



# Cape Cod Currents



## Cape Cod Chapter Military Officers Association of America

*MARCH 2021 ISSUE* - a pictorial review of March events 2014 - 2020

We are still “all in this together” as we await a shot in the arm - two, actually, for most - and hope to be able to meet as a group sometime in 2021



## **PHOTO INFORMATION - MARCH EVENTS OF THE PAST**

**After pausing for some years, March events began to be held again in 2014.**

- ① **03-11-14 Sing-along.** At the Falmouth Holiday Inn 33 of us joined in chorus in the words of tunes related to the military from many eras in which the U.S. found itself in combat, from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam.  
1A - CDR Lee Clark USN and guest accompanist/vocalist Cathy Bonnett lead the singing.  
1B - Voices raised in song.  
1C - Susan and CDR John W Simchock, Jr. USN.  
Here is a link to 3 short video clips from the occasion. If they don't play within Dropbox, downloading them and playing them directly on the computer may work.  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jw119fc5jvm9fhh/AADnjCfejlhoqIwJxSVmv3yLa?dl=0>
- ② **03-10-15 Cape & Islands Theater Coalition Event** with 27 present at Alberto's Ristorante.  
2A - Image from visual presentation.  
2B - Steve Petruska, Vice-President, explains the Coalition's efforts to promote live theater on Cape Cod.  
2C - Ed Lambert and Carolyn Canavosio lead the Scholarship Fund raffle drawing.
- ③ **03-08-16 Drones and Testing of Them at Joint Base Cape Cod**  
3A - There were 32 present to hear CAPT Kevin Sareault, USCG (Ret), Vice-President, Unmanned Programs, Avwatch, Plymouth MA, explain this evolving technology.  
3B - Lt Col Marilyn R L Bowen USAF, Scholarship Fund raffle winner.  
3C - COL Howard S Tripp USA and CPT Sheldon B Segerman USA, fellow officers while active in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.
- ④ **03-21-17 Briefing on Barnstable Municipal Airport** background and operations, which on 05 Jan 21 was rebranded Cape Cod Gateway Airport by the Airport Commission, chaired by our member, Mr. John T. Griffin, Jr. Chapter member CAPT Roland W. "Bud" Breault, Jr., USCG, airport manager at the time, shown on the right in the photo with CAPT Leonard R. Kilmer USPHS, offered the presentation to 23 of us at the Yarmouth House Restaurant.
- ⑤ **03-20-18 102d Intelligence Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Personnel Stresses**  
Some members in this unit work 24/7 examining real time video images from manned aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in combat zones and analyzing data from them. Results are conveyed to others making decisions on deployment of weapons. After working a 12-hour shift which involves these warriors directly in high intensity operations taking place far away, they must transition immediately into the civilian and family environment during the trip home. There were 28 present to share in the event held at the Yarmouth House Restaurant.  
5A - Zoe, the Wing therapy dog, accompanied Mrs. Jill Garvin, shown at left in photo, who described their roles in assisting personnel with psychological health issues. Much of the work consists in prevention services and activities designed to minimize potentially self destructive behaviors including alcohol abuse, family dysfunction, and suicide. Lt Col Enrique Dovalo, Jr., USAF, right in photo, Commander of the 101st Intelligence Squadron of the Wing, explained that his people operate the Sentinel weapon system, the primary intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance system of the Air Force dealing with ISR planning, collection, processing, analysis, exploitation

and dissemination of time sensitive combat related information. He described the strains on them from direct contact with individual combat troops on the ground half a world away as they advise warriors on what may or may not be threats and possibilities for facing them. His goal is to support his women and men in ways that allow them to continue to function in an environment never before encountered by U.S. troops.

5B - COL Don Lynde USA, Chapter President, draws a Scholarship Fund raffle winner.

⑥ **03-19-19 Service & Science: NOAA Corps & Northeast Fisheries Science Center**

6A - LTJG Chris Gallagher NOAA, Officer-in-Charge of the 72-foot NOAA research vessel *Gloria Michelle* (an O-2 filling an O-3 billet), offered a comprehensive look at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Officer Corps. It is the smallest of the eight uniformed services with 321 presently and a cap of 500. Overall the Northeast Fisheries Science Center plans, develops and manages a multidisciplinary program of basic and applied research. The 28 of us present at the Hyannis Golf Club asked many questions. A frequent comment: "I knew almost none of that."

6B - The smiling face of Chapter Membership Chair Brig Gen Jimmy Dishner USAF.

6C - Chapter member LTG David P. Valcourt USA makes a point.

6D - Chapter Director, Program Co-Chair, and Scholarship Committee member Mr. Tom Barrett and Mrs. Barbara Barrett in conversation.

⑦ **03-10-20 USCG Maritime Safety & Security Team Cape Cod** (last event before pandemic)

7A - After a brief introduction by Commanding Officer LCDR Christopher Guy USCG (shown at far right in photo) following lunch and our Scholarship Fund raffle at the Falcon Golf Course Clubhouse, 23 participants crowded around the boat (with two, 250 hp engines, one of nine vessels in the team's inventory), the weapons, the personal gear, and the video search device set up at the foot of the Clubhouse steps.

7B - Member COL Louis P. Preziosi USA gets his questions answered.

7C - The group does a close examination of the displays.

**IN MEMORIAM** **Mary Francis Smith**, a Chapter Surviving Spouse member, age 76, died 04 Dec 20. She was the widow of the late Lt Col Melden E. Smith USAF and was a member of the Barnstable - now Cape Cod Gateway - Airport -Commission with Chapter member CAPT "Bud" Breault USCG. The following obituary, which appeared 21 Dec 20 in the *Cape Cod Times* online, was written by and from the perspective of daughter Julie Smith.

Mary Francis Smith, of Hyannis, born in Boston on April 22, 1944, was taken from this earth on December 4, 2020, to be united with my dad, Melden E. Smith, in heaven. I am their only child. I want the world to know that she was a wonderful lady and my very best friend.

My mom made me so happy and I think about all that we did together every day now. Those memories will always be with me and bring me joy. We loved to laugh together, watch movies, and sing songs. She loved soft rock and oldies. We learned all about planes together as my dad was in the Air Force for twenty-eight years and shared that with us. Her very favorite movie was Saint Elmo's Fire. We loved the theme song. One of the lines is, "I can make it, I



know I can.” I will think of that each day because I know that my mom wants me to be happy more than anything else. She spent so much of her life taking care of me and making me strong.

Another song that was a favorite of hers was “Night Shift.” She loved it because it reminded her of when she was a Customs Inspector at the Port of Boston. She was the first woman to do that job at Logan [Airport]! Our interest in airplanes gave my mom the chance to be on the Barnstable Airport Commission. She also worked for the Barnstable Public Schools System and the Barnstable Housing Authority as a secretary for many years. When she was young, she worked for the Aeronautics and Space Administration and the US Air Force in Boston offices. Everyone who knew my mom loved her!

The Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics, and the Bruins were her passion. She taught me to be a big fan beginning when I was a little girl. We cheered for them together every chance we had.

Yellow roses, marble cake with raspberry filling and buttercream frosting, and oysters on the half shell were her favorites. We had a tradition of eating boiled eggs every Sunday morning together. She taught me to love traditions, love people, and always see the good side of life.

My mother made my world a wonderful place and she made the whole world a better place. A graveside service, next to my Dad at the National Cemetery in Bourne, will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 29.

**IN MEMORIAM** Surviving Spouse Chapter member **Edna E. Kotomski**, 91, Cummaquid MA, passed away peacefully in her own home during her daily afternoon nap on 07 May 2020. She was born 09 Jul 1928 to Stephanie (Varnot) and Matthew Kowal in Oakham MA. A graduate of Clark University, Worcester MA, she met the love of her life, Joseph Kotomski, while teaching in a Millbury MA middle school. She subsequently earned a Masters in Library Science from Clark University and served as a Millbury School District librarian until retirement in 1993.

Edna and Joseph built their retirement dream home on Cape Cod, shared many boat rides and sunsets at Gray's Beach, and became “snow birds” three months of the year in Country Club Acres of Delray Beach FL. Their beloved cats Baby Angel and Michelangelo traveled with them for many years. Joseph left Edna's side in November of 2007, interred in the green fields of the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne MA. That event tied Edna firmly to Cape Cod.

Friends will remember Edna's generous heart, ready grin, plucky spirit, hearty appetite, crafty adventures, and love of flowers. Surviving are her sister, Elizabeth Blake, of Sebastian FL, one niece, Carleen Blake, and her husband, Roydan Tomlinson, of Loveland CO, and one nephew, Matthew Blake and his wife, Lynne, of Jefferson LA, along with grand and great nieces and nephews as follows: Katelyn (Chris) Medina of Windsor CO, Alex Blake of Worcester MA, Elizabeth Black of New Orleans LA, Seth, Ciara, Madison, and Marley.

Edna will be interred beside her husband, at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a funeral Mass and Celebration of Life for Edna will be scheduled at a later date. In Edna's memory, donations may be made to a local animal shelter to care for those lost kittens that Edna did not get the chance to pamper. [Downloaded from the Hallett Funeral Home, South Yarmouth MA, web site 12-22-20; edited. Death discovered by LTC Hank Bertsch USA, the Chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison.]

**TOYS FOR TOTS 2020** In lieu of the usual December collection of unwrapped toys and checks for Toys for Tots Cape and Islands, the Board approved soliciting donations to the Charity Fund earmarked for this agency. Two gifts arrived after the 15 Dec 20 formal presentation. The amounts from these were mailed later. We gave a final total of \$1,555.00 in 25 gifts. The names of the donors appear below. Thank you again.

Col Charles Aftosmis USAF & Mrs. Carol Aftosmis  
CDR Joseph C Amaral USCG & Mrs. JoAnn Amaral  
Mr Thomas J Barrett & Mrs Barbara Barrett  
LTC George H Bertsch III USA  
Lt Col Marilyn RL Bowen USAF  
CAPT Roland W Breault, Jr. USCG & Mrs. Marcia Breault  
CDR Lee S Clark USN & Mrs Jackie Clark  
CAPT Leonard A DiLorenzo USN  
LtCol Michael P Dunford USMC  
Mr. Richard P. Hawkins  
MAJ Edward J Hines USMC  
CDR George E Howe USCG  
CDR Thomas J Keating USN

CAPT Leonard R Kilmer USPHS & Mrs. Monica Kilmer  
COL James P McDevitt USA  
LTC James M McGoldrick USA & Mrs. Patricia McGoldrick  
COL Marie R O'Neil USA  
Lt Col Jeffrey C Paul USAF  
Ms Judith A Perchard  
LTC William F Reade USA  
MAJ Charles E. Sands, Jr. USA & Mrs. Renate Sands  
CPT Sheldon B Segerman USA  
CDR John W Simchock, Jr. USN  
LCDR William "Jim" Smith USN  
LCDR J. Brian Wallace USCG

**Charity + Scholarship Goal by 31 Mar 21: \$10K / Receipts - 31 Jan 21: \$ 8,504.30 / 85.0%**  
[Charity Fund receipts shown above exclude special gifts totaling \$1,555.00 for Toys for Tots]  
Fund balances 31 Jan 21: Charity \$ **881.20** Scholarship \$ **8,229.48** Operating \$ **6,629.31**

**\$12,000 IN 2021 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS** The Board decided at its virtual meeting 13 Jan 21 to provide \$12,000 again in 2021 to the Scholarship Committee to award to graduating seniors bound for a four year degree granting institution. The decision came because the Board has confidence in the generosity of members who support this program. As the numbers above indicate, we can use more gifts to the Scholarship Fund by the 31 Mar 21 cutoff of our “giving year.”

**2021 SCHOLARSHIPS - PLEASE HELP SHARE THIS INFO** [tentative award date 01 May]

The Scholarship Committee has provided documents to high school guidance counselors for the use of 2021 applicants. The problem is that with little in-person contact during these pandemic disturbed days, information on what we offer may not be widely known. The Committee asks, please, if you have contact with any Cape & Islands resident graduating senior with military family connections, or a household with an upper high schooler, inform them of our program. Documents come from counselors, but can also be provided as attachments to email by your editor if asked. Application deadline is 20 Mar 2021. In 2020, three recipients shared a total of \$12,000.

**COVID-19 VACCINE** A personal note. Jackie and I have sought a vaccine appointment on the computer daily. Availability for us over 75 began 01 Feb. We wanted the experience prior to publication. We found the Mass.gov/Covid web site unfriendly. Locate the map on it - try [www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1z197EsKQBJ1jkUL9YjnLSRN30qFRnfgd&usp](http://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1z197EsKQBJ1jkUL9YjnLSRN30qFRnfgd&usp) - to find a vaccination site. As of 30 Jan there were seven listed on the Cape; one each on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Click on a site to secure an appointment. As some of these are pharmacies, it may be necessary to create an online account with the company and be verified. This can also result in frustration. We have become aware that our town's phone alert notification system in which we are enrolled will make calls from the health department when times become available locally. The same is true for notifications coming from various health care providers on whose web sites we are registered. Barnstable County Health Department's hotline, (774) 330-3001, will answer questions for now and says it will make appointments for those eligible when vaccine and

slots become available after 01 Feb 21. If a message must be left on voicemail, the call will be returned. WCAI NPR FM 90.1, 91.1, and 94.3, reported the department on 27 Jan offered appointments at its clinic at Barnstable County Fairgrounds on 03 Feb, with 600 slots filled in an hour - there was no advance notice. Expect future available appointments here. Another place to search for a location (Fairgrounds shown on it) is [www.maimmunizations.org/clinic/search](http://www.maimmunizations.org/clinic/search).

Please understand, this information applies to Cape Cod and the Islands only and could change at any time. It is only one isolated example. We registered and searched independently; the result was identical for each of us. However, one of our members with co-morbidities as well as being over age 80 secured a vaccination 28 Jan at a local pharmacy. The system can work.

**TO CARRY ON THE CHAPTER'S MISSION we need nominees for Chapter officers**

Pres., V-P, Sec., Treas. and two Directors - for the June election. Incumbents are Pres. Don Lynde; VP Sheldon Segerman; Sec. Chuck Sands; Treas. Lee Clark; Directors Bill Reade and Tom Barrett; immediate Past Pres. Dick Bowen.

All elected and appointed positions - except President and Vice-President - may be held by the spouse of a member or by a Surviving Spouse member.

To indicate interest or ask a question contact 2021 Nominating Committee members Chuck Sands, (508) 888-8349, [cerssands@comcast.net](mailto:cerssands@comcast.net), mobile (508) 221-5466; Tom Barrett, (508) 255-9288, [tjbpsu@gmail.com](mailto:tjbpsu@gmail.com), mobile (603) 345-2850; or Tom Keating, (508) 896-6217, mobile (413) 244-6974, email [rangertomk@hotmail.com](mailto:rangertomk@hotmail.com).

One essential: ability to communicate by email. A second essential: ability to attend Officers Meetings currently held the second Wednesday of the month - right now via Zoom.

**Appointed Committee Positions** need to be filled after the election: Legislative, Membership, Personal Affairs, Programs, Public Affairs, Scholarship, and Surviving Spouse Liaison.

**Join the Virtual Officers Meetings Wed 09 Feb and Wed 09 Mar 21, 1015** Chuck Sands hosts. Just as all members are always invited. Participate with just a telephone, or with a computer and its camera (if it has one). Contact Chuck by phone 508-888-8349 (home) or 508-221-5466 (mobile) or by email [cerssands@comcast.net](mailto:cerssands@comcast.net) and ask to be included. He needs your email address. The officers do want to hear from members - and see unmasked faces!

***CCC MOAA Scholarship and Charity Fund contribution*** Chapter members and any others who would like to make a federal tax deductible donation to either our Charity or Scholarship Fund may do so by providing the requested information and mailing a check or money order.

The Chapter thanks you very much for your generosity.

I/we, \_\_\_\_\_, contribute to the CCC MOAA  
[please print name(s) legibly]

***Scholarship Fund*** the amount of \$50  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Charity Fund*** the amount of \$50  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make instruments payable to CCC MOAA with a "memo" indicating the fund name.

Mail to CCC MOAA, PO Box 2272, Mashpee MA 02649-8272.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ check # \_\_\_\_\_

Currents editor Lee Clark, 248 Wheeler Rd, Mashpee MA 02649 [lee.s.clark@comcast.net](mailto:lee.s.clark@comcast.net) 774.521.3388