

## Susquehanna Chapter, Maryland

The Chapter started off our year with a full schedule of engagements and initiatives described in the following paragraphs.

### February 2019

The first event of year included the installation of officers followed by guest speaker Mark Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services, Soldier for Life. Mr. Overberg provided a very informative discussion of the Army's retirement program and services to a large audience of members and guests alike. We presented Mr. Overberg with a Certificate of Appreciation and made a donation in his name to the MOAA National Scholarship Fund. Additionally, a raffle to support the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund raised \$156.00 for this noble cause.



Presentation by Mark Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services Soldier for Life to the Susquehanna Chapter, September 2019



Installation of new officers for CY 2019

## Susquehanna Chapter, Maryland

**April 2019**

The most significant event of the year was certainly the Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in April.



Harford County Executive Barry Glassman presents a Certificate of Congratulations to President Bob Hanson.



Chapter Treasurer Bill Beddow greets members and guests.



President Bob Hanson and guest speaker, 1LT Firmani, cut the ceremonial cake.



President Bob Hanson presents Certificates of Appreciation to special guests 1LT Ray Firmani and Mitch Topal.

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Members and guests enjoy the festivities including 3-time Chapter President, WWII veteran and former POW Orville Hughes (second from left).



POW/MIA table



Susquehanna Chapter original charter dated October 1969

### May 2019

The month of May was very active. The Chapter held a breakfast meeting with guest speaker Lt Col David Roberts, Squadron Commander, Harford Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) who briefed the audience of their mission and organization. It was truly heartening to learn how this organization instills service, patriotism and camaraderie in the area youth. Not only did the Chapter make a donation in Lt Col Roberts name to the MOAA National Scholarship Fund, the proceedings of the raffle were donated back to the CAP.

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May also saw the Chapter participating in the annual Aberdeen Proving Ground Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) with a MOAA information-loaded table manned by Chapter members and spouses. The guest speaker, René Campos, MOAA Deputy Director, stopped by our table and received a fact sheet about our Chapter. She returned the favor by giving a shout-out to the Chapter during her presentation.

Chapter members participated in the Bel Air, MD Memorial Day Ceremony and presented an honor wreath on behalf of the Chapter. This ceremony draws a large crowd from around the county and bordering states. We have participated in this ceremony for several years and it never ceases to remind us of the ultimate sacrifice our brothers and sisters in arms have made. It is an honor to join with many other county service organizations at this event.

Our members participate in many activities in the community. One Chapter member in particular, Mike Layman, was selected as the 2019 Aberdeen Proving Ground Volunteer Retiree of the Year. Mike was nominated by CYS Youth Sports for volunteering more than 500 hours. He has served as a youth coach for more than 25 years. His nomination read, "Mike loves to work with the kids at the Aberdeen youth center. His best quality is his enthusiasm and willingness to reach out to the kids and teach them the skills needed to be successful not just on the field but in life. His approach is an asset to the community he serves." Mike, then and now, serves as the Chairman of the Cycle4Heroes, an organization raising funds for the proposed Fisher House at the Perry Point VA Hospital. We never stop serving.



Lt Col David Roberts, Squadron Commander of the Harford County CAP, educates members on the CAP mission



President Bob Hanson presents Lt Col Roberts with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter

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René Campos, National MOAA Deputy Director, guest speaker for the 2019 APG Retiree Appreciation Day



Cathy Hampton and Dan Lafontaine represent the Chapter at the local Memorial Day Ceremony.

### July

The annual Chapter Picnic was held in July in conjunction with a crab feast sponsored by the Industrial Representative Association (IRA) of Aberdeen. The rationale for having the picnic with the crab feast was two-fold – carry on the long tradition of a Chapter picnic and advertise the Chapter and its purpose to a large audience. The mission of the IRA is to foster a professional relationship and understanding among its members and within the Army's C5ISR Life Cycle Management community. The Association monitors the ever-changing requirements of government R&D, Programs and Support missions within this community and follows policy, requirements and trends in the government acquisition system to better prepare its members to execute business development activities. Many of the members are former and retired officers that has offered a target rich environment for recruitment.

### September

The month of September began with eight members attending the Maryland Congressional Luncheon in a show of support for the local, state and national MOAA initiatives.



Six of the eight Chapter members who attended the Maryland MOAA Congressional luncheon in 2019

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Bob Hanson and Cathy Hampton attended the Northeast Region Council and Chapter Leadership Workshop. The workshop provided council and chapter officers with training specific to their leadership roles as well as updates about national MOAA. It was a very informative workshop and provided much needed information to help us achieve our Chapter objectives.

Following closely was the fall dinner with the theme "Homecoming." The dinner was sponsored and subsidized by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union, a longtime friend and supporter of the Chapter. The guest speaker was a credit union employee, Elizabeth LaPointe, whose presentation was "Financially protecting your loved ones against elder abuse." A donation, in her name, was made to the MOAA National Scholarship Fund. A raffle to support the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) garnered a sizeable donation.



The Chapter "Homecoming" table, complete with corsages and boutonnieres for members and guests.



President Bob Hanson presents guest speaker Elizabeth LaPointe with a Certificate of Appreciation.

During September, the Chapter lost a great member, a great contributor to the country and community and a great friend in LTC (USA) Ret. Monroe Manning. Monroe held nearly every Chapter office, to include President, with grace and unmatched leadership. In his honor, the Chapter donated to the scholarship fund of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.



LTC Monroe Lincoln Manning  
October 25, 1926 - September 23, 2019

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### October

In October, the Chapter was a Bronze Level contributor to the National MOAA Foundation.

### November

In November, the Chapter celebrated Veterans Day with a luncheon and special guest speaker LTC (USA) Ret. Larry Carmichael, a historian and author of several books about Maryland. On this day, LTC Carmichael regaled the history of the Bata Shoe Company, the maker of military footwear to include jungle boots worn during the Vietnam war. The luncheon venue was appropriately located on the same land where the Bata Shoe Company once stood. The Chapter presented LTC Carmichael with a Certificate of Appreciation and made a donation in his name to the MOAA National Scholarship Fund. The proceeds from the raffle was donated to the Perry Point Veterans Hospital for their holiday party for patients.



Guest speaker Larry Carmichael presents the history of the Bata Shoe Factory to Chapter members and guests.




President Bob Hanson presents a Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker Larry Carmichael on behalf of the Chapter.

### December

The holiday season wasn't the only reason to be excited this month. The Chapter launched its new and improved website (<https://www.moaasusquehanna.org/>) and began a journey to improve our communication with our members and coordination with the national organization. We launched a publicity campaign through our newsletter, meetings and postcards.

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<p><b>IT IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!</b></p> <p>You are invited to explore the newly launched Susquehanna Chapter MOAA website at</p> <p><a href="http://www.susquehannamoaa.org">www.susquehannamoaa.org</a></p> <p>The site will be ready for your inspection on</p> <p><b>December 13, 2019</b></p> <p>This is your website, so please give us your feedback!</p>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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During the year, we closely followed a proposed Army JROTC program at Joppatowne High School that will be the first in the county. It was added to the county's budget and includes an addition to the high school to be dedicated to the JROTC program. We acknowledge that there is a list of approximately 400+ schools awaiting Army approval, but we are in it for the long haul and will continue to follow its progress and provide support where needed.