



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

5-Star Excellence Chapter



Legislative Reporting
Newsletter Editor

ESTABLISHED 1970

website www.moaacolumbiariver.org

September 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Rev Max Metcalf
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Hope everyone had a great and safe summer! I'm looking forward to hearing about everyone's summer trips when we gather for our fall kickoff barbecue on September 21st.

MOAA notified us that our chapter was again selected for the highest award--a Five Star Level of Excellence chapter (for 2013 calendar year activities). This is our ninth consecutive award from MOAA. We were selected because we are a vibrant, growing and active chapter--active socially, legislatively, and in our community.

Congratulations to one of our own, Maj Gen Buck Marr, who was highlighted in the MOAA Military Officer magazine (Please see more information in this newsletter). Our Washington State Council was also recognized in the Military Officer magazine by VADM Norb Ryan for their work of starting a successful Community Blueprint program to help Veterans in the JBLM area around Tacoma (i.e., Rally Point 6). This is especially critical and timely as sequestration cuts could cut as many as 16,000 soldier and civilian positions--dumping them into the local Tacoma area economy (this according

to US Rep Denny Heck, WA-10th Dist).

Although the chapter did not formally meet this summer, we nevertheless were

working for you.

This summer, we also continued our search for former officers in the local area to invite them to join MOAA and our chapter. We have some new leads we hope will materialize in to new members because new members keep our chapter vibrant and dynamic. If you know someone who is eligible, please let me or Evelyn Brady know and we will do the rest.

[Continued on page 2]



21 September Sunday Barbecue

1500 till 1800

John Donnelly's
Vancouver, WA

Scholarship Donations
Welcome!

RSVP NLT 14 September
Ron Pastor: 882-1275
pastormr1@msn.com

Details on page 11

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

We also met with Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler (please see Roy's write up in the Federal Legislative Affairs section of the newsletter). Although armed with excellent point papers provided by MOAA, I was still a little uncertain about the importance of our message to her. After all, we were basically thanking her for voting for HR 4435 (FY 2015 Def Auth Bill) thus rejecting the Administration's proposed cuts.

When I asked her how we could help her, the answer why we were meeting became crystal clear to me. Congresswoman Herrera Beutler said, "provide (accurate) information." She said they only know what they are told (and they don't have much time to read--at least not to the extent they would like to). It IS important to share and pass along CORRECT information. So often, the national media "gets it wrong" (my words) and therefore, it is up to us to give our legislators and the local media (via interviews and letters to the editor) the correct information. Roy & I were pleased to know we could help and make a difference.

We continued our on-going dialogue with the IRS regarding our 501(c) 19 status as a Veterans nonprofit organization. In fact, this is why we need every members' dates of military service. If you have not done so yet, please send them to me ASAP at MOAACRCpresident@comcast.net. I anticipate being asked for this information soon (the IRS just asked us for a copy of our Articles of Incorporation).

Our membership service team will be contacting members by telephone in early September to update our rosters and ask your input on a few items. We would like to know if you receive the MOAA legislative alerts and if you do, how frequently are you able to hit "send" on the suggested message?

You will see an article in this newsletter from the National MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) announcing that auxiliary members have full voting rights in national MOAA elections and encouraging chapters to do the same. The Columbia River Chapter is proud that we actually gave full voting rights to auxiliary

members and changed our by-laws to reflect this before national MOAA did. We have also invited auxiliary members to participate as members of the board. We have two very important positions opening on the board in February 2015 and we would be delighted to have auxiliary members consider these.

We have a great lineup for you this fall starting with our kickoff barbecue 3:00 PM Sunday, September 21st at the home of John Donnelly. This is an opportunity to chat with other members in an informal social setting. We supply the meat and beverages and ask you to bring a potluck salad, vegetable or dessert. We also ask you for a donation to our scholarship fund. It is through your generosity that we are able to give four \$1,000 scholarships to students at Clark and WSU-Vancouver each fall.

**Dave Casteel
President**

facesofmoaa

Kudos

They come to MOAA with various interests and experiences, and together they make the association strong. Read on to learn more about your fellow MOAA members.



Maj. Gen. Richard C. "Buck" Marr, USAF (Ret), Life Member (joined 1997): Marr graduated from Harvard University, Mass., and Johns Hopkins University, Md. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying special operations missions in Vietnam. After the military, he worked for General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin Corp. He now works as a defense consultant. Marr serves on MOAA's board of directors and on its Government Relations and Finance and Audit committees.

General Marr is a member of the Columbia River Chapter of MOAA.

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Editor: Rich Wersinger. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at rich@rjwconsulting.org.

Our Chapter Secretary Sally Sue Boley coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

Newsletter Distribution

We continue to distribute our newsletter by e-mail, so if you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify our Chapter Secretary, Sally Sue Boley, Sallysueb@comcast.net or 360-885-4758

Membership Update by Evelyn Brady

I hope you had a great summer! The June wine tasting was a nice send off for chapter members, including some of our newest members. Let's make the fall kickoff barbeque a fun and productive event and set the tone for the rest of the year for our 5-star chapter. Invite any prospective members to join us on SEP 21.

You can reach me at evelynbrady@rocketmail.com or 360 696-1592.

Evelyn Brady
Membership Recruitment Committee

Scholarships Update: by Paul Crosby

Clark and WSU-Vancouver have announced the names of three of our four scholarship recipients for school year 2014-2015. One of the three Clark recipients decided not to return to Clark, so the Chriss scholarship will be awarded at a later date.

The Major Allan recipient is Sharon Tyre. She also received the Allan scholarship last year.

The Colonel Doty recipient is Christopher Bryan.

The Captain Fenning recipient is Nichole Shields. Nichole also received the Fenning scholarship last school year.

For your info, in our scholarship history we have had only one previous recipient who received a scholarship twice. Her name is Kristen McWhirter and she received scholarships in the 2000-2001 (Doty) and 2001-2002 (Fenning) school years.

You will get the opportunity to meet each of these recipients at the Christmas Social on December 7th.

My phone number is 360-666-8871, my email address is b66navigator@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Programs Update: by Paul Crosby

As I write this article, September is here and I am looking forward to the first social event of the 2014-15 year. I am talking about the annual barbeque which will be held at John Donnelly's house on September 21st. This is an opportunity to meet and greet chapter members, eat some excellent food, and support our scholarship fund. I hope to see you there.

We also have scheduled some informative programs on October 16th and November 20th. Both of these programs will be luncheons at the Skills Center. The last event of this calendar year will be the Christmas Social on December 7th. We are still looking for a host for that event. That will be your opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients I mentioned in the scholarship article.

Let me know if you have any ideas for programs and/or locations. We would appreciate any suggestions you might have. See you at the barbeque on September 21st.



FLU IMMUNIZATION REMINDER:

submitted by Roger DeRoos, Ret. USPHS

It is time to start thinking about getting your annual flu immunization. I receive several email health-related newsletters, and the recent one from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) included the most up-to-date advisories for flu immunizations. There are two new advisories; one for the nasal administered, live attenuated influenza vaccine (called LAIV) which is sprayed into the nostrils, and the other for the “inactivated” or “recombinant” vaccine, which is administered via injection. The nasal vaccine is recommended for ages 2 to 49.

So those of us who are more advanced in age will need to continue with the injectable version. The link to the CDC “Vaccine Information Statement” update is provided below. The links to the two statements for influenza are provided in the “Routine” section about half way down the page. Perhaps you will want to pass copies on to some family and friends for their benefit.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

Note that it takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination, and that protection lasts several months to a year.

The LAIV version (nasal) protects against 4 different influenza viruses. You are getting a live, attenuated influenza vaccine (called LAIV), which is sprayed into the nose. “Attenuated” means weakened. The viruses in the vaccine have been weakened so they won’t give you the flu. In contrast, an injectable flu vaccine, is either an “inactivated” or “recombinant” vaccine. This vaccine does not contain any live influenza virus. They are given by injection with a needle, and often called the “flu shot”.

Even though flu vaccine will not prevent all cases of flu, it is the best defense against the disease.

Veterans Community Garden: submitted by Dave Casteel

The goal of this project is to support and facilitate the development of a community garden for Veterans which will encourage a group of Veterans to work together to learn new techniques, and achieve a healthy sustainable community garden. In addition, the garden will promote self-reliance, physical activity, social interaction, and contribute to the health and well-being of Veterans. Product from this garden will be donated to Veterans through the Clark County Veterans Community Center.

The garden will be on 2 fenced acres at the Mabry Center (8101 NE 117th Ave) and include a 96’ green house, raised garden beds that are wheelchair accessible, used nursery equipment, a fruit orchard, and four 40’x60’ garden spaces:

Funding will be used to build raised garden beds that are wheelchair accessible, stable pathways, and other gardening supplies.

See Clark County Veterans Court Board Saturday, September 27th "Cruise In 4 Vets" flyer for event details. For more detailed information contact Judge Darwin Zimmerman, at zimhouse1@comcast.net.



The Surviving Spouses of MOAA

The Heart Behind One Powerful Voice®: submitted by Kathy Prout, Vice Chair, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

TO: Chapter and Council Auxiliary Liaisons
FROM: MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC)
SUBJECT: 'New Opportunities for Auxiliary Members'
By Kathy Prout, Vice Chair, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee



MOAA's auxiliary members are the survivors of deceased MOAA members or the survivors of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for MOAA membership. As of a vote by MOAA members in August 2012, auxiliary members now have voting rights.

For the first time, an auxiliary member will hold a position on the MOAA board of directors for a six-year term of office. His or her job will be as spokesperson for all auxiliary members and to represent the interests and issues of surviving spouses on the board. The ballot is on the cover-wrap of the August 2014 edition of the *Military Officer*. Please vote online at <https://www.esc-vote.com/moaa2014> or send in your ballot by mail. Do vote!

Auxiliary members now may be eligible for leadership roles in councils and chapters. Some chapters already have begun using the talents of their auxiliary members on their boards, not just as auxiliary liaisons but also as chapter presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, newsletter editors, and more.

Having experienced military life of service and sacrifice, auxiliary members add value to chapters and councils. As military spouses, they have many experiences unique to the military lifestyle. They have left their hometowns and established new homes at every duty station, moved often and usually alone, served the role of single parents during deployments before Skype and email existed. In addition, they have been chauffeurs, team moms, scout leaders, PTA officers and members, event planners, hosts, fundraisers for military officers' spouses' clubs and other organizations, and committee chairs — sometimes all while holding jobs of their own. Auxiliary members are sources of untapped talent.

Auxiliary members should consider volunteering for leadership positions within local chapters, and chapter leaders should consider inviting their auxiliary members to participate in their chapters. Chapters with active auxiliary members tend to be more successful. Consider including your auxiliary members when considering new board positions. They will increase your official chapter membership while providing new ideas, leadership opportunities for your chapter or council.





The Community Military Appreciation
Committee (CMAC) invites you to:

National POW/MIA Recognition Day Observance and Memorial Dedication

Saturday, September 20, 2014

9:45 a.m. reception • 11:00 a.m. program



Everyone is invited to see the unveiling of the new POW/MIA monument and remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

LOCATION:

***Armed Forces Reserve Center
15005 NE 65th Street***

From I-205 North or South:

***Exit 305 (Bearpight) N/A 101st
Kipright N 101st N 101st
Tringhot N 101st N 101st
Tringhot N 101st N 101st***

Sponsored by:





Global Security & Safeway
Hosts



Cruise-In

4 VETS



**\$15 Entry Includes
Choice of \$20 T-Shirt or
USA Window Flag**



**People's Choice
Best of Show
Best Chevy
Best Ford
Best Mopar
Best Import
Best Truck
Best Muscle
Best Utility
Best Classic
Best Oldie
Best Convertible
Best Motorcycle**

Live Entertainment

**Best Cruise-In In The
Northwest
Best Plaques
Best Entertainment
Best Cause**

**Profits Go To
Support The
Veteran's Community
Garden**

Saturday Sept 27, 2014

Safeway Heritage Market Plaza 6700 NE 162nd Ave., Vancouver

9:00 am - 11:30 am (rain or shine)





50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Salutes Vietnam-era Veterans**

October 9, 2014

1-5 pm

- Salute Ceremony to honor Vietnam-era Veterans and a Massing of the Colors at Watkins Field begins at 1 pm
- Ceremony keynote speaker is General (Retired) Barry McCaffrey
- Enter at DuPont Gate Exit 119, Interstate 5
- Parking opens at 11 am
- Events include interactive displays with service members and a Pinning Ceremony
- Families and friends are invited
- Vietnam-era Veterans register by clicking [here](#)
- For more information, please call 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at 253-967-5171 or 253-967-3570

Welcome Home!



October 16, 2014 Luncheon Guest Speaker

Lourdes E. 'Alfie' Alvarado-Ramos



Alfie Alvarado serves as the Director of YOUR Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department serves as the statewide advocate for the benefits and services veterans and their families earned.

Alfie was born in Puerto Rico and served 22 years on active duty retiring in August 1993 as Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center and Troop Command, Joint Base Lewis McChord. During her military career, she was the recipient of awards and decorations that include the Legion of Merit, Order of Military Medical Merit, Expert Field Medical Badge and Meritorious Service Medals.

Her experience and education center in the management of medical service delivery and human resources. She is an alumni of the Harvard University

John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program, the University of Washington Executive Management Program and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of the State of New York Regent's Program.

Alfie Alvarado serves on the boards of directors of the Patrick Madigan Foundation, National Association of State Veterans Homes, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and the Association of Washington Generals.

She has received local, state and national awards including the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award for women in the military from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the VA Secretary's Leadership Award.





Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/>

MOAA Capitol toll free hotline at 1-866-272-6622

White House

Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414

FAX: 202-456-2461 E-mail: comments@whitehouse.gov

Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler Washington's 3rd Congressional District

<http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/>

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1130 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	Vancouver, WA Office: O.O. Howard House 750 Anderson Street, Suite B Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292 Fax: (360) 695-6197
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Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email:
<https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

The U.S. Government's Portal: <http://www.usa.gov/>
U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>
U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>



U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell <http://cantwell.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3441 202-228-0514 - FAX 202-224-8273 - TDD	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 360-696-7838 360-696-7844 - FAX	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 915 Second Avenue Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174. 206-220-6400 206-220-6404 - FAX
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Contact Senator Cantwell via email: <http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>

U.S. Senator Patty Murray <http://murray.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 2988 Jackson Federal Building 915 Second Avenue Seattle, WA 98174 Phone: (206) 553-5545 Toll Free: (866) 481-9186 Fax: (206) 553-0891
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Contact Senator Murray via email: <http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 14	District 20
Senator	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Don Benton 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Monica Stonier 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Ed Orcutt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	Jim Moeller 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike 786-7812	Charles Ross 786-7856	Richard DeBolt 786-7896

Note: All phone numbers are 360 area code, except where otherwise noted. Toll free **1-800-562-6000**

* Party Caucus Phone Number until Official Swearing-in. More info at www.leg.wa.gov/legislature

Legislative Affairs: *by Roy Korkalo*

Visit With U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler

David Casteel (President, MOAA Columbia River Chapter) and Roy Korkalo (Chapter Legislative Chair) recently visited Congresswoman Herrera Beutler in her local Vancouver office.

It was a mutually productive meeting with free exchange of information, ideas and goals.

We discussed her welcomed support of HR 4435 (FY2015 Defense Authorization Bill) that rejected the reduction of the 1.8% pay raise due our military as well as rejecting the 5% increase in out-of-pocket BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) costs. HR 4435 also prohibited use of funds to close commissaries and additional base closures.

We discussed the interim report of the MCRMC (Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission). The Commission report indicates that 30% of the defense budget has gone to military personnel and health costs continuously for 20 years and has always been affordable. Critics are saying 50% and costs are out of control.

Now, we must follow the Senate's actions as they reconvene and respond with MOAA's suggested communications to voice our opinions in preventing reduction in military benefits.

David and I have since talked to the local offices of Senators Murray and Cantwell and will soon visit to discuss ongoing legislative issues affecting military personnel.



Another Look at the Military Retirement System

Articles in a number of military oriented publications and correspondence (Military Times, MOAA, Army Times) recently outlined Pentagon proposals for a long-term, far reaching change to the military retirement system.

The proposed options will be considered by a military compensation committee before its final report that is due in February 2015. Congress must approve any changes to the current system. The Pentagon's proposals are not formal recommendations and are not in its 2015 budget.

Current military personnel are not expected to be affected, but may have the choice to participate. This may be to the benefit of those who do not plan to continue a career to retirement. Note that now, less than 20 percent of military personnel stay in long enough to see any retirement benefit. And then, many of those who do retire are young and talented and pursue a second career in the civilian sector. The new proposals may improve retention.

[Continued on page 10]

Another Look at the Military Retirement System (continued from pg 9)

Under the various proposals, the service member would have more money up-front to transition into a second career after leaving the military.

The plans, (Thrift Savings, 12-year retention payment, and the 20-plus year transition pay), would cost DoD more up-front. But, studies show a five to fifteen percent savings after being in effect for 30 years.

Reserve service members would also see changes. One option would still require reservists to reach age 60 before receiving retired pay. Another option would allow partial pay upon retirement and then full-retired pay at retirement age of 62. There would be differences in determining pay between retiring reservists who spent time on active duty and those who did not.

We will see a lot of comments and opinions about the proposals during the rest of 2014. Now we wait until February 2015 to see what the compensation committee report recommends.

Roy Korkalo
Chapter Legislative Chair

MOAA Legislative Affairs Webinar

MOAA recently held a computer based instructional seminar (WEBINAR) covering interactions between MOAA chapters and U.S. Congressional Members. It was enjoyable, informative and very well presented. Some highlights included a description of MOAA's methods of contacting our elected officials. Currently, MOAA has frequent contact with about 77% of U.S. Congressional Members who represent our Congressional Districts. MOAA National or local Chapter Presidents and Legislative Affairs Representatives are active in making these contacts.

The goal is 100%. Methods of contact include:

1. "Storming the Hill" each spring, with MOAA representatives personally visit Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C.

2. MOAA does "Score Cards" showing voting records of Senators and Representatives.
3. Chapter personnel meet in August with Members at their local home offices during annual recess.
4. Regional symposiums in September at the State level.

Throughout the year, grassroots vehicles are in motion.

Roy Korkalo
Chapter Legislative Chair

Disability Offset

Currently the majority of military retirees with disability benefits forfeit, dollar for dollar, retired pay to receive the VA disability pay. MOAA has always been against this offset. Here is MOAA's position as published in their current Annual Report.

MOAA is committed to ending the disability offset for all disabled retirees. We believe strongly in the principle that career military members earn their retired pay by service alone, and that those unfortunate enough to suffer a service-caused disability in the progress should have any VA disability compensation from the VA added to, not subtracted from their service-earned military retired pay. In the case of members forced into medical retirement before 20 years of service, their service-earned retired pay should be vested at the rate of 2.5% times years of service times the applicable pay base. There should be no distinction between disabled for combat-vs. non-combat-related causes, as the impact on their quality of life and future earning power is the same in either case.

Senate bill S 234 and House bill HR 333 support this change.

Roy Korkalo
Chapter Legislative Chair

2014 CHAPTER CALENDAR

21 September **BBQ time at John Donnelly's home**
Sunday **1500 – 1800 See below for details**

16 October **Luncheon Meeting at the Clark County Skills Center**
Thursday **Program:** Veteran Affairs in Washington State
Speaker: Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos (Alfie) Director WA Department of Veterans Affairs

20 November **Luncheon Meeting at the Clark County Skills Center.**
Thursday **Program Membership Services: More than just Personal Affairs**
Speaker: Terry Babin

7 December **Holiday Christmas Party honoring scholarship recipients**
Sunday **Details: TBD**



Our annual fall kick off barbecue will be held 3:00 PM Sunday, September 21st at the home of John Donnelly (6401 Highland Drive, Vancouver).

This is an opportunity to chat with other members in an informal social setting. We supply the meat and beverages and ask you to bring a potluck salad, vegetable, or dessert.

We also ask you for a **donation to our scholarship fund.**

It is through your generosity that we are able to give four \$1,000 scholarships to students at Clark and WSU-Vancouver each fall.

The courtesy of your **RSVP (only Yes required)** by:

September 14th to Ron Pastor

360-882-1275

or by e-mail to pastor2718@comcast.net.

