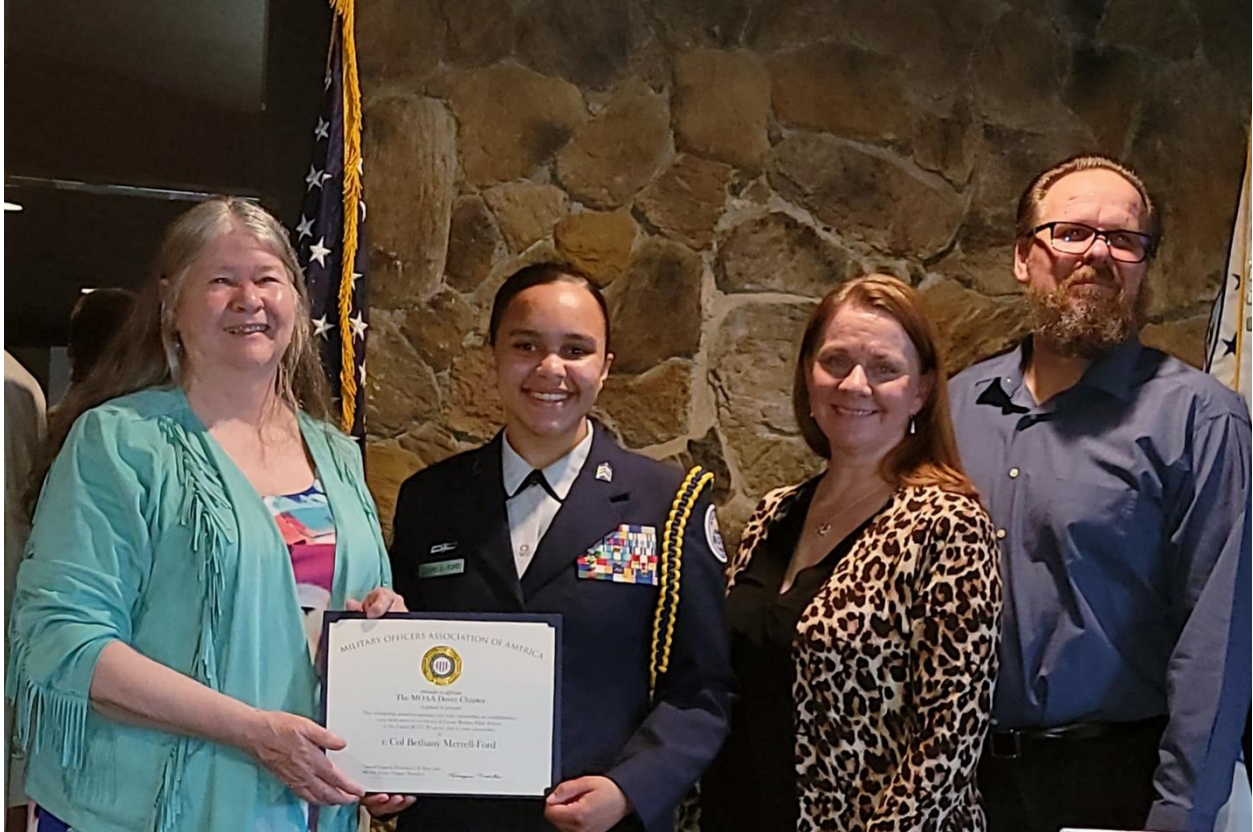


Figure 9 President Eugenia Thornton presents a \$1500 scholarship to Cadet Colonel Bethany Merrell-Ford at the JROTC Banquet held last May at Roma's. Proud parents look on.



Figure 10 Five Stars in the Levels of Excellence, nationwide, for the 12th year in a row.

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Figure 11 5-stars for Communication via website, 2d year, Webmaster Kerry Brooks.



Figure 12 5-Stars for Chapter Newsletter, 1st time, Editor Gene Thornton (yes, it is the same logo)

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