

## May Meeting and Annual JROTC Awards Banquet

May's meeting will be highlighted by our annual JROTC Awards Ceremony. Following are the details—

Date: Thursday, 16 May  
 Location: Franco's Restaurant  
 1708 E. Lebanon Rd., Dover DE 19901  
 Social Hour: 5pm-6pm  
 Dinner: 6pm-7pm  
 Program: 7pm-8pm

Dinner selections for May's meeting include the following:

- Eggplant parmigiana \$33
- Spaghetti with meat sauce \$30
- Grilled shrimp salad \$25

\*Pasta dishes include side salad and white bread. All prices include non-alcoholic drinks (iced tea, coffee or soda)

To secure your dinner choice, contact Tom Smith **by 12 noon on Tuesday, 14 May.**

Email: [rotorhead65@aol.com](mailto:rotorhead65@aol.com)

Phone: (301) 904-0228



## JROTC Leadership Awards

Dover MOAA members presented the MOAA Leadership Award to the following top-notch JROTC cadets at area high schools this month—

- Caesar Rodney HS (AF-JROTC): Cadet Florencia Mallari, to be presented by Bill Wesler on May 14<sup>th</sup> presented by Mike Orlando
- Smyrna HS (AF-JROTC): Cadet Isabelle Carlton, presented by Mike Orlando
- Dover HS (AF-JROTC): Cadet Carter Murphy, presented by Randy Morgan
- First State Military Academy (MC-JROTC): Cadet Gavin Thompson, presented by Mike Orlando

Congratulations to these deserving young women and men.

## MOAA JROTC Scholarship Winners

We congratulate this year's winners of the Dover MOAA Scholarship contest. Each participant candidate was required to write a leadership paper, and also submit a letter of recommendation. All of this year's winners attend First State Military Academy.

The Findlay Scholarship (\$2,500) will be awarded to MC-JROTC Cadet/Lt.Col. Tyler Johnes, who also earned an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, which he will attend in the fall.

One MOAA Traditional Scholarship (\$1,500) will be awarded to MC-JROTC Cadet/Col. Kathleen Ford, who also earned an ROTC scholarship to Texas A&M University, which she will



Cadet/Lt.Col. Tyler Johnes



Cadet/Col. Kathleen Ford



Cadet/Lt.Col. Jacob Walsh

attend in the fall.

Another MOAA Traditional Scholarship (\$1,500) will be awarded to MC-JROTC Cadet/Lt Col. Jacob Walsh, who also earned an appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, which he will attend in the fall.

The hard work and strong efforts of these young patriots

clearly shows, and we are honored to present these well-earned awards to each of them during our Dover MOAA JROTC Awards Banquet.

We wish them well in their future endeavors, and highly respect each of their decisions to embark upon a career in service to the United States of America.

## Change of Pens...

You probably notice a slight change in our Dover MOAA Newsletter format. Effective with this edition of our esteemed publication, Bill Alexander has "volunteered" to be our Dover MOAA Editor. Accordingly, if you have any information that you would like published, please contact Bill via email at [colwjalexander@gmail.com](mailto:colwjalexander@gmail.com), or you can text or call him at 302-521-4781.

A sincere thank you to our outgoing Dover MOAA Newsletter editor, JB ! Among JB's myriad of MOAA duties, as well as other activities outside of MOAA, JB ensured that we all had a newsletter each month to keep us informed and connected. You might say it was the purr-fect job for JB, and we appreciate JB's efforts!



JB taking a much-needed rest after a tour of duty with newsletter responsibilities.

# Local and National Topics of Concern



## Tricare for Life Under Possible Threat

From MOAA Magazine:  
[https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-for-life-under-threat-how-moaa-works-to-protect-your-benefit/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TMNsend&utm\\_content=6wgkQST5G7AAMHJh1eJHNA==+DE+AHRM+1+Ret+L+CC](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-for-life-under-threat-how-moaa-works-to-protect-your-benefit/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=6wgkQST5G7AAMHJh1eJHNA==+DE+AHRM+1+Ret+L+CC)

## COLA Adjustment Predictions for 2025

From MOAA Magazine:  
[https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/where-will-your-cost-of-living-adjustment-land-in-2025/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TMNsend&utm\\_content=jj5pOIfKmqMAMHJh1eJHNA==+DE+ATFHSRM+1+ERet+P+CC](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/where-will-your-cost-of-living-adjustment-land-in-2025/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=jj5pOIfKmqMAMHJh1eJHNA==+DE+ATFHSRM+1+ERet+P+CC)

## 10 Tips to Defend Your Online Data

From the VA Office of Information and Technology:  
[https://news.va.gov/131046/10-tips-to-defend-your-online-data/?utm\\_source=middle&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=08MAY2024](https://news.va.gov/131046/10-tips-to-defend-your-online-data/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=08MAY2024)

## DE Legislative Actions Related to Veterans

SB 201- Veteran Tax Exclusion (stalled):  
<https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=140803>

HB 30- Disabled Veteran Property Tax Reduction (stalled):  
<https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=129896>

## Helpful Links to Protect Your Property

Kindly provided by our own Gene Thornton, Register of Deeds for Kent County, these items can be very valuable in dealing with real property issues—

Property transaction alerts to prevent fraud:  
<https://www.kentcountyde.gov/files/assets/temporary/v/1/pdfs/recorder-of-deeds/issue-paper-why-register-for-property-transaction-alerts.pdf>

Exploring property records from anywhere:  
<https://www.kentcountyde.gov/files/assets/temporary/v/1/pdfs/recorder-of-deeds/issue-paper-check-property-from-anywhere.pdf>

## Are Health Care Benefits Intended for Veterans Being Used to Benefit Illegal Immigrants?

Summary: The article discusses concerns over VA resources being used for healthcare services for illegal immigrants, potentially affecting veterans' access to timely care. An interagency agreement between the VA and ICE processes medical claims for illegal immigrant patients, funded by ICE. Former VA advisers expressed surprise at this allocation, emphasizing the need to prioritize veterans' healthcare. Critics argue that this diverts resources from veterans, evident in reported backlogs and strain on the Community Care Network. With significant ICE funding to the VA for immigrant care, questions arise about resource allocation and impact on veterans' services amid increasing demands on federal resources.

By: Hon. William L. Witham, Jr.,  
Advisory Board Member, A Better Delaware

Access the entire article via this link:  
<https://mailchi.mp/abetterdelaware/parents-deserve-a-choice-about-where-their-child-attends-school-9204641?e=136f91abe1>

# Mid-Atlantic Summit for U.S. Global Coalition

The Mid-Atlantic Summit for U.S. Global Coalition was held at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

During the event, foreign policy experts, elected officials, and others addressed diplomacy, development, and democracy; and, the value of these ideals to the national and economic security of communities across the mid-Atlantic region.

MOAA members (see photos) attended the event along with U.S. Senators (DE) Tom Carper and Chris Coons, U.S. Rep (DE) Lisa Blunt-Rochester, Lt Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, DE National Guard Adjutant General MG Michael Berry, and other dignitaries from the U.S. and abroad.

Plenaries included topics on “Investing in Africa’s Economic Security,” “Foreign Policy Trends to Watch,” “Combating Climate Change,” and “A New Model: Tackling the Global Food Security Crisis.”



**CLOCKWISE-** Our own Gene Thornton (President, Dover MOAA Chapter) at the entry sign to the event; Maj. Gen. Mike Berry (DNG Adjutant General) speaking during a plenary; and, a plaque identifying DNG’s partnership with Trinidad and Tobago



**LEFT-** Col. William McDonald (436<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander) speaking during a plenary.

**ABOVE (L-R)-** Larry Hess (President, Southern DE MOAA Chapter); our own Gene Thornton; and, our own Doug Hudson (MOAA Representative on the Delaware Commission of Veterans)

## April Meeting Recap With Featured Guest “Dolly”

We had a well-disciplined guest “speaker” at our April meeting, who surely held our interest throughout her presentation.

“Dolly,” a nine-year-old Hungarian Vizsla, clearly showed us the benefits of a therapy dog, and exhibited model behavior!

Her handler/BFF, our own Chapter President Gene Thornton, highlighted the functions of a therapy dog; and explained the differences between service animals, therapy animals, emotional support animals, and working animals. For those of Dolly’s functionality, it’s fair to say “man’s/woman’s best friend” is a severe understatement, given the unique rewards that these amazing dogs/friends provide.



### Upcoming Dover MOAA Meetings

September 19th

October 17th

November 21st

\*No meetings (JUN-AUG)

### Help Us Grow & Stay Informed!

Please share the news of membership in our great chapter with any eligible uniformed services members and veterans with whom you come into contact. Here’s the link to our membership form:

<https://dovermoaa.org/chapter-membership>

And, check out our Facebook page for the latest news and info:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8509355691721>

**Never Stop Serving...**