



# *Cape Cod Currents*

**Cape Cod Chapter**

**Military Officers Association of America**



*September 2011*

## **CAPE COD CANAL BOAT RIDE AND BOX/BAG LUNCHEON**

**184 Onset Avenue, Onset, MA**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011**

**Leaving Onset Pier at 1:30 for Two Hour Cruise**

**Cash Bar**

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Reservations by September 6, 2011

### **Upcoming Events**

October 11, 2011      Luncheon at the Riverway Lobster House-Speaker TBA

November 8, 2011      Luncheon at the Falcon Golf Course Clubhouse at MMR-Speaker TBA

December 13, 2011      Toys for Tots Luncheon at the Radisson Hotel in Hyannis

April XX, 2012      Luncheon at a Lower Cape restaurant TBD.

May 12, 2012      Scholarship Luncheon at the Coonamessett Inn-Speaker TBA-  
NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE TO A SATURDAY AND TO A LUNCHEON IN THE  
HOPE THAT MORE MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND AND ANY WINNER  
FROM MARTHA'S VINEYARD OR NANTUCKET WILL NOT BE FORCED TO  
LEAVE EARLY TO CATCH A FERRY HOME.

June XX, 2012      Upper Cape location TBD

September XX, 2012      Hyannis Harbor Cruise and Dockside Luncheon-Tentative- Speaker TBD

October XX, 2012      Scenic Cape Cod Railway Luncheon-Tentative

November XX, 2012      Luncheon at Riverway Lobster House-Speaker TBD

December XX, 2012      Toys for Tots Luncheon at the Radisson Hotel in Hyannis

## **The Wall ~ Staggering Statistics**

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date, and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The names begin at the apex on panel 1E and go out to the end of the East wall, which appears to recede into the earth (numbered 70E to May 25, 1968). They resume at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing with May 25, 1968). They end with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and ending meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet the circle is broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side, a portion of which is contained within the earth itself.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass., listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

Three sets of fathers and sons are enumerated on the Wall.

39,996 of those listed on the Wall were just 22 or younger. The largest age group, those 19 years old, numbers 8,283. 3,103 were 18 years old. 12 soldiers named on the Wall were 17 years old. 5 soldiers listed on the Wall were 16 years old. One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last.

The names of 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers named on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. 8 women are listed on the Wall. These fell while nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; the names of 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio, with a population of 475, lost 6 of her sons. West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation: 711 West Virginians are listed on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper mining town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez and Tom Gonzales were boyhood friends who lived on three parallel streets in Midvale, Utah: Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues, in homes only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three fell. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day occurred on January 31, 1968: 245 were lost. The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968: 2,415 fatal casualties were incurred. That's 2,415 dead in a single month.

## **A few words of thanks**

I would like to thank the Cape Cod Chapter of the MOAA for its generosity. I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the 2011 CCCMOAA Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Sam Schrader  
Bourne High School

To the MOAA of Cape Cod,

Your generosity has truly allowed me to achieve all that I am hoping for this Fall at Clark University. It is a wonderful feeling to know I have such supportive communities around me! Your generous scholarship has given me the confidence to continue my education with greater heart and soul. I want to lead my future peers and pupils into a stronger world of public education. Thank you so much again for all you have done, I am very grateful

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn A Stuck  
Bourne High School

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your support for my academic endeavors through the award of my scholarship. I greatly appreciate it and intend to put it the money you gave me to good use. I also thank you for the ceremony and dinner held for me and the other recipients. I will remember all you have done for me and will not let it be in vain.

Sincerely,

Nick Haglof  
Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School

## **Help wanted**

The chapter needs a volunteer to become the next Treasurer. The term is normally two years. The only skill required is a very basic knowledge of Excel. Hank Bertsch, our outgoing Treasurer, will work with the new Treasurer throughout the remainder of the year to ensure a smooth transition. Volunteers can contact Don Lynde at 508-428-2579 or [jagman77@netzero.com](mailto:jagman77@netzero.com) or Hank Bertsch at 508-335-5105 or [LTCGHB@verizon.net](mailto:LTCGHB@verizon.net).

## Some more words of thanks

Dear MOAA (Cape Cod Chapter),

I would like to thank you all for your hospitality at the luncheon held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a pleasure as well as an honor to be able to address such a great group!

If I can be of any service to any member DO NOT hesitate to contact me.

COL Chuck Perenick  
Commandant  
Massachusetts Military Academy  
Camp Edwards, MA 02542

## Attention Auxiliary Members

If you would accept email delivery of the Cape Cod Currents please email Hank Bertsch at [LTCGHB@verizon.net](mailto:LTCGHB@verizon.net). The print version of the newsletter is mailed Return Service Requested and is not forwarded by USPS but is instead returned to our P.O. Box. Several of you are snowbirds and email delivery will reach you no matter where you are.



## Lobster/Clam Bake

A great time was had by all. Our special guest was (MSG) Sam Jonnson (USAR) Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Representative for US Senator Scott Brow

**CCCMOAA Scholarship and Charity Fund contribution** Chapter members who would like to make a federal deductible to our chapter's Charity and or Scholarship funds may do so by completing the requested information below and sending to our treasurer. The Chapter thanks you very much for your generosity. Please check the appropriate boxes below and fill in the information.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to make a contribution to the  
CCCMOAA

**Scholarship Fund** in the amount of \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other ( )

**Charity Fund** in the amount of \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other ( )

Please mail to: CCCMOAA, P.O. Box 1553, Mashpee, MA 02649

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Directions to Onset Town Pier

From Sagamore Bridge, follow Rout 6 West along the Cape Cod Canal. At the 4<sup>th</sup> set of lights take a left onto Onset Avenue. The Buttermilk Bay Inn will be on the right. Continue on Onset Avenue and the Onset Town Pier will be on the left.

From Cape Cod traveling over Bourne Bridge, take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit once over the Bourne Bridge to Bourne Rotary. At rotary follow Route 6 West/Route 28 North (same road). At the 4<sup>th</sup> set of lights take a left on to Onset Avenue. The Buttermilk Bay Inn will be on the right. Continue on Onset Avenue and the Onset Town Pier will be on the left.

#### Reservations - Cape Cod Canal Boat Ride & Box/Bag Lunch - Onset Pier Sept 13, 2011

Chef's salad with turkey, ham, & cheese with Syrian bread and cookies

Or Large sub sandwich-roast beef

Or Large sub sandwich-turkey

Or Large sub sandwich-Italian

Or Large sub sandwich-tuna

All subs include Cole slaw, chips, & cookies

Please place food selection next to name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$25 per person      The deadline for reservations is September 6, 2011

Please make checks payable to CCCMOAA in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Mail reservation to  
Lt. Mario Ciara USN (Ret) 167 Alder Lane, North Falmouth, MA 02556-2936