



Cape Cod Currents



Cape Cod Chapter Military Officers Association of America

December 2022 Event – Toys for Tots + “Know Me - Combat Veterans Tell Their Stories” by Ms. Nancy Curci, author of the 2020 volume *Know Me*, combat veterans’ tales from four wars told with pride, humor, honesty, emotion, and pain

Tuesday 13 December 2022 – 1130 registration; meal 1200

Location: DiParma Italian Table, 175 Route 28, West Yarmouth MA 02673

entrée picks – baked haddock w seasoned bread crumbs or chicken piccata w lemon caper sauce
salad; vegetable; chocolate tuxedo cake; beverages; rolls/butter; bar service

Cost: \$34.00/person by 06 Dec 2022 to Sheldon Segerman – see page 6



11 OCTOBER 2022 EVENT – CAPE AND ISLANDS STEAMSHIPS

A funny thing happened on the way to hearing from FBI Supervising Special Agent Brian LeBlanc in October: a family emergency prevented his presence. Thanks to quick work by Programs Committee members Tom Barrett and Bill Glass, we were privileged to hear from Ms. **Elizabeth York**, Executive Director, **Cape Cod Maritime Museum**, Hyannis, who shared some of her vast knowledge of the history of “**Cape Cod and Islands Steamships**” from the initial vessel, Eagle, in 1818 (its service time was only about 90 days) to the present. They plied the waters of Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds primarily from New Bedford, Woods Hole, and Hyannis to and between the islands of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard. It was not until 1827 that a steamer came into regular service. In the 1830s schedules were established. Boats traveled about 15 mph back then. Until the 20th Century, paddle wheels propelled the vessels. In 1902 automobiles were first carried. The largest vessel ever on the Martha’s Vineyard run, Naushon, was built in 1929. In December 1942 she was taken with one day’s notice by the U.S. Government for war service. She distinguished herself by dodging misfortune and by saving survivors from convoying ships that had been torpedoed along the North American coast and at the Normandy landings. The sidewheeler Martha’s Vineyard, in the background on page one, 185 feet long, was built in 1871. The last steam powered vessel on the MV run ended operations in 1988. All later vessels, beginning in the 1950s, used diesel propulsion.

13 DECEMBER – TOYS FOR TOTS Please bring new unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve to distribute as Christmas gifts to needy Cape and Islands children. **In lieu of toys, make checks to Toys for Tots.** Expect former USMC Corporal George Challies to represent Toys for Tots. We want to send George on his way with lots of loot for those supported by the Marine Corps Reserve and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.



13 DEC EVENT – “KNOW ME - COMBAT VETERANS TELL THEIR STORIES”

Ms. Nancy Curci, author of the 2020 volume *Know Me*, will discuss the stories of veterans who experienced combat in four wars whom she interviewed for her book. Why did they join? What happened? How do they feel about their service? Would they do it again? She will introduce an impressive group of ordinary people who stepped up. Three constants emerged from the interviews: (1) at the root of most wars are politics, greed, money, and power; (2) the young, even before their brains fully develop, are the ones who die; (3) although President Truman desegregated the military in 1948, the country continued Jim Crow laws and enforced race separation until the 1960s.

Col Roger Landry, USAF Medical Corps (ret), Falmouth MA, writes in the foreword to *Know Me*, “For me, my service was a privilege, an opportunity to discover what I value and what I was willing to do for those values. I believe most veterans feel an internal pride for what they did but keep that pride private. And they know to the very fiber of their being that their service formed the core of who they are today. So, when we hear “thank you for your service,” we appreciate those words. But in truth, for me, it comes up short, never crossing the huge gap between those fine sentiments and the intensity of what we actually experienced. Nancy Curci has bridged that gap. Her formula for gaining access to our secret world was simple. She *asked and listened.*”



An excerpt by the author from page 183 of the book reads, “I had the good fortune of sitting at his kitchen table listening to the bantering of six or seven veterans. They are from different wars, different branches, and different ages. None of that mattered. You could see that they were as close as brothers could be. I somehow felt that I was intruding in a private club and yet I never thought to leave. If the world could have each other’s back like these guys, we probably would not need wars.”



Ms. Curci was pulled from school by her father at age 16 to work in a shoe factory, but one night, after a heated argument, he relented and allowed her to go back to finish high school. Later she worked as a waitress, had three children, became a school bus driver, and then went to college, eventually getting her Master of Science degree. Her licenses include Occupational Therapy, Clinical Social Worker, and Rehabilitation Counselor. She was a consultant in human services, served on the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers, was Director of Rehabilitation at Worcester State Hospital, and taught psychology at Cape Cod Community College. Other service included as a mediator at Barnstable Court

House, Barnstable MA, a consultant to the Hyannis Housing Authority, Hyannis MA, and a volunteer at the (former) Vietnam Veterans’ Food Pantry, Hyannis. Her work, along with that of two co-authors, on sensory integration with mentally ill deaf individuals, was published in the volume *Mental Health Care of Deaf People*.

Autobiographical material says her husband, Chapter member Maj Charles Curci USAF, is a photographer, graphic designer, and a jack of all interests. She is the proud mother of very independent sons Joseph, Michael, and David Daltorio. She also has a wonderful daughter-in-law, Evelyn, and two very strong independent granddaughters Jessica and Emily.

She writes in the book’s introduction, “...although I did not have what it takes to be part of the military, I did have respect for those who did. My grandfather was in WWI. My uncles were in WWII. My cousin was in Korea, my brother Cornelius was in the Marines, my brother Johnny [Army] did three tours in Vietnam, and my son was in Korea at the demilitarized zone in the eighties. They had the guts to go and save someone’s life at the risk of their own. Not me.”

Charity + Scholarship Goal by 31 Mar 23: \$10K / Receipts - 31 Oct 22: \$4,450.56 / 44.5%

Fund balances 31 Oct 22: Charity \$ 731.65 Scholarship \$ 3,675.48 Operating \$ 5,606.78

BOARD ACTIONS On 12 Oct 22 the Board elected CAPT William O (Bill) Glass USN to the vacant post of Immediate Past President, filling the seventh voting Board slot. It also removed from membership RADM Donald C Arthur, Jr. USN for non-payment of dues for two years, and approved a \$100.00 Charity Fund gift to the Cape Cod Maritime Museum.

WIN A ROOMBA! Attend the December event, buy raffle tickets, and perhaps maybe **win** a self-propelled **Roomba model 394** robot vacuum donated by Chapter member Lt Col Marilyn R L Bowen USAF.  Clean floors at your house!

PUBLIC To all who receive this document: all Chapter events are open to the public. Submit a registration form with payment. If there is a question before registering, please contact the editor.

OFFICERS MEETINGS Zoom assemblies are Wed. 09 Nov, 1015, and Wed. 14 Dec, same time. **Contact Secretary Chuck Sands**, cerssands@comcast.net, for a meeting link via email.

JOIN Chapter members are, first, current members of MOAA national; see MOAA.org. MOAA includes active, Guard, Reserve members of the eight uniformed services, retirees of them, or former officers of them. The Chapter web site, capecodmoaa.angelfire.com, has applications plus more information, copies of past newsletters, and event photos. No dues charged new applicants.

**CAPE COD CHAPTER, MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
2023 ANNUAL DUES FORM - PAYMENT DUE BY 01 JANUARY 2023**

Use of this form helps the Chapter keep track of members' address and other changes.

2023 ANNUAL DUES - \$25.00. PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT.

Only regular members pay, not Surviving Spouse, Honorary, or (Chapter) Life.

Name _____
 last [please print legibly] first m.i. rank service component
 (Component means indicate affiliation in regular, Reserve, or Nat'l. Guard)

circle status: active, retired, former officer, deceased officer's spouse

Addr _____
 nمبر street/box apt city/town state zip + 4

Phone _____
 home mobile spouse's given name

Other addr _____
 nمبر street/box apt city/town state zip + 4

Dates at other addr _____ Phone at other addr _____

Email addr (if used regularly) _____

Dates (e.g. 1980-90) of active duty _____ of inactive/Reserve/Guard _____
 include all extended periods of each - do not include as active any Reserve/Guard ACDUTRA,
 TEMDU, TDY, TAD, ADT periods of less than 1 year

DUE NLT 01 JAN 23 - make checks to Cape Cod Chapter, MOAA
 Mail to CCC MOAA, PO Box 2272, Mashpee MA 02649-8272.

Signature _____ Date _____ check # _____

form 07-26-22

IN MEMORIAM Cynthia-Jane Palen Tierney, age 87, of Worthington OH, passed away 05 Aug 22, at Mass General Hospital, Boston MA, where she had been since June. She was the loving wife of Chapter member Col Eugene (Gene) F. Tierney USAF for 65 years. Besides Gene, Cynthia is survived by daughter Alison (Robert) Mann, Powell OH; grandchildren Brittany Boughey Manidakos (Tyler), Boston MA; Andrew Boughey (fiancée Ceciley Bigler), Boston; Ryan Mann (fiancée Jenny Sell), Enon OH; and her first great-granddaughter, Maple Mann, born 22 Jul 22, who she never held but did see virtually. Also surviving are sons-in-law Gregory Boughey, Ormond Beach FL; sister-in-law Dorothy Palen, The Villages FL; and nephew Mark Palen, Lake Tahoe CA. She was predeceased by her daughter, Gwyn Boughey (Gregory), who passed away 01 Jun 22, following a five year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); her brother Scott Palen (Dorothy); and nephew David Palen.

Cynthia graduated from Buckley High School, Hartford CT, in 1953, where she was marching band head majorette, and from Waterbury (CT) General Hospital nursing school in 1956; she was class president. Registered Nurse licenses came from CT, ME, TN, and OH.

She loved nursing and caring for people and worked in the field full and part-time until retiring in 1996.

She loved Cape Cod where she spent summers in retirement, and enjoyed traveling and seeing and meeting people from around the U.S. and the world. She and Gene traveled throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia, and nine other countries, China being one of her favorites. They also took many day trips with the Griswold Worthington Senior Center. A physically active person, she took dance lessons, including acrobatic dancing. Cynthia filled an officer position in Job's Daughters (part of the Masonic Lodge).

In later years Cynthia won numerous points in duplicate bridge tournaments. She was an accomplished bowler in a Worthington women's league. On Cape Cod she and Gene did volunteer work for the Wellfleet Audubon Society for nearly twenty years. The two were in a group that planted, maintained, and raised funds for about 25 Eastham MA road intersection flower islands. Every week Cynthia spent hours trimming bushes along the sides of walking trails. Once a month she was part of a group that bagged public road trash. She enjoyed working with artificial flowers, and had the ability to create fine and colorful arrangements. Cynthia was very outgoing and enjoyed attending quarterly dinners of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, as well as Chapter events. [The photo is from the 19 Jun 21 gathering.]



While in hospital, her family's daily visits comforted Cynthia. During this time Alison and her husband returned to Ohio to meet their granddaughter shortly after her birth, and, when Cynthia's condition worsened, drove back to Boston, arriving at the hospital at 3:00 a.m. to share videos of great-granddaughter Maple, before Cynthia passed away later that morning.

Cynthia appreciated that as ALS rendered Gwyn motionless in a hospital, husband Gregory was present every day and often evenings, despite his full-time job with a new employer, and that his children Brittany and Andrew helped take care of Gwyn throughout her battle with ALS.

Cynthia's memorial was held 08 Oct 22, at All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington. A 2023 burial service will be held in Cheshire CT. [edited from a 30 Sep 22 *Cape Cod Times* post]

SING A SONG OF THE US SPACE FORCE 🎵 🎵

The service released its [official song](#), "Semper Supra," on 20 Sep 22, via a speech by Chief of Space Operations Gen John "Jay" Raymond USSF at the 2022 Air & Space Forces Association Air, Space, and Cyber Conference. A Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office news release says the name reflects the Force motto "Semper Supra" (Latin: "Always Above").

The song for the new (2019) service was written and composed by two veterans, James Teachenor, a former member of the US Air Force Academy Band, and Sean Nelson, a former US Coast Guard Band trombonist and staff arranger. "The song was a long work in progress because I wanted it to encompass all the capabilities that the Space Force offers and its vision," Teachenor said in the release. After lyrics and melody were complete, his project went to "various military bands," the release said. Teachenor then collaborated with Nelson to complete the song.

"I became familiar with the other branches' songs, but I wanted this one to have its own modern spin to reflect what the Space Force is - modern, new and very advanced," Nelson said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to establish a Space Force song that will be part of our culture and heritage for years to come," Gen Raymond said in the release. "Our traditions are part of the fabric that weave us all together as we execute our missions side-by-side."

The individual branches' songs are "part of [each] services' foundation and represents its values, traditions, and culture," the release said. The US Army uses "The Army Goes Rolling Along," adopted in 1952. The Navy's "Anchors Aweigh," never officially adopted, has lyrics revised in 1950. The "Marines' Hymn" was first adopted in 1929 and updated in 1942. "The U.S. Air Force," official title of what's informally called "Wild Blue Yonder," was in use from 1939 but was adopted with the forming of a separate air service in 1947. The last lyrics' changes were made in 2020 to remove male references. "Semper Paratus" titles the US Coast Guard's tune, from the service's motto of the same Latin phrase meaning "Always Prepared," with words from 1922, music from 1927, other words from 1943, and final changes in 1969.

The lyrics of the official US Space Force song are as follows.

We're the mighty watchful eye, / Guardians beyond the blue,
 The invisible front line, / Warfighters brave and true.
 Boldly reaching into space, / There's no limit to our sky.
 Standing guard both night and day, / We're the Space Force from on high.

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 # _____

Reservation – 13 Dec 22 Event: Toys for Tots + “Know Me - Combat Veterans’ Stories”
 1130 – DiParma Italian Table, 175 Route 28, West Yarmouth MA 02673

Name _____ fish chicken

Guest _____ fish chicken

Guest _____ fish chicken

Guest _____ fish chicken

Cost: **\$34.00** per person – checks to CCC MOAA – **responses** due not later than **06 Dec 2022**
 check # _____ date _____ in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed

Mail to CPT Sheldon B Segerman USA, PO Box 198, Yarmouth Port MA 02675-0198
 email – marshaven@comcast.net mobile – 508.776.2198 deadline day phone-ins accepted if necessary

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