



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

5-Star Excellence Chapter



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

ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

May 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:
Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998

**2nd Vice-President:
& Programs**

Secretary:

Treasurer:
Ron Pastor
360-882-1275

**Immediate Past
President,
CRMF president:**
Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Army Rep:
Jon Frederick
360-576-9078

Marine Rep:
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360-608-7789

Navy Rep:
Rich Wersinger
360-901-1915

Air Force Rep:
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998

Coast Guard Rep:

Public Health Rep:
Chris Rubadue
425-269-1902

**Surviving Spouse
Liaison:**
Terry Whisenant
360-576-7736

Legislative Affairs:
Rod Williams
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Membership Services:
Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Public Affairs:
John Donnelly
360-904-8966

Scholarship:
Paul Crosby
360-666-8871

Chaplain:
Rev Max Metcalf
541-961-0869

It appears that winter is finally over. Friday, April 21 was the warmest day of the year so far, and the weather was beautiful for the gravesite service for **Bob Cross**. The service seemed to reflect **Bob's** personality and his life, and on behalf of the chapter, I want to thank **Terry Babin** for all his assistance to **Liz. Chaplain Max Metcalf** did a terrific job as well.

The Columbia River Chapter has once again been recognized as an outstanding organization and has earned another 5 Star Award for 2016! Our newsletter was also recognized as among the best in MOAA. A big shout out to everyone who contributes to our mission, and kudos to **Rich Wersinger** for his professional editing of our newsletter.

Storm the Hill was April 5 and, as always, MOAA had a strong presence on Capitol Hill. I thank all of you that sent emails, postcards, and letters to members of Congress to express our concerns. Time will tell what, if any, action Congress will take on the issues of ending sequestration and the widow's tax. **Dave Casteel** and I visited **Senator Murray's** and **Congresswoman Herrera Beutler's** Vancouver staffs in April to encourage them to continue to support the MOAA agenda.

Please join us on Thursday, May 18 at La Costa Mexican Restaurant for our dinner meeting. Our speaker is Mike Stacey from Veteran's Village. Also, put Sunday, June 11 on your



calendar for our social event at the Rusty Grape Vineyard near Battle Ground.

Please remember to bring/wear your name tags. Our treasurer will bring the name tags that he has to the next few events, then members will be responsible for their own. If you would like a nice, more permanent name tag, **Dave Casteel** has included the

ordering information in his message.

[Continued on page 2]

**18 May
Thursday
Chapter Dinner
Meeting
La Costa Mexican
Restaurant
Vancouver, WA
RSVP NLT 16 May
Details on page 14**

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President's Message continued

There are many veteran related events the next few months, including an open house at the Fisher House to celebrate the first anniversary on Tuesday, May 9 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We are still looking for a chapter treasurer, secretary, program chair, and roster manager. Please consider these opportunities for fun and adventure, to say nothing of the pay!

**Evelyn Brady
President**

Community Events by Yvette Brown-Wahler

May 9th - Portland Fisher House One Year Anniversary Open House; Vancouver VA Campus; 11:00am-2:00pm

May 17th - 7th Annual VA2K Walk & Roll event; Vancouver VA Campus; 9:45am line-up; 10:00am race; Free for entrants

May 26th - Purple Heart parking space dedication ceremony; Keller-Williams 2211 E. Mill Plain, Vancouver; 10:00am

May 29th - Memorial Day Ceremony and Garrison Flag Pole Dedication; Fort Vancouver; 11:00am

June 24th - Camas-Costco Heroes Night & Car Show; 192nd Ave; 5:00-8:00pm. Car Show 4:00-7:00pm. Honoring active duty military service members, Guard, Reserve and Veterans.

There is much more going on. Please visit cmacl1.com website for additional community events of Veterans interest, and Community service opportunities.

DFAS Address Changes 1 May 2017

by Dave Casteel

From the Spring-Summer Edition of the Air Force Afterburner for Retirees:

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service mailing addresses for retired and annuitant pay changed May 1.

Mail sent via the U.S. Postal Service will be sent to Indianapolis where it will be processed and sent electronically to the DFAS facility in Cleveland.

The new mailing addresses (beginning May 1) are:

Retired Pay correspondence:

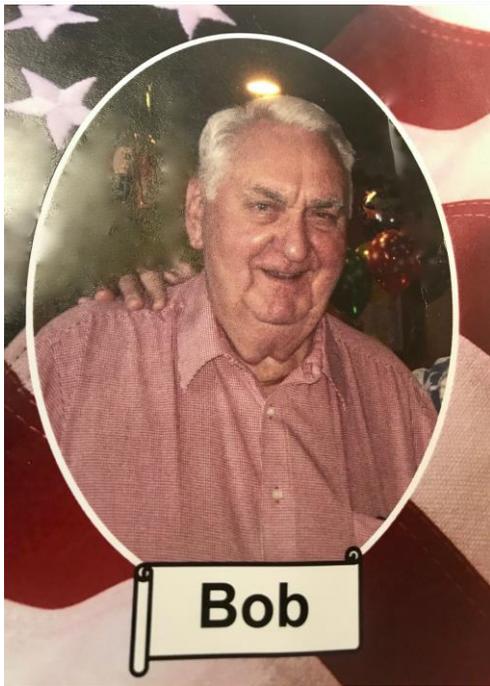
Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay correspondence:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Rather than have difference post office boxes as in the past, the difference now is reflected in the different ZIP codes. **As of May 1, the previous post office boxes in London, Kentucky, are no longer valid for mailing transactions.**





Lt. Col USAF (Ret)

Robert V. Cross

March 24, 1929

March 24, 2017

We lost a true veteran and long time member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), **Bob Cross**. Bob was a charter member of the local Columbia River Chapter of MOAA and while he served in many different offices in the chapter over the years, he was best as a greeter of new members to the club.

I remember when I joined in early 1993, Bob was one of the first to greet me and my wife at our first chapter meeting. Being an Air Force veteran and having the same operational and maintenance experiences we hit it off right away. But it was his warm smile with his whole face that immediately drew you into him.

Bob smiled with his whole face; eyes, mouth and cheeks. The family picked the perfect picture of Bob for his memorial pamphlet that captured that great smile, it is exactly what all of us will remember about him, along with his great sense of humor.

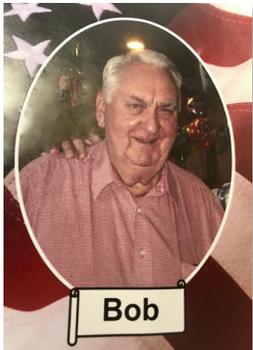
Bob also had his share of war stories about just about any airplane you can imagine. He flew most of them in his career and even taught general officers how to fly the new ones. Bob has many stories about how he helped these general officers attain their high rank. And we have heard those stories many times over the years! He will definitely be missed at our MOAA meetings.

John Donnelly did a profile on Bob's career a few years ago and it is attached to show the diverse career he had in the Air Force. He truly loved to fly!!

[Continued on page 4]

Bob Cross LtCol USAF (Ret)

by John Donnelly



On 24 March 2017 we lost a true veteran and long time member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Bob Cross. Bob was a charter member of the local Columbia River Chapter of MOAA and while he served in many different offices in the chapter over the years, he was best as a greeter

of new members to the club.

If any of you have ever asked Bob what type aircraft he flew in the Air Force, you probably got the reply, "Which ones haven't I flown." That's because Bob has had a diversified career and a lot of unique opportunities.



Born in Portland, Oregon on 24 March 1929, Bob had a tough beginning growing up in the depression years. Attending Ockley Green Elementary School, he had to fight his way to and from school in North Portland. He received his first scar when he was tripped by a classmate and hit his head on a ventilator; the scar used to be at the hairline; now it is well below it.

Things changed in June of 1941 when his family moved out of Portland to a farm; some 64 acres just off Highway 30 in Scappoose. He finished 7th and 8th grade in Holbrook Grammar School. After school it was helping his step father on the farm. He had two brothers, but they both left to join the Navy Air Arm during the war. They were both back seaters; Cliff handled two 30 caliber guns on an SB2C Dive Bomber and Ken was a waist ginner on a PBM. Bob worked the farm plus school from 1941 to 1947.

Two days after his high school graduation he joined the Army Air Force at 18 years of age. After basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas he was sent to

Keesler AFB to attend aircraft engine maintenance school. He could not get into flying school as there was a new policy that required that all officers must be 21 by the time they graduated from flying school. In June of 1948 he was sent to Williams AFB, which at that time had a flight line of P-51 fighters.

One day a pilot delivered a busted up P-51 to the base that was a maintenance nightmare; missing parts and all. Bob was assigned to get the aircraft up to speed. He tore it apart and put it back together again. When it was test hopped, it had zero maintenance write-ups and it stayed that way for the next 77 missions. Bob also worked on AT-6s at Williams and was promoted to Corporal.

In January 1949, Bob was sent TDY to Chanute AFB, IL for Engine Specialist School on the V-1650 P-51 engine. In April he returned to Williams AFB and the flight line was filled with P-80 jet engine aircraft and he was assigned as a crew chief. He met the promotion board and was promoted to Sergeant. Bob's P-80 had 40 missions without a write-up. He took the college equivalency exam in 1949 and then aced the aviation cadet exam. In September of 1949 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Since Bob already had a date for Aviation Cadets, he turned down the promotion so someone else in the squadron could get promoted. He reported to Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas as an aviation cadet and began his flight training on AT-6s. He was then assigned to Reese AFB, Texas for advanced multi-engine flying school on B-25s. In October 1950 he achieved his pilot rating and was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

His first operational assignment was to Barksdale AFB, LA with the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing flying C-47s. In December 1950 the wing moved to Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico where he was assigned as co-pilot on a RB-29. Bob became the squadron's utility pilot and flew C-47s, C-82s, RB-29s, and RB-50s.



[Continued on page 5]

Bob Cross LtCol USAF (Ret) cont'd*by Dave Casteel*

The squadron was doing aerial survey work to help build the Cape Canaveral Missile Range at the time and Bob was promoted to First lieutenant.

In October of 1952 the wing moved to Forbes



AFB, KS and Bob piloted an RB-50. In 1954 the 55 SRW deactivated and the squadron became the 1371st Mapping and Charting Squadron for the Military Air Transport Service.

They moved to West Palm Beach AFB, FL and continued their mapping mission. Bob was now an aircraft commander of a RB-50 and also flew C118s.

In September of 1956 Bob was assigned to Chanute AFB to attend Aircraft Maintenance Officer School. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Mobile Training Wing at Chanute under Air Training Command flying B-25s. Later he was assigned to Blytheville AFB, AR as the Commander B-57 Mobile Training Detachment serving Tactical Air Command. He was flying C-47s, C-119s, and B-26s until the base closed in January of 1958.

He then attended Squadron Officers School at Maxwell AFB, AL and upon graduation was assigned to Andrews AFB, MD as Commander, B-57 Mobile Training Detachment. Their mission: To train the General Officer pilots at the Pentagon. This was a Gen. LeMay special project to provide his Generals more time at work and less time traveling. He flew B-57s and ferried a lot of B-25s to the boneyard.

In 1958 he returned to Blytheville AFB as Commander, Field Training Detachment, with the mission of providing all of the B52G maintenance training for Strategic Air Command. It was the busiest of three ATC sites, as they ran three shifts from 6 AM to midnight while the runway was closed to accommodate the B-52G bomber, which arrived in 1959. He was promoted to Captain during this tour and was the first President of the Blytheville AFB

Aero Club. They had an Aeronca Champ, L-17 Navion and a T-34 to fly. He also checked out in a T33 during this time.

Strategic Air Command wanted him back, but Training Command would not release him. He was eventually released to Air Force and they assigned him to Daharan AB, Saudi Arabia as Field Maintenance Officer. He not only had the responsibility for all base aircraft, but also all Air Attache and Ambassador aircraft in the Middle East. He assumed Command of the Squadron and also served as 2nd Air Division Maintenance Officer. During this time he flew C-47s, C-54s and T-28s.

In May 1962 Bob reported to Turner AFB, GA as Field maintenance Officer in the 484th Bomb Wing flying B-29s. He also attended Maintenance Officer Staff School at Chanute AFB. In January 1963 he was sent TDY to Castle AFB, CA for KC-135 Crew Course where he was promoted to Major. Over the next two years he served on the Deputy Commander for Maintenance staff as a scheduling officer, job control officer and maintenance control officer. He was then selected to Command the Field Maintenance Squadron.

In December of 1965, he reported to 8th AF HQ as a Logistics Officer where he commanded the Material Section of the 8th AF Command Post. He also flew as Material Section Chief on the 8th AF Airborne Command Post. In 1967 he was selected as the Executive Officer, 8th AF Material Section where he was promoted to Lt Colonel. Bob retired in March 1970 as the Director of Material 8 AF.

A Command pilot with over six thousand flying hours in a myriad of different aircraft, Bob truly enjoyed his Air Force career. Bob married Liz Stewart in 1963 who survives him and their three daughters. Bob also is survived by a son and daughter from a previous marriage. Bob and Liz were regular attendees at our MOAA luncheons and dinners and Bob always had a flying tale to tell. They also never missed one of our St Paddy Day parties!

Profiler's Note by John Donnelly: I always try to put places and dates in these profiles so others can try to match their careers with our members. However, Bob moved so frequently, it made for a longer article. I found that we were stationed at several of the same bases, but Bob's stay was always before I even joined the Air Force.

Membership Update by *Jeremy Baenen*

I am happy to report we have some good news and some great news! The good news is our chapter continues to grow as a result of the outstanding recruiting efforts of our members. The great news is we have four new additions to our chapter since the last newsletter.

We've added two new members who have a US Army background: **Ed Dunkle** and **Mike Ellis**. **Ed** and his wife **Bev** are retired from the US Army after having served more than 21 years. They currently live here in Vancouver and are very active in local community projects. Additionally, **Mike and Susan Ellis** have more than 40 years of service in the active duty Army as well as ARNG. **Mike and Susan** also live here in Vancouver and are active in a number of veteran projects.

We also have added **Matt and Carrie Wessel** to the chapter. **Matt** began his career in the late 80s in the US Navy and then transitioned to the USAF. **Matt and Carrie** have settled into Camas after 25 years of military service where **Matt** currently flies for Alaska Airlines.

In keeping with the tradition of recruiting Marines, I'd like to introduce **Sean and Linda Gibson** who served 28 years in the USMC. **Sean** retired in 2016 and they live here in Vancouver as well. We'll have to consider changing the slogan "The few – the proud" to "the many – the proud" if our tradition holds! As I contend, you can't have too many Marines around at any one time.

Please welcome all four families if you see them at our future events and thank them for their service to our great nation.

If you would like to reach me, you can e-mail me at Jeremy.Baenen@gmail.com or call my cell 360-281-9998.

Jeremy Baenen
Membership Recruitment Committee

Chapter ~ Membership Eligibility

Chapter membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased officers are also eligible to join.

Columbia River Chapter ~ Affiliate

Our chapter is an affiliate of the 390,000 member national MOAA which is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. MOAA and the chapter are nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter is an IRC 501(c)19 war veterans organization.

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 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.



Help Wanted

SECRETARY

The Columbia River Chapter (CRC) is looking for a Secretary to serve on the Executive Board. If you are looking for a way to make your life more interesting and interactive, this job is for you. Duties include taking and distributing minutes of all Board Meetings. Responsible for sending out electronic and paper newsletters six (6) times per year. Responsible for sending out electronic messages to the general membership when needed. The CRC is an equal opportunity employer. Special consideration given to veterans, surviving spouses, and member spouses.

Please contact Evelyn Brady at (360) 721-0865 or evelynbrady@rocketmail.com.

Help Wanted

TREASURER

The Columbia River Chapter (CRC) is looking for a Treasurer to serve on the Executive Board. If you have never been convicted of a felony, you qualify! Duties include maintaining the CRC financial books, preparing reports to the Executive, collecting annual dues, handling the money at the door of our meetings. Other duties as assigned. The CRC is an equal opportunity employer. Special consideration given to veterans, surviving spouses, and member spouses.

Please contact Ron Pastor at (360) 882- 1275 or pastor2718@comcast.net.

Help Wanted

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity! The CRC is seeking an imaginative, fun loving and energetic person to plan and execute 8 member events per year. This is the job for you if you are enthusiastic and eager to try new experiences. The CRC is an equal opportunity employer with special consideration to veterans, surviving spouses, and member spouses. Our salary is competitive with all other MOAA Chapters.

Please contact Evelyn Brady at (360)721-0865 or evelynbrady@rocketmail.com.

Help Wanted

ROSTER MANAGER

If you are looking for an opportunity to ease into serving on the Executive Board, this position is just what you want. The CRC is seeking an organized, methodical person to keep our roster up to date. When new members join, you will add them. When members leave the chapter, you will take them off. In January of each year, you will submit our Chapter roster to national MOAA. The CRC is an equal opportunity employer with special consideration given to veterans, surviving spouses, and member spouses. Don't forget about the competitive pay scale! Please contact Evelyn Brady at (360) 721-0865 or pastor2718@comcast.net.

Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby

I recently took checks to Clark College and WSU-Vancouver to provide funding support for our four chapter scholarships for the 2017-18 school year. You will recall that the chapter funds the Chriss, Doty, and Fenning scholarships at Clark and the Allan scholarship at WSU. The three Clark scholarships are \$1000 each and the WSU scholarship is now \$1500. The generous donations from chapter members make all these scholarships possible.

A quick recap - the chapter pays for the three Clark scholarships with a combination of funds from our Clark College Foundation endowment and the chapter's foundation scholarship fund. The Clark Foundation endowment payout continues to grow. On December 31, 2015, the endowment had a value of \$53,532 and is now \$60,503 after the chapter added \$6,000 last May. The good news is that the payout has increased over the last three years from \$1558 to \$1612 to \$1689. So I took a check in the amount of \$1,311 to Clark and a check for \$1,500 to WSU-Vancouver, where we have no endowment.

The increase in the Clark endowment is good news for the chapter. Over the last three years, the chapter has been able to reduce our payout from the scholarship fund by \$131 which has given the chapter some room to increase the WSU-Vancouver scholarship to \$1500. The chapter will continue to look for ways to increase the endowment. For example, I have heard a rumor that matching grants might reappear some time later this year. If that happens, we will be asking chapter members for any help they can offer so we can grow our endowment.

As our scholarship program continues to evolve, I think we need to have a discussion on the scholarship names. There is little history on how the scholarships were originally named so I would solicit any knowledge our membership can offer. Additionally, I would like to hear suggestions from the membership on the names of the scholarships.

Thank you for your generosity. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our scholarship program, please let me know.

**Paul Crosby
Scholarship
360-666-8871**



Chapter Name Tags: *by Dave Casteel*

As Evelyn mentioned, we are discontinuing use of the large plastic name tags at our business meetings. Because some members have expressed they would like to wear their own name tag to our meetings and community events we have located an inexpensive source to obtain your own.

If you have your own name tag you can wear it to public events like Memorial, Veterans, and POW-MIA Day activities. They are especially effective when you wear them to a town hall meeting.

The name tags are 1.5" by 3" and come with a pin on the back for \$5.75, or a standard magnet back for \$7.00 (extra strong magnet back is \$8.25), or choose a swivel clip for \$6.50.

The name of the company is Portland Badge Company. They are located at 8900 SW Burnham St, Ste E-14, Tigard, OR 97223. Phone 503-639-8459.

You can call or order online at www.portlandbadge.com. Go to name badges and fill out the order form with your name and address. Use MOAA as the business name (this is what they have our badge design saved under). Change the badge size to 1.5" x 3" and if you want the stronger magnet backing, put this in the special remarks section. Good idea to call them when you place your order.

There is no minimum order amount, no set up fee, and no tax. There is a charge for postage (of course, you could pick it up if you are in the Tigard area and save the postage).

If you have any problems, please let us know as well as telling us what the company's response is.

Dave Casteel
(360) 834-2448

Vietnam Virtual Wall Locator:
by Dave Casteel



Some of you may have already seen this, but for those of you who have not, you can look up fallen loved ones/friends who are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC. Using the link below you can find your loved ones. You can sort by last name, state, date, wall panel, etc. You will see their photo, bio, medals and details of their service. Simply copy the link and paste it into your browser.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Foundation (CRMF) Update
by Dave Casteel

Your foundation is healthy and doing well thanks to the generous support of chapter members. Many of you sent in donations to the Scholarship and/or Support the Troops (STT) funds when you paid your dues and we heartily thank you for this support. We rely on member generosity to support these funds.

Paul covered scholarship payouts in his Scholarship Corner article so I won't repeat what he stated except to mention a couple items. The \$6,000 we added last year was a onetime "catch-up" donation. Since then, we decided to sweep funds annually that are more than a three-year average outlay based on historical amounts. Because of this, we swept \$650 into the Clark College Foundation endowment in January. We do this to keep the endowment corpus growing steadily.

As Paul mentioned, we increased the scholarship this year from \$1,000 to \$1,500 at WSU-Vancouver recognizing the cost of tuition is higher than at Clark. Since we do not have an endowment at WSU-V, we pay the entire \$1,500 out of our CRMF scholarship fund each year. Our dream is to have an endowment at WSU-V one day also (which requires \$25,000 minimum to fund).

Regarding the Support the Troops fund, the Chapter and Foundation Boards approved an outlay of \$500.00 towards the medical/rehab needs of SGT Tony MacDougal. Tony is a former Army soldier who after separating from active duty was diagnosed with a cancerous pineal region, grade-4 Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM), brain tumor. His family set up a GoFundMe account and friends conducted a fundraising event in Vancouver. While the family has no current outstanding medical bills, they anticipate more surgery/therapy. When this happens, the Foundation will pay \$500.00 of his medical/rehab bills.

Your Support the Troops fund also purchased and delivered two \$500.00 VISA gifts cards (\$1,000 total) to Fisher House. The staff tightly controls these cards and the staff uses them to purchase groceries for residents as needed. They either shop on line at Safeway and have food delivered, or they personally shop at Wal-Mart grocery. Given their current

expenditure rate on groceries, this gift will last five to ten weeks. The boards are considering a similar gift later in the year.

The Q1/17 CRMF financial statement is included in this newsletter and also posted on our website at <http://www.moacolumbiariver.org>. Click on Foundation (CRMF) and select Financial Statement. Then click on [CRMF 2017 Q1 Treasurer's Report](#). If you have any questions about the CRMF, please do not hesitate to contact me. My phone number is on the newsletter cover and my CRMF e-mail is CRMFpresident@comcast.net.

Again, thank you for your generosity helping those in our community.

Donations may be made any time by handing it to either the CRC or CRMF treasurer at a monthly event with your fund designation(s), or by mailing it to the chapter at P.O. Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668.

Dave Casteel
President, Columbia River MOAA Foundation



Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF)
Treasurer's Report
(1Q2017 -- 1 January through 31 March 2017)

BEGINNING FOUNDATION BALANCE (1Jan 2017)		\$ 13,554.08
SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
Beginning Balance		\$9,649.62
Income		\$1,732.48
Donations	\$1,730.00	
Interest	\$2.48	
Expenses		-\$650.00
2016 Sweep to Clark College Endowment	-\$650.00	
Closing Balance		<u>\$10,732.10</u>
SUPPORT THE TROOPS FUND		
Beginning Balance		\$3,904.46
Income		\$2,012.26
Donations	\$2,011.00	
Interest	\$1.26	
Expenses		\$0.00
None	\$0.00	
Closing Balance		<u>\$5,916.72</u>
ENDING FOUNDATION BALANCE (BOTH FUNDS)		\$16,648.82
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE		16,648.82

Frank Hill
Treasurer CRMF, 31 March 2017

Fisher House Celebrates Anniversary



Portland VA Fisher House is celebrating its one-year anniversary!

Please join us to tour the home and see what we do each day to serve our Veterans and Military Families! Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, May 9th @ 11:00am - 2:00pm



Fisher House
1601 E. 4th Plain Blvd
Vancouver, WA 98682

(Next to Community Living Center)



Did you know? Since opening March 28, 2016, the Portland VA Fisher House has served approximately 725 families, 1300 individuals, and 4400 nights of lodging!



How to Earn Cash \$\$\$ Rewards for Yourself AND the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) While Shopping at Fred Meyer

1. Go to www.fredmeyer.com
2. Select the Rewards tab and scroll down to Fred Meyer Community Rewards
3. Scroll down to (and click on) “re-enroll or link your Rewards Card now”
4. Sign into your account using the user name and password you setup when you received your Rewards Card (or click “forgot password”).
5. A screen will appear entitled “Find Your Organization.” In the box that asks you to enter “your organization’s number or at least 3 letters of the organizations name,” enter “Columbia River MOAA Foundation” then click search
6. When the search finds the Columbia River MOAA Foundation simply click on the in front of Columbia River MOAA Foundation #81245
7. Then click “enroll”
8. Use your phone number as your alternate ID when you check out and YOU and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation BOTH receive cash rewards.

Don't have a Fred Meyer Rewards card? Go to any Fred Meyer Customer Service Counter and sign up. Then link your Rewards card on your phone or PC.

It's quick and easy. The **best part is YOU AND the Columbia River MOAA Foundation** will both earn \$\$\$ when you tell the clerk your Rewards (phone) number at check out. You will earn your full normal rewards AND Fred Meyer will donate money to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) quarterly.



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/>

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/>



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
Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email: https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me	

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
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
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	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Richard DeBolt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike 786-7812	Gina McCabe 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 786-7896

Note: All phone numbers are 360 area code, except where otherwise noted. Toll free **1-800-562-6000**
More info at www.leg.wa.gov/legislature

Federal Legislative Update:
by Dave Casteel

By the time you read this we will know if a government shutdown was actually averted until September 30. Since Congress tends to deal with immediate hot button issues and continues to punt the fiscal football on festering critical issues, we will undoubtedly go through these gyrations again and again. This bipartisan compromise agreement—like all compromises, means that not every agency/program area was funded at the level requested. This includes the DOD.

While details of the agreement are not totally known at this point, it appears the DOD will receive \$12.5B more than the House passed in March (or about \$590B). DOD asked for about \$603B, while the HASC Views and Estimates letter said the country needs a \$640B DOD budget to start offsetting years of underfunding and benign neglect.

As we go forward, MOAA will continue to identify key issues affecting DOD troops and families and ask you to contact your elected representatives. If you haven't already done so, you can sign up for MOAA's legislative alerts at www.MOAA.org. Go to the "Take Action" banner, and select "Legislative Action Center" on the drop-down menu. This will take you to a form to sign up for "Legislative Alerts." These alerts will describe the issue and offer you a ready-made e-mail to your Congresswoman and two US Senators. If you want to change the wording in the message, you can. Otherwise, a few clicks and hit "Send" is all you have to do to have your voice heard. I also like to use the MOAA Toll Free Capitol Hotline at 866-272-6622 to voice my thoughts to my Member of Congress' office about an issue. Add the number to your contacts today so you have it handy.

Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs

Washington State Legislative Affairs
Update: *contributed by Dave Casteel*

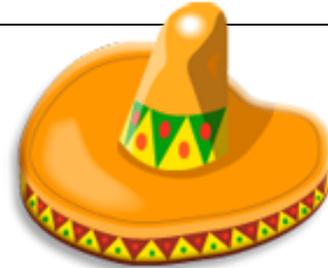
The last day of the Regular 2017 Legislative session was April 23. This meant that if a bill did not pass out of committee and receive a favorable vote on the floor by both chambers, it did not go to Governor for signature. Out of approximately thirty-nine veterans related bills the Veterans Legislative Coalition was monitoring and supporting, twenty-five did not pass and the other fourteen were delivered to the Governor's office. Of these fourteen, five were signed into law and nine are pending. By the time you read this, Governor Inslee should have signed these nine veterans related bills into law on or about May 4.

The twenty-five bills that did not pass will be considered again next session when the 2018 Legislature convenes. This includes SSB 5405 bill by one of our local senators, Lynda Wilson, (R, 17th District) to provide protection for occupants of National Guard offices and other facilities not located on a secure military installation.



2017 CHAPTER CALENDAR

18 May
Thursday
Buffet Dinner Meeting
Program: Mike Stacey from Veterans Village
Venue: La Costa Mexican Restaurant
Gather at 5:30 pm, Buffet at 6:00 pm.
RSVP NLT 16 May.
See details below.



11 June
Sunday
Social Gathering
Program: Wine tasting, eating from their menu, and socializing. No business!
Noon to 3:00 pm
Venue: Rusty Grape Vineyard 16712 NE 219th Street Battle Ground, WA



Chapter Meeting

Buffet Dinner

18 May 2017
Thursday

La Costa Mexican Restaurant

4708 NE Thurston Way
Vancouver, WA 98662
(Near Vancouver Mall)

Meet & Greet 5:30 pm
Dinner Buffet: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00 per person



RSVP:

Call or e-mail Ron Pastor NLT 16 May
882-1275 pastor2718@comcast.net

Program

Our speaker will Mike Stacey from Veterans Village

Raffle: Please bring a gift for our raffle!

A **joint ROA & SEAMOAA** membership dinner meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2017 in the *Community Room at the Acacia Memorial Park, 14951 Bothell Way NE, Seattle, WA 98155.*

Dress: Business Casual

1800 - Happy Hour

1900 - Dinner

2000 - Program

Speaker: Gen Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret)

Topic: "The Future of National Security"

It will be a special evening including the wonderful gourmet buffet dinner.

Pay at the door (\$25). Hosted wine and soft drink bar provided.

Reservations are required by noon, Thursday, May 11, 2017.

RESERVATIONS:

Contact Lt Col (Ret) Linda Sowler, at 206-841-3852 or email: lindasowler@msn.com.

Also, you may call LTC Larry Searle, USA (Ret) at 425-778-1513 or email: lsearle108@aol.com.