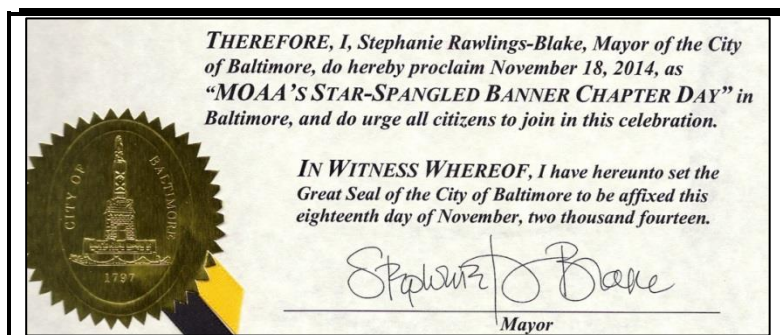


*****HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

**November 18th Banquet Meeting and Election
Lieutenant General Blum, US Army (Retired) Speaks
Officers and Board Elected for 2015-2016
Chapter Events for the New Year (2015)**



By signature and seal, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake proclaimed November 18th "Star Spangled Banner Chapter Day"

Fifty chapter members and guests celebrated our chapter's fiftieth anniversary, being the first and oldest MOAA chapter in Maryland, at the Blue Stone Restaurant in Timonium.

Many attended in uniform as the banquet meeting was opened with the march-on and posting of Colors by the Marine Corps JROTC from Milford Mill Academy, followed by our Auxiliary Member, Gini Pielke, singing the Star Spangled Banner.



President, CAPT DeHaemer, opened the meeting with a brief recap of the Chapter's status—solid treasury, increase to 95 members, excellent ROTC programs, and winning the FIVE STAR Chapter of Excellence Award. A full slate of Officers and Board Members were elected by the membership. Three formal toasts in special souvenir wine glasses were rendered to "the United States of America", "the uniformed services and their supporting loved ones", and "MOAA and the Star Spangled Banner Chapter."

Past Presidents, CW4 Ivan Dooley, and COL Jim Shelley, with great ceremony, used an Army saber to cut the Anniversary Cake, served later as dessert. Dinner was served, followed by the guest speaker and the retirement of the Colors.



Anniversary Banquet Speaker: Lieutenant General H Steven Blum, US Army (Retired.)



LTG Blum speaking.

**LTG Blum joins
Our Chapter!**

MOAA Maryland Council President, MAJ John Whitman, USAF (Ret.)

congratulated the Chapter on its fifty years and provided the introduction of the guest speaker. He noted that LTG Blum, a Baltimore native, was a graduate of Forest Park High and received a master degree from Morgan State. LTG Blum began a distinguished career with the 29th Division, Maryland National Guard. As a general officer he commanded Army and NATO forces in the field. He was Chief of the National Guard Bureau for an extended tour, which included organizing the Guard from multiple states to assist after Hurricane Katrina. His final tour was as the Deputy Commander, United States Northern Command.

General Blum congratulated the Chapter on its fifty years of important work and service. He voiced a particular concern that now, in contrast to 10 percent of US citizens experiencing the armed services in 1946, less than 1 percent serve; and few citizens have any knowledge or connection with the military. The few include the US Congress. He praised the Chapter's and MOAA's involvement in creating more understanding of the needs of the services. MOAA is valuable for listening to the individual and speaking with a powerful voice. General Blum gave examples of improving the efficiency of the services with reserve and guard components by emphasizing that those called up should have the equivalent training and equipment of the regulars, giving the example that the majority of firefighters in the US are volunteers, but they are effective because they are equipped and trained and they can respond when the need arises.



In the Q & A session, the first question (since LTG Blum lives in Reisterstown) was "Why not join the Chapter?" General Blum responded in great, good humor by pulling fifteen dollars from his wallet and handing it to the President.

In response to another question, General Blum covered the national and mutual coordination efforts of dozens of different states' National Guard units to assist civil authorities during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Some 50,000 guard personnel were deployed, responding usually on state-to-state assistance calls, below the Federal level.

CAPT DeHaemer thanked LTC Blum, welcomed him to Chapter membership and presented a miniature bust of Francis Scott Key.

ROTC LIASON: COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.), LTC Annette Brown, USA (Ret.)



MAJ David Bornn, USA, and Candy Bonn. MAJ Bonn, Commander of the ROTC at Morgan State University, joins our Chapter!




Milford Mill Academy Color Guard with Gunnery Sgt. Samvra Rogers, USMC (Ret.)


FIND PAST NEWSLETTERS AND THE PHOTO GALLERY ONLINE AT Starspan.org.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR CHAPTER PROGRAMS!

EVENT CALENDAR	The newly elected Officers and Board met in early December to work up some fantastic programs for the coming year at some terrific locations.
February 4, 2015 Wednesday, noon 	Winter luncheon at Tark's Grill, Green Spring Station, approx. Falls Rd & I-695. We are privileged to have MG, USA (Ret.) James K. Gilman, MD, currently Executive Director, Johns Hopkins Military and Veterans Institute (JHMDVI) and former Commander of Ft. Detrick, Army Medical Research and Material Command as our guest speaker. In addition to speaking about his current modern day warfare JHMDVI initiatives and applications for military veterans and families, he may share his 35 years of military medicine experience to include care for our wounded warriors and offer personal insights into the Ebola crisis, the VA as well as the U.S. Family Health Plan. Fixed price menu at \$24 per person. For reservations for yourself and guests, send check made out to Star Spangled Banner Chapter and the form on page 6. Mail to the Chapter Treasurer at the address on the form.
April 15, 2015 Wednesday, 6.30 pm	The Pimlico Room, Mount Washington Tavern, Baltimore, MD Program will be about current Middle Eastern Affairs. Guest speaker will be an expert in international affairs and security with decades of experience in Arab affairs. We are inviting a subject matter expert --possibly a former ambassador--from Johns Hopkins University and the Middle East Institute in D.C. MORE INFORMATION in January.
May 30, 2015 Saturday	Lunch at Inner Harbor, Inviting Astronaut Reid Wiseman to Speak, tour USS Constellation
July 25, 2015 Saturday	Lunch and Tour of the Updated Naval Academy Museum guided by the Curator.
September 26, 2015 Saturday	Lunch and visit to Martin Aviation Airport and Museum. Expert Guides.
November 18, 2015 Wednesday	Chapter Annual Banquet at Mount Washington Tavern, Baltimore Inviting a Key Political Figure, hopefully a Congressman!

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2015

	Annual dues remain \$15.00 for the year 2015. If you do "online", the Chapter will be able to take credit card payments and will provide instructions in early January 2015. Otherwise, please make out a check for \$15 to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter and submit the form on page 6 or a note with the information. Advise if you require the Newsletter by regular mail. Mail to: CPT John Baesch, USA, Treasurer 301 Warren Ave. #203 Baltimore, MD 21230
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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: CAPT Bud Wanner, USPHS (Ret.), LtCol Ed Herbert, USAF (Ret.)

Since early summer 2014, LtCol Jack Fringer, MOAA Maryland Council's liaison to the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force, and his team have been meeting with the Maryland Comptroller's staff to update the 2003 report which was drafted for the Maryland General Assembly to study the financial impact of retired military personnel on our state's economy.

The facts and figures gathered will be used for the bills which will be drafted to increase the income tax exemptions on military retired income. For example Senator Peters and Delegate Wilson have jointly drafted a bill which would exempt all retired military income and will present it at the 2015 legislative session. Presently 30 states have no income tax or no income tax on retired military pay.

Jack Fringer and other Task Force members met with Larry Hogan during his gubernatorial campaign. At that time, candidate Hogan was in favor of increasing the exemption on retired military income.

Since November 4th, Governor-elect Hogan has been advised that he has inherited over a billion dollar deficit from the O'Malley administration. This fact more than likely means that any exemptions will have to be incremental.

At this time it appears as though Delegate Sheila Hixon, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Senator Mike Miller, President of the Senate, will retain their respective positions. These legislators present a hurdle for military income tax exemptions. The only saving grace is that we will have the Governor-elect and Comptroller on our side. There is hope. Please contact your elected representatives and plead our case.

**MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters****MDMOAA.ORG**

At the meeting on December 6, 2014, on behalf of the Maryland Council, the Council President, John Whitman, presented a plaque commemorating our Fiftieth Anniversary to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter. CAPT Mike DeHaemer and President-elect COL Tom Seybold received the plaque for the Chapter.

Under a new president, COL Andrew Fallon, USA (Ret.) the Maryland Council plans to continue legislative activities on the state level, focusing on income tax relief for military retirees; and on the national level, planning for the Annual Congressional Luncheon with the Maryland Congressional Delegation, which will be scheduled for August 2015. The Council is also pursuing the startup of a new chapter in the western counties of the state.

The Maryland Council was recognized as a 5 Star Council for and Mrs. Eleanor Layman, the Council's Auxiliary Representative is the winner of the 2014 Auxiliary Level of Excellence Award.

Since Mrs. Layman is retiring, the Council is looking for a volunteer to replace her to assist Auxiliary Members and surviving spouses in the state.

**Welcome New Members! (joining since September-October Newsletter)**

LTG H Steven Blum, USA (Retired), Susie
MAJ David Bornn, USA, Candy
CDR Edward Mills, USN (Retired), Samyra
MAJ Charles R. Rishell, USMC (Former), Linda

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2015-2016

At the November 18th meeting, the listed officers and board were elected to two year terms for 2015 and 2016.

OFFICER POSITION

President	COL Tom Seybold, USA (Ret.)
First Vice President	COL Jim Shelley, USA (Ret.)
Second Vice President	CDR Bill Rose, USN (Former)
Secretary	CAPT Victor Hrehorovich, USPHS (Ret.)
Treasurer	CPT John Baesch, USA (Former)

BOARD POSITIONS

Past President	CAPT Mike DeHaemer, USN (Ret.)
At-Large	VADM James Sagerholm, USN (Ret.)
US Army	LTC Annette Brown, USA (Ret.)
US Marine Corps	MAJ Charles Rishell, USMC (Former)
US Air Force	LtCol Edward Herbert, III, USAF (Ret.)
US Coast Guard/Public Health Service	CAPT Charles Wanner, USPHS (Ret.)



FIFTY YEARS & FIVE STARS!



Serving as President of the Star Spangled Banner Chapter over the last two and a half years has been a terrific experience. The experience was made especially enjoyable by colleagues in the officer, board, and volunteer committee chair positions. My greatest appreciation goes to all of them for making Our Chapter increasing successful.

Our Chapter has resurged from its low tide point of a few years ago, and I am very happy to see continuity in leadership, evidenced by the full slate of officers and board for 2015-2016; and I am also very pleased to be succeeded by an energetic and dedicated President, COL Tom Seybold.

Just a few weeks ago I had the wonderful privilege of receiving, on behalf of our chapter, the Five Star Level of Excellence Award at the National MOAA Conference in Washington, DC. We were recognized as one of the top chapters among the 420 MOAA affiliate chapters. So we are adding the shot glass of this achievement to the punchbowl of 50 years of effort and success for the FIRST and OLDEST officer association in Maryland.

Although the Chapter has gone through a few cycles with deep concern about continuing, we are on an upward trend line. Our strengths have been: noteworthy support for high school and university ROTC programs, active pursuit for legislative action to benefit veterans in our state, interesting programs and field trips for chapter members, and a strong effort to recruit new, younger active members. **Starting from a base of 60 members in 2012, as of this writing on December 17th, the Chapter has exactly 100 members.** Now we have continuity in excellent leadership; and the larger number of chapter members will enable more programs to benefit our community.

Judy and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the receipt of many blessings in the New Year!

Mike DeHaemer



Chairman Gen. John Tilelli, Jr., presents Excellence Award.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Lock Raven VA Rehabilitation Center.** The Star Spangled Banner Chapter Board approved funding of \$300 to purchase small gifts for a BBQ tailgate at the VA Rehabilitation Center. The ROTC Alumni Association of Morgan State University will conduct the BBQ at a date to be announced early next year. Chapter volunteers for the BBQ are needed. Chapter liaison is LTC Annette Brown, bighat628@yahoo.com, 410-664-3054.
- **Operation Welcome Home.** Meeting the returning troops at BWI is a worthwhile and rewarding experience. The Operation Welcome Home Web site is: www.operationwelcomehomemd.org for the latest schedule. Before leaving for BWI call the Welcome Home Hotline 410-630-1555 as the schedule often changes.
- **USO at BWI Airport.** Volunteers are needed to man the USO lounge, which is open 24/7. If you can volunteer, especially at night, contact the USO coordinator, Midge (midge@usometro.org); or call the USO Lounge, 410-859-4425, and somebody will take contact info if Midge is not there.

COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **The Military Bowl Game and Parade in Annapolis on December 27. Virginia Tech vs. Cincinnati** at 1.00pm at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. 5K run. Veterans march in the parade. Free or reduced price tickets for active duty and retired and families. Sponsored by Northrop-Grumman to benefit the USO. **Check it out at Militarybowl.org.**
- **Military Family Relief Fund Gala at Martin's East, Saturday, March 7, 2015.** Cost is \$75 per person and includes dinner, band music, and open bar. Formal attire. If you would like to join a reserved MOAA table, contact COL Jim Shelley, james.m.shelley@gmail.com, 443 470-5775.

RESERVATION FORM: FEBRUARY 4, LUNCHEON, NOON at TARK'S RESTAURANT

At Green Spring Station, 2360 WEST JOPPA ROAD, Lutherville, MD 21093 (Joppa Road at Falls Road)

Menu Choices for Soup, Lunch Entrée, and Dessert will be made when seated.

Soup Selection: Maryland Crab Soup or Soup du Jour

Lunch Entrée Selection: Chicken Caesar Salad (grilled or blackened), or Chef's Pasta of the Day, or Tuna Salad Sandwich, or Grilled Turkey Rachel Sandwich.

Dessert: Today's Sorbet or Vanilla Ice Cream

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RESERVATION FORM FEBRUARY 4, 2015

(Please mail to arrive by January 30, 2015)

FIXED PRICE LUNCHEON MENU @ \$24 per person.

Add Optional Donation for MOAA Scholarship.

Name _____ Guest Names _____

Your email to receive confirmation _____

Total number for reservation _____ Luncheon Amount \$ _____

Add donation for MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Make out check to the **Star Spangled Banner Chapter**. Mail to: CPT John Baesch, Treasurer
301 Warren Avenue, #203
Baltimore, MD 21230

DUES SUBMISSION FORM FOR 2015 CHAPTER DUES (\$15)

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Membership Renewal Dues Submission for 2015 (\$15)

Name: (last) _____ (first) _____ (middle or m.i.) _____

Branch of Service _____ **Rank** _____ (ret)(act)(fmr)(aux) **Spouse Name** _____

Address: (street/apt no.) _____ (city/state/zip) _____

Home Phone _____ **Mobile** _____ **mail Address** _____

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PHOTO GALLERY FOR BANQUET MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2014



