



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

April 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

1st Vice-President: & Membership:

2nd Vice-President: & Programs

Secretary:

Chris Rubadue
425-269-1902

Treasurer:

Susan Ellis
360-910-0357

Immediate Past

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Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

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Jon Frederick
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Marine Rep:

Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Navy Rep:

Rich Wersinger
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Terry Babin
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Rev Max Metcalf
541-961-0869

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Mike Ellis
360-910-0625

Each year, MOAA members from across the nation gather in Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers of all stripes and secure their support for legislation and policies that will benefit service members past and present, and their families.

This year Storm the Hill is on April 10. MOAA is focusing on three issues

this year: Ending
Survivor Benefit Plan
Dependency and
Indemnity
Compensation offset
(widows' tax),
stabilizing Tricare
fees, and maintaining
compensation for
currently serving
troops.

There is a very helpful article on the MOAA website called "[3 Ways to Storm from Home](#)." See Page 3. In order for Congress to hear us, it is crucial that we all support these efforts and have our Congress members take notice. So, let's get on board and overwhelm them with phone calls and emails.

An easy, fast way to email your legislators is with a MOAA suggested message. Go to takeaction.moaa.org and find these prewritten messages with MOAA's advocacy positions. Enter your zip code, and the messages will be delivered right to our senators and representative. A few clicks later and you're done.

You can also make a phone call. MOAA's toll free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to be connected to your



legislator's offices. Congressional staff members track constituent calls, and elected officials pay close attention. You can find the talking points at takeaction.moaa.org.

Increase our reach by following, liking, and sharing MOAA's posts on Facebook to help spread information about

our advocacy to the wider community on social media.

MOAA combines the voices of active, reserve, retired and former officers, as well as their spouses and survivors, on behalf of the ENTIRE military community. Let's take action on April 10!

18 April

Thursday

Chapter Meeting

40 et 8 Chateau

11:30 AM Meet

12:00 PM Lunch

Vancouver, WA

RSVP by 16 April

Details page 14

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
Storm the Hill	Page 3
CAPT Laedkte's Obituary	Page 5
Ken McCoy's Obituary	Page 6
Proposed Amendments	Pages 8 - 10
Congressional Contacts	Page 11
Legislative Affairs	Page 12
Chapter Calendar	Page 14

President's Message continued

Please read the article about the proposed changes to the CRC By-laws. These changes are in response to suggestions from the annual audits conducted in 2017 and 2018. They more clearly define the specific duties of the chapter treasurer and executive board. We will vote on these changes at the May 16 dinner.

The Columbia River Chapter will have a table at the Memorial Day Event on May 27, 2019. This takes place at Vancouver Barracks and is always well organized by CMAC. We are looking for volunteers to help set up, man the booth during the event, and help take down. So, if you can't stay the whole time, usually from around 0900 to 1300, please volunteer for the time you can spend.

On Thursday, April 25, CMAC is sponsoring Our Community Salutes at Heritage High School at 1830. This event celebrates the graduating seniors from both Vancouver and Evergreen School Districts who have joined the military right after high school. It is a terrific event and demonstrates the high level of support for these kids in our community. Plan to attend and wear your MOAA badge proudly!

Dave Casteel will be in Washington DC on April 10 to Storm the Hill. Let's show him our support by doing our part to storm from home. I look forward to seeing you at our April luncheon.

Never Stop Serving!

Evelyn Brady
President



Chapter Reps Meet with Senator Murray Staff 30 March 2019.
L-R **Keshia Blandford** (new LA), Chapter President **Evelyn Brady** and newly appointed SW Washington Director **Bryan Stebbins**. **Evelyn** and **Dave Casteel** (not pictured) discussed three Storm the Hill issues.



Greg Mahoney LTC USA (ret) was our speaker at our 21 March 2019 meeting. He is a combat wounded veteran and delivered his message "A Powerful Force" in an articulate and inspiring manner.



3 Ways to Storm From Home copied by
Rich Wersinger from MOAA.org

This article discusses a key part of MOAA's Storming the Hill 2019. For more, visit our [Storming the Hill page](#).



MOAA representatives from across the nation will convene on Capitol Hill April 10 with a goal of visiting every legislator's office to make MOAA's case for ending the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset (widows tax), stabilizing TRICARE fees, and maintaining compensation for currently serving troops.

Your support for these efforts is crucial. Here's how to be an effective advocate:

1. Email your legislators with a MOAA-suggested message.

Visit takeaction.moaa.org to find pre-written emails outlining MOAA's advocacy positions. Enter your ZIP code, and they'll be delivered right to your senators and representative. Some members ask us whether these pre-written messages are effective; our experience says yes. Legislative staffers know a constituent who takes the time to send a message is one who will vote in November.

2. Make a phone call.

Call (866) 272-MOAA (6622), MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to be connected with your legislators' offices. Congressional staff members track constituent calls, and elected officials pay close attention. You can find talking points at takeaction.moaa.org.

3. Increase our reach.

Follow, like, and share [MOAA's posts on Facebook](#) to help spread information about our advocacy to the wider community on social media. You also can follow MOAA on [Twitter @Military Officer](#) and on [Instagram @MOAAofficial](#). For all posts, use the hashtag #MOAASstorms.

MOAA combines the voices of active, reserve, retired and former officers - as well as their spouses and survivors - on behalf of the entire military community. If you aren't receiving our email updates, [sign up for The MOAA Newsletter](#). You can choose how often you want to hear from us as well as which topics are included in your newsletter.



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

Our Chapter Secretary, **Chris Rubadue**, coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

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. If you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify **Chris Rubadue**, our Chapter Secretary at (425) 269-1902 or clrubadue@comcast.net.

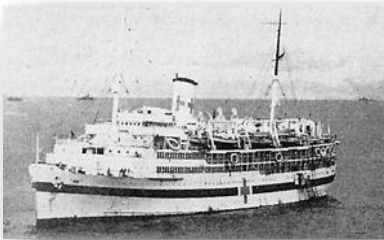




Captain Ralph Harold Laedtke, MSC, USN, Ret. October 1, 1920 ~ March 12, 2019

Captain Ralph Harold Laedtke, MSC, USN, Ret., passed away at home in Washougal, on March 12, 2019. He was born to **Alma** and **William Laedtke** on October 1, 1920, in Appleton, Wisconsin, the eldest of five children. He was 98 years young.

Ralph joined the Navy in September of 1939 as a Seaman Recruit and served his country for nearly 35 years.



He was stationed aboard the Hospital Ship USS Solace (AH-5) during the bombing of Pearl Harbor 7 December 1941 and was aboard ship during several WWII battles.

Solace was at Pearl Harbor during the attack of 7 December 1941. A crew member filming from the deck of that ship, an Army medical Doctor named Eric Haakenson, captured the precise moment of the USS *Arizona*'s explosion. She immediately sent her motor launches with stretcher parties to the stricken and burning battleship *Arizona* to evacuate the wounded and pulled men from the water that were covered in burning oil. After several trips to *Arizona* and *West Virginia*, the boat crews then assisted *Oklahoma*. Honoring the rules of the Geneva Convention, the attacking Japanese aircraft did not hit *Solace* due to her white paint and red crosses. She was one of the few ships not damaged during the attack.

He was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany (CV-34) during the Korean Conflict.

Some of his duty stations included Norfolk, Virginia; Bethesda, Maryland; San Francisco, California; Great Lakes, Illinois; Charleston, South Carolina; and Guam.

The Navy Medical Service Corps (MSC) was created on 4 August 1947 by act of the United States Congress. Originally it had four specialist sections: Supply and Administration, Optometry, Allied Sciences, and Pharmacy. Currently (2019) the Navy Medical Service Corps has three sections: Healthcare Administration, Healthcare Sciences, and Clinical Care Providers.

After retirement from the US Navy he taught Health Care Management at Chicago Medical School and in 1978 became Coordinator of two off campus programs for Southern Illinois University. In retirement **Ralph** was a member of the Rotary Club, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the Gideons, and the Military Officers Association of America. He was an avid Scrabble and Cribbage player and enjoyed playing golf.

After the death of his first wife **Ruth** in 2007, he married **Ferne M. Bottemiller Facey**. They moved to Washougal. **Ferne** passed away in July 2018, and **Ralph** continued to live in his home until his death.



In Memorium Kenneth Dale McCoy

6 May 1949 - 13 December 2018



Ken McCoy was born in Walla Walla on 6 May 1949; the youngest of 3 boys to parents Lawrence and Rowena McCoy. Ken had an interest in entrepreneurial endeavors from a very young age. He balanced many investment projects, sometimes at the same time, while negotiating the red tape of the business world.

Some of the business dealings closest to his heart were the collectable Smokey Bear plates, Elvis Presley watches and Healthprin Aspirin created and launched by his very own Smart Pharmaceuticals. These were 81 mg heart shaped aspirins that he tried to sell to the "big boys" for years. He wound up producing them himself.

Ken was always quick to lend a hand to others and eager to support his community. As a young man he worked his way up to Eagle Scout, and then joined the Civil Air Patrol, Vancouver Squadron. He was member of the Masonic Lodge and a supporter to the Shriner Hospital. He was also an avid volunteer for the Pearson Air Museum at Pearson Field.

Ken enlisted in the Army and served in Germany in the Supply field. He joined our chapter of MOAA in 1993 and served as 1st Vice President and supporter of the many auctions we held as fund raisers in the early years. Whenever you met Ken he always had a new entrepreneurial project to tell you about. His latest was the paddle wheel boat that he wanted to bring to the dock at the Quay in Vancouver to open a card room and restaurant.

Ken impacted many lives during his short time with us. His ideas were groundbreaking, his dreams endless and his love for others touched our hearts in a way that will be remembered and cherished forever.



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 Savings and 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 O in front of Columbia River MOAA Foundation #AU238
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.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSAL TO

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA.

Article XV of the Chapter By-laws requires a fifteen (15) day notice to the membership when one or more amendments to the By-Laws will be proposed at the next Chapter meeting. At the May 16, 2019 Chapter meeting, a motion will be made to adopt an amendment to replace Section 8 of Article VIII and a second motion to replace Article XII.

The annual audit of the financial records, processes, and procedures of the Chapter identified the need to clarify responsibilities and financial management activities between the position of the Treasurer and the Chapter's Executive Board. The proposed amendments respond to all concerns and findings in the 2018 Audit Report. There was no major change to the basic provisions in the existing articles, but there were many additions to the content, and general sectional organization revisions, of each article. Therefore, in the interest of efficiency and clarity, a determination was made that the most understandable presentation of the proposed changes was to delete the applicable portions of the By-laws in their entirety, and replace by fully amended write-ups of both Section 8 of Article VIII and Article XII.

The current Constitution and By-Laws, as amended 20 January 2018, can be found on the [Chapter's website](#). The proposed amendments below have been reviewed and approved by the Chapter's Executive Board. A two-thirds vote of the regular membership present, provided that there is a quorum (Article V of the By-Laws), is required to pass each amendment.

-
1. **Move that the current Article VIII, Section 8, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Columbia River Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, be deleted and replaced by the following amendment:**

ARTICLE VIII, Section 8:

Section 8. The Treasurer shall perform the functions of receiving income and making disbursements on behalf of the Chapter, regularly reporting the financial transactions and balances to the Chapter's Executive Board, and preparing the proposed annual Chapter Budget and related reporting.

Section 8A. Principal duties of the Treasurer include collecting members' annual dues and other income; making disbursements in accordance with the approved Chapter Budget or otherwise authorized by the Chapter Executive Board; depositing income, and performing such other related duties as assigned by the Chapter's President or Executive Board.

Section 8B. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping records of transactions in such recording media and formats that support a clear audit trail, record retrieval, and financial management reports to the Chapter Executive Board.

Section 8C. The Treasurer will coordinate with the Chapter President and Secretary during the fourth quarter of each calendar year to verify that all certificates, filings, and forms required by state or federal statute for the next calendar year are filed in a timely manner including any payment required with a respective filing.

Section 8D. Receipt and disbursement of funds by the Treasurer will comply with written and approved policies and procedures established by the Chapter Executive Board as well as transactions directed and approved by either the Chapter Executive Board, or vote by the membership at a meeting convened in accordance with Article VII. A copy of the source documentation of these procedures and policies will be maintained as part of the Treasurer's records.

Section 8E. Treasurer will also perform those duties and responsibilities as specified in Article XII.

Section 8F. An up-to-date turnover folder specifying actions for recurring processes and procedures to be followed to perform duties as specified in Article VIII, Section 8, and Article XII of the By-laws; documenting all policy instructions related to financial management and practices as directed by the Executive Board; and containing the most recent Audit Report will be maintained by the Chapter Treasurer.

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2. Move that the current Article XII of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Columbia River Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, be deleted and replaced by the following amendment:

ARTICLE XII:

Section 1. The Chapter President has overall responsibility for the Chapter's financial management, accounting, stewardship, and other actions and activities assigned by the Chapter's By-laws, and policies and procedures approved and issued by the Chapter Executive Board. The President is assisted in executing all financial responsibilities by the Executive Board, and standing and special committees appointed by the President.

Section 2. The Chapter's fiscal year opens on the first day of January of a calendar year, and closes on the 31st day of December of that same year.

Section 3. The Chapter Executive Board, in support of the Chapter President, manages the finances of the Chapter as described and limited by this Article and the other Articles within these By-laws. The Board is required to formulate, approve, and issue policies and Chapter-wide procedures as needed to specify actions required for income, expenditure, reimbursement, and acquisition and disposal of assets. The Board shall, to the best of its ability and experience, exercise due diligence and sound business practices in making financial decisions on behalf of the Chapter.

Section 3A. During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the Board is responsible for providing budget guidance for the next fiscal year to both the Chapter Treasurer and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF). Fiscal guidance should include any special funding or projects projected to have significant impact on the next year's budgets of the Chapter and also the CRMF.

Section 3B. The Board must approve the annual Chapter Budget prior to the Chapter's Annual Meeting at the beginning of the calendar year.

Section 3C. The Board must act within the first three quarters of the calendar year on the recommendations contained in the previous year's Annual Audit.

Section 3D. The Board must approve and follow the agreed procedures as established by the Chapter and CRMF for the collection of donations and disbursement of funds from CRMF.

Section 3E. The Board must approve by a 67% (two-thirds) majority a policy of a single signature check-writing authority. This policy, when applied, must be approved annually at the first Board meeting of each Chapter fiscal year, and may be rescinded at any time by a 67% (two-thirds) majority of the Board.

Section 4. The Chapter Treasurer, in support of the Chapter President and Executive Board, performs those functions as specified Article VIII, Section 8, of these By-laws, and by such duties assigned by policies and procedures approved and directed by the Board. Additionally, the Treasurer will keep all financial records and documents current and ready for audit at all times.

Section 4A. The Treasurer will present a current written financial report at each Board meeting to include advising the Board when there are variances between the budget and expected revenues or disbursements.

Section 4B. The Treasurer will give an Annual Financial Report, and present the current year Budget as approved by the Board at the Annual Meeting. The annual financial report will also be provided in written form to the Chapter Secretary at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4C. Donations received by the Chapter for the CRMF will be deposited in the CRMF bank account, or otherwise transferred to the CRMF Treasurer at least monthly. The deposit or transfer shall be documented in the Chapter's financial records. A listing of donor names and amount donated, including any donor's stated use for the donation, shall be provided to the CRFM Treasurer in accordance with procedures established between the Chapter and the CRMF.

Section 5. The financial records and documentation for the previous four quarters shall be audited during the fourth quarter of the Chapter's fiscal year. The audit will be conducted in accordance with the Chapter's General Procedures Audit Guide by a special committee appointed by the Chapter President.

Section 6. The Chapter has an "open book" policy, and any member in good standing may request to examine the financial records of the Chapter and the minutes of the Executive Board meetings by scheduling such a meeting with the President or Treasurer.





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 1107 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/	

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 Hart 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: https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email/form		

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

WASHINGTON, DC 154 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: https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme		

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	Chris Corry 786-7810	Richard DeBolt 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Larry Hoff 786-7812	Gina Mosbrucker 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 786-7990

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 Buck Marr**

Happy Spring Columbia River MOAA-ites.

I promise to avoid the hottest legislative topic since the last newsletter. I know you will be disappointed to not see anything with the word “wall” in it.

In March, the Administration completed the first step in the 2020 budget process. The President submitted a budget request to Congress. We are now ready for step two where both the House and Senate Budget Committees produce a budget resolution which after a House/Senate Conference sets overall Congressional spending limits and becomes the guiding framework for specific spending and taxation decisions. Sounds fairly straight forward and our forefathers meant it to be that way. However, 242 years later, we always have high drama in our budget building process. Let me explain.

By law, the President is required to submit his annual budget proposal NLT the first Monday in February. However, with the 2019 budget undecided and delayed by the long government shutdown, the President began submitting his 2020 budget on March 11th. Those of you who got A’s in civics would argue that the delay wasn’t a significant roadblock for DoD because their appropriations bills had been passed before the shutdown so the Pentagon labor force could continue slaving away on the Defense piece of the budget.

In fact, they were hard at work on THREE potential versions of a 2020 national defense budget proposal. The original proposal for a national defense budget was \$733B. Last October, the President cut the top line projection to \$700B over concerns about the federal deficit. In December, after meeting with Defense leaders, he raised the projection to \$750B. The now paranoid Defense Department built three separate budgets to accommodate whichever proposal was ultimately submitted to Congress.

Some of you who closely follow the Defense budget process would ask, “What about the Budget Control Act of 2011 which will force budget caps to become effective in Jan 2020?” Go to the head of the class! A \$750B budget would definitely trigger the budget caps which would hold the DoD budget to \$576B. However, the Administration tucked all requested dollars above

\$576B into the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account which historically has been a place keeper for monies allocated to unexpected overseas operations and not subject to the caps. In short, to avoid the budget cap, the Administration put nearly one-quarter of their budget request into the OCO account.

Why is all of this important to MOAA? The President’s budget proposal was met with fierce resistance by many lawmakers; even calling the OCO a slush fund to skirt the caps. The Vegas odds are miniscule on the possibility of the original President’s budget surviving Congressional review. Can you say, “continuing resolution?” Closer to home, there is a pretty fair chance that many issues held near and dear to veteran advocates will be considered by Congressional budgeteers. We need to stay vigilant and ready to voice our opinions to the Congressional representatives.

Let’s take a quick look at five issues which we should keep on our collective radar scope:

1. The Mission Act of 2018 made the most dramatic improvements to how Veterans will receive community care; health care outside of the VA. The Act consolidates seven private health care programs into a Community Care Network. The new program starts after the VA publishes its final regulations expected June 6, 2019. It will bear watching.
2. MOAA Storm the Hill participants will adamantly lobby for legislators to support the 3.1 percent military pay raise as intended by law. MOAA opposes any decrementing of military compensation to include house allowances.

[Continued on page 11]

Federal Legislative Update continued

3. We continue working to rectify a long-standing injustice for 66,000 surviving spouses by supporting the elimination of the SBP/DIC offset. If Congress does not pass full repeal, they should incrementally increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance above COLA adjustments to help mitigate the overall effect of the widows' tax.
4. Advocate for the government to stabilize and improve the TRICARE program rather than disproportionately shifting readiness costs onto beneficiaries. Legislators think veterans don't pay enough for health care. Some elements of health care like prescription drug fees and specialty care are rising faster than COLA increases. MOAA supports the President's budget which does not propose increases to TRICARE and drug fees.

5. MOAA and other VSO's will continue to press the VA to recognize burn pit and toxic exposure related illnesses as "presumptive" conditions qualifying them for disability compensation and health services.

Two big late issues before going to press: MOAA/VSO **advocacy** has apparently been successful in gaining disability benefits for the "Blue Water" veterans who through their Vietnam era service were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange. Secretary **Wilkie** has just indicated that the VA will not appeal a federal court decision to award those benefits to affected veterans.

At the President's direction, the Pentagon submitted a reprogramming request to the Congress. They requested \$1B of unobligated but previously appropriated monies be reprogrammed for use in the counter-drug mission area. Is that a euphemism for the "w" word I promised not to use? Keep your eye on this fight.....it's gonna be a doozy.

Buck Marr
Federal Legislative Affairs



2019 CHAPTER CALENDAR

18 April Thursday	Chapter Luncheon Meeting Venue: 40 et 8 Boxcar Meet and Greet: 11:30 am Lunch: Noon See Details below!	Speaker: Joe Deflorio, CAPT USA (JAG) Topic: Legal Services to Retired Officers.
25 April Thursday	Our Community Salutes at 6:30 pm Heritage High School 7825 NE 130 th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98682 Recognize high school seniors who have joined the military right after graduation.	
16 May Thursday	Chapter Dinner Meeting Venue and Speaker TBD	
27 May Monday	Memorial Day Event at Vancouver Barracks We will have a booth and we need volunteers to help from approximately 0900 to 1300.	
9 June Sunday	Save the Date!	Social to kick off our summer!



Chapter Luncheon Meeting



DATE: April 18th, 2019

Meet & Greet: 1130

Lunch at 1200 hrs

Catered by Firehouse Subs

COST: \$15 Per Person

And a Raffle, too!

LOCATION: 40 et 8 CHATEAU

7607 NE 26th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98665

Speaker: CAPT Joe Deflorio, Judge Advocate General (JAG) assigned to I-Corps, Ft. Lewis, WA
His topic will cover services to retired officers such as Wills, Powers of Attorney, Advanced Medical Directives, Notarization, Family Law advice, Landlord-Tenant assistance, and Other Legal Counseling.
After his presentation, there will be time for Questions and Answers.

Please RSVP Susan Ellis at: sdellis1973@gmail.com or (360) 910-0357

NLT Tuesday 16 April

Columbia River Chapter
MOAA
P.O. Box 1872
Vancouver, WA 98668

