



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

August 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:
Susan Ellis
360-910-0625
**Immediate Past
President,**

CRMF president:
Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Army Rep:
Jon Frederick
360-576-9078

Marine Rep:
Terry Babin
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
360-891-5605

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 doesn't seem possible that the summer of 2017 is nearly over. I hope that everyone had a safe and healthy summer. I'm sure all of you protected your eyes while watching the solar eclipse.

The Columbia River Chapter has again been recognized for our excellence in the all areas of our mission including advocacy, community involvement, and social events. Once again, we were awarded a 5 Star Level of Excellence Award for 2016. With the terrific members and the outstanding Executive Board, I expect the chapter to earn another 5 stars for 2017.

We had our end of year get together, purely social, on June 11, 2017 at the Rusty Grape Vineyard in Ridgefield. The setting was very relaxed, the food and the wine were delicious. Please let me know of your ideas for next year's June social.

Dave Casteel has continued his excellent legislative work over the summer. **Dave, Jeremy Baenen,** and I visited with **Senator Murray's** staff on August 15, and **Dave** had prepared for the visit very well. We discussed MOAA's view on the issues of BAH, Tricare fee hikes, and SBP-DIC offset (Widow's tax). We also plan a visit to

Representative **Herrera Beutler's** staff later this month. Thank you for continuing to support the legislative mission of MOAA with your letters and emails.



**9 September
Saturday
Chapter BBQ
Scholarship Fundraiser
Dave & Marilyn
Casteel's Home
Camas, WA
RSVP 5 Sep
Details on page 13**

On Saturday, September 9, we will have our annual kick off barbeque and scholarship fundraiser. This year's event will be at **Dave and Marilyn Casteel's** home in Camas. I thank and recognize **John** and **Charlene Donnelly** for hosting this event for many years. **John** and **Rod Williams** always did the honors on the meat, and now

Dave and I will try to reach the high bar they set. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert (and scholarship donation). The details are on the last page.

[Continued on page 2]

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
Membership Updates	Page 3
Chapter Help Wanted	Page 4
Survivor's Info	Page 5
Space-A Travel	Page 8
Congressional Contacts	Page 11
Legislative Affairs	Page 12
Chapter Calendar	Page 13

President's Message continued

We heard the membership say spend the Support the Troops funds, and boy, have we! We continue to support the Fisher House, and provided umbrellas, stands, and BBQ covers in time for July 4. We have increased our support of our 2 JROTCs to \$250.00/year. We have sent \$500 to **SGT Tony MacDougall** to help defray his costs for treatment of his brain cancer.

We welcome **Susan Ellis** to our board as the new treasurer. **Ron Pastor** will continue to assist us as we are still short a secretary and program chair. **Mike Ellis** (**Susan's** husband) has agreed to be historian. Everyone on the Board has taken on extra duties as required to keep our chapter going strong. Please consider serving on the board, it is relatively painless and a good way to meet and know some great people.

Please join us at our upcoming meetings. On October 19, **Joel Scott** from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) will speak at our luncheon. In November, our speaker will be the Director of the Veterans Resource Center at Clark College, **Kelly Jones**, SGM(R). The date is Thursday, November 16. The venues are still TBD.

See you on September 9!

Evelyn Brady
President



Lt Gen Atkins and Evelyn on May 4, 2017 in Portland, OR.

Community Events by *Yvette Brown-Wahler*

Patriots-9/11/01 Remembrance Day, CMAC & City of Vancouver, VFD with VPD. 9am, Monday, downtown at City building. Full ceremony with dove release.

Veterans Day 11/11 Remembrance and Parade on Saturday, 11am beginning/end this year at Providence Academy, Fort Vancouver Natl Historic Trust. Across from main library on C street and Evergreen.

All invited to attend. Free.

There is much more going on. Please visit cmac11.com website for additional community events of Veterans interest, and Community service opportunities.



Membership Update by *Jeremy Baenen*

I hope everyone had as good a summer as our chapter has had recruiting new members. We've added two new members since our last newsletter.

One of our newest members is currently deployed so we'll have to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. **Thomas "Tommy" Clark** is a Captain in the US Army and joined us during the Costco Heroes Night at the end of June. **Tommy** is a resident of Washougal and will be deployed for a year or more. We'll have to wait and welcome him when he gets back and perhaps get a brief on what he did and saw.

Our second new member is **Mrs. Pamela Perdew**. She is a surviving spouse whose husband Eldon or "Don" was a Colonel in the Army until 1985. **Pam** is a resident of Vancouver and we are very much looking forward to her joining us at our luncheons.

We thank you all for their service to our great nation and wish Tommy a safe return home.

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.

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 Rich Wersinger, our Newsletter Editor.



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

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 evelynbrady@rocketmail.com.

WHAT EVERY SPOUSE AND SURVIVING SPOUSE SHOULD KNOW

- By Terry Whisenant, Surviving Spouse Representative
- By Terry Babin, Chairman, Membership Services Committee

This article is for both spouses of current Columbia River Chapter members and our Surviving Spouse members.

Do you have the basic information about what to do, and more importantly where to get help, when you are a Surviving Spouse—particularly within the first 24 hours after the passing of a MOAA member?

There have been many changes within the MOAA organization at both the national and local level during the past several years with respect to the status, support for, and privileges of Surviving Spouses. The position of Surviving Spouse Representative and a committee for Membership Services were established in large part to serve as a resource to the Surviving Spouses of our Chapter.

One of our mutual concerns has been the absence of a single document which provides essential information about steps to be taken upon the death of the MOAA member, and explains how the Chapter can serve as a resource to you.

We hope that every spouse and Surviving Spouse will take time to read, and hopefully print/retain the **INFORMATION for SURVIVING SPOUSES** included on the next two pages of this Newsletter

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA
INFORMATION for SURVIVING SPOUSES

Who Is a MOAA Surviving Spouse:

A “surviving spouse” is the widow or widower of a Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) member. There is no distinction made between spouses who were married during the MOAA member’s active or reserve service, and those spouses who married the service member after release from active duty or retirement. All surviving spouses are welcomed, and encouraged to participate in the Columbia River Chapter, MOAA, operations and activities.

The Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative:

The Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative is your key “go to” person. The Representative will help connect you with other Chapter officers and supporting resources. The Representative is also a voting member of the Chapter’s Executive Board in order to ensure that surviving spouses’ interests and concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

Some surviving spouses have not previously been active in the Chapter. The Surviving Spouse Representative is your personal advisor and friend to help introduce you to other members, and make it easy to participate to the extent you are able.

Why the Following Information Is Important:

The loss of a loved one can create difficult challenges for the surviving spouse.

The process of settling personal affairs is complicated by the additional decisions and government-generated paperwork involved in the case of the death of a member, retired member, or veteran of the uniformed services. Columbia River Chapter representatives can usually provide information and assistance to help in your transition to a new phase of your life.

What You Need to Do When a MOAA Member Spouse Dies:

Chapter assistance should be requested as soon as possible after the death of a MOAA member. You, or a family or legal representative, should contact either the Chapter’s Chairman, Membership Services Committee (MSC), or the Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative. The phone numbers are listed on the front page of the Chapter’s Newsletter, and also provided on the Chapter’s web site (www.moaacolumbiariver.org).

The funeral director usually makes the arrangements for any military honors and internment (including at government-operated cemeteries). You may, however, contact the Chapter’s MSC Chairman if you have questions about your government-furnished options before making a decision.

The Chapter web site includes a checklist for survivors about time-sensitive actions which need to be done following the death of a member. A Personal Affairs representative from the MSC can help you or your family representative complete the actions listed on the checklist—particularly those actions which require completion of government benefits’ forms and coordination with government agencies.

The National Headquarters of MOAA (1-(800)-234-6622) should also be notified by you or your legal representative as soon as possible after the death of a MOAA spouse. The member’s membership number can be found on the address label of MOAA’s Military Officer magazine. If you desire that the notice of passing be included in the next edition of the Military Officer, then the call must be made by the primary next-of-kin.

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA**INFORMATION for SURVIVING SPOUSES (continued)****MOAA and You:**

MOAA has long-recognized that survivors of active, reserve, retired, and veterans of the uniformed Services may be entitled to certain benefits and privileges earned by the service member's service and sacrifices. MOAA is dedicated to preserving and improving the legislation governing those benefits and privileges, and helping those eligible receive their full entitlement. Our local Chapter can also be part of your social and support community.

Chapter Resources to Support Survivors:

The Chapter's award-winning Newsletter, which is published about 6 times per year, is a compilation of a variety of news and information of interest to military members and spouses as well as the schedule and instructions for participating in upcoming Chapter functions. You can receive the Newsletter either via e-mail or postal service by communicating your preference to the Chapter Secretary directly, or also through the Surviving Spouse Representative, or Chairman of the MSC. You will find additional information about the Chapter on the Chapter's web site.

Semi-annually you will receive a phone call from a Chapter representative as part of the Chapter's "*Keeping Connected*" program. This call is made to ensure that you are receiving the Newsletter, ask if there are any questions or issues that need Chapter officers' assistance, say "hello—we are thinking of you," and update your contact information. When possible, you will have the same person calling you each time. The calls will not be made for the purpose of any solicitation. Please notify the Chairman of the MSC if you have not received a call by each June and November, or you do not want to be called.

The Chapter activities offer you an opportunity to get out and socialize with others who might share some of your interests, and have common experiences. Chapter meetings and events, except the Annual Meeting each January, are focused on programs and social engagement rather than the conduct of Chapter business. Chapter business is conducted at the Executive Board meetings usually held the second Thursday of each month (except July and August). Surviving spouses may attend the Board meetings, but do not have a vote in these proceedings.

Your MOAA Membership as a Surviving Spouse:

If your deceased spouse was a national MOAA "Life Member," that life membership transfers to you at no cost as the surviving spouse upon notification of the death to the national headquarters of MOAA.

If the deceased member was not a "Life Member," a representative of the national headquarters staff can briefly explain options for national MOAA membership as a surviving spouse. Options include Life Membership, Premium Membership at a discounted annual cost, and **no cost** Basic Membership. Our Chapter requests and encourages you to have a national membership—even if at the Basic and free membership level.

Within the Columbia River Chapter, surviving spouses have full membership rights including the right to vote, hold office, and participate in all activities and events. There are no annual Chapter dues; however, you are encouraged when able to be involved in the scholarship and charitable activities of the Chapter's tax-exempt *Columbia River MOAA Foundation*.

Chapter Expectations of You as a MOAA Surviving Spouse: We hope that you will:

1. Maintain your national MOAA membership.
2. Keep us informed about any changes to your mailing and e-mail addresses, and phone number(s).
3. Participate in Chapter functions and charities to the extent you are able and comfortable.

Space-A Travel – An Update for Those with a Military Travel Interest:

by LTC Allan E. Jeska, USAR Ret

At a recent Chapter gathering at the La Costa Restaurant, I was asked by several to write an update on Space-A travel via military airlift.

Yes, Space-A travel is alive and well. There are fewer planes, but they are larger and carry more folks and cargo to distant vistas. In June 2016, I flew from McChord AFB to Selfridge ANG Base (Detroit) on an USAF C-17, nonstop, and I was the ONLY passenger and no cargo. (Like flying in an empty gym, all by myself.) Great crew and flight.

How is this done? First, try NOT to have an agenda, schedule, or deadline. This travel... is for those of us who want to see the world, smell the roses, and meet new folks. Clear your slate, and sign up at one of our Pacific NW airbases up to 60 days ahead of when you think you want to fly.

Google “Uncle Bud's Website” (unclebud.net) and there is a link for signing up that works just fine. Easiest bases to fly from are: McChord (253-982-7268), Whidbey Is NAS (360-257-2604), Fairchild AFB (360-247-3406). There are 3 weekly “Patriot Express” dependent charter flights out of SEATAC to Japan/Korea.(253-982-3504)

The 72hour schedule can be found on Facebook for these bases or “Uncle Bud's” site has another site that will send them to you daily. Go to: <http://www.spaceflights.net/alerts.php> As I write this, the following flights are available:

Fairchild AFB: McDill AFB, FL, 10 seats,
 McChord AFB Dover AFB, DE, 50 seats, Harrisburg, PA, Fairchild AFB, N. Is. NAS
 Whidbey Is NAS: Nellis AFB 43seats, CO Springs 121 seats, Oceana NAS 121 seats, Elmhurst, NY, 85 seats, Jacksonville NAS, 69 seats
 SEATAC: The 3 flights had: 22, 86, and 0 seats available to Japan, Korea, Okinawa

There is no cost, just the TSA inspections fees, and yes, spouses can fly with you now anywhere you desire to go and the planes will take you. You must be Active Duty, military retired, or a reservist/guardsman in order to fly. Reservist and Guardsmen, not on active status, may only fly in the U.S. To include HI, Puerto Rico, AK, and territories.

You found a flight... now what? I go up to the base a day ahead of the scheduled flight. You should check with the folks at the terminal counter to see that the flight is going and that you are signed up, and check on the “showtime” for you to appear to sign in.

On the day of the flight, arrive early, check in with the terminal personnel, and wait to be called for the flight. Should there be an overbooking, seats are awarded by category and earliest signup.

You should inquire about an inflight meal or grab a Subway sandwich and there will be a TSA-type screening before boarding. Be sure to have funds, credits cards, and a very flexible schedule in case there are no planes to get you back.

These flights are an “earned privilege/benefit,” and are only for those of us with the patience, daring, and the love of seeing our Country's military at work. [Http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/](http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/)

LTC Allan E. Jeska, USAR Ret.
 MOAA Life Member, jeskaal@juno.com

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).

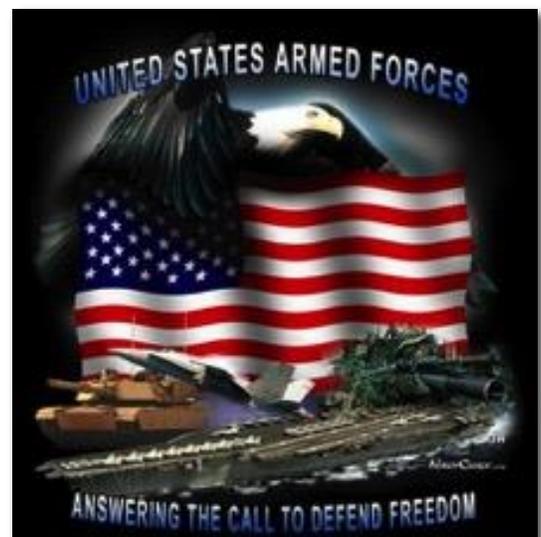
If you have any problems, please let us know as well as telling us what the company's response is.

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>





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***

With summer coming to an end Congress, will return from August recess on September 5th with quite a lot on their plate. As the clock rapidly ticks down towards the end of the FY their work to fund government operations and fund our military hastens.

The House passed their version of the NDAA before they left for the August recess. Now, it is up to the Senate to pass their version. Since the versions will be different, differences will have to be worked out in conference. All this takes time, so the likelihood of a continuing resolution looms large again.

One thing that both chambers have in common is the fact that both the House (HASC) and Senate (SASC) Armed Service Committees both agree that six years of cuts and caps since the 2011 Budget Control Act have devastated our military readiness and capability. The SASC mark up states, *“Testimony to the committee from senior military officials and civilian defense leaders has underscored the shortfall in readiness, the crisis in modernization, and the erosion of the U.S. military advantage—due, in large part, to the spending caps of the Budget Control Act and sequestration. The administration’s request of \$603 billion for the base defense budget was a step in the right direction, but it is insufficient to undo the damage of the last six years.”*

Unusual for the SASC is that their NDAA mark up calls for increases in overall funding and force levels above what the administration requested. True to past form though, they propose capping the military pay raise below the Economic Cost Index

(ECI) that Congress itself adopted as the standard metric for military pay raises in the FY05 NDAA! This means active duty military pay would be capped at .3% below what the ECI says is needed to keep up with the civilian sector. While this doesn’t sound like much, in the aggregate, it mounts up. Think about it this way—your boss says you are doing a great job, but keeps capping your pay every year compared to your friends working for other companies. How motivated are you going to be to keep working for your company?

The SASC also proposes to *“Increase pharmacy co-pays to generate discretionary savings for the DOD to fund improvements in military readiness and mandatory savings to fund other personnel benefits and programs, such as permanently extending the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) under the Survivor Benefit Plan.”*

While MOAA agrees with ending the unfair SBP-DIC offset, they do not agree to increasing pharmacy co-pays to “fund improvements in military readiness.”

There are several e-mails on this subject that MOAA proposes you send your members of Congress and especially Senators. I’m sure that they will send out even more during the month of September. Please make the time to hit “Send” when you receive a legislative alert request.

Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs



2017 CHAPTER CALENDAR

9 September
Saturday

Chapter Barbecue & Scholarship Fundraiser
Program: Fun & Social Time
Venue: Dave & Marilyn Casteel's Home; Camas, Washington
 Enjoy from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.
 RSVP NLT 5 September
See details below.



19 October
Thursday

Chapter Meeting
Program: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
Speaker: Joel Scott
Venue: TBD



16 November
Thursday

Chapter Meeting
Program: Veterans Resource Center at Clark College
Speaker: Manager, Kelly Jones, SGM(R)
Venue: TBD



**Columbia River Chapter
Fall Scholarship Social**

9 September 2017
Saturday

Dave & Marilyn's Home
Camas, WA

From: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

What: Barbecue (chapter provides meats and some adult beverages) and potluck.

Cost: Bring a salad/fruit dish or dessert AND your generous free will scholarship donation (for the Columbia River MOAA Foundation or CRMF)

RSVP:
Call or e-mail Ron Pastor NLT 5 September
360-882-1275 pastor2718@comcast.net

