



# 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](http://www.moaacolumbiariver.org)

May 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### President:

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

### 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

### Public Health Rep:

Chris Rubadue  
425-269-1902

### Surviving Spouse

### Liaison:

Terry Whisenant  
360-576-7736

### Legislative Affairs:

Buck Marr  
757-636-8686

### Membership Services:

Terry Babin  
360-608-7789

### Public Affairs:

John Donnelly  
360-721-3792

### Scholarship:

Paul Crosby  
360-666-8871

### Chaplain:

Rev Max Metcalf  
541-961-0869

### Roster Manager:

Mike Ellis  
360-910-0625

The Pacific Northwest Region MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Leadership Workshop was May 3-4 in downtown Portland. **Dave Casteel**, president of the Washington State Council of Chapters, **Terry Whisenant**, Surviving Spouse Liaison, and I attended this very informative conference. The concerns that I have for the viability and long-term health of our chapter were clearly articulated at this conference. With help from the staff at MOAA, I can discuss our most pressing concerns.

The few do the work of the many. We have not been able to fill chapter leadership positions. My term as president is up at the end of 2019, and there is no one to step up in January 2020.

Many of the board members have served for years, and it is time to have some new officers with new ideas and visions. We have been without a membership recruitment chair for two years, and it shows. New members are essential for the health of our chapter. I have been a poor replacement for a dedicated chair person.

We have an opening for program chair. **Mike Ellis** has done a terrific job but has made it clear he is a stop gap solution until we get an official

program chair. Our surviving spouses and spouses have a great deal of talent, and I am hoping to fill some of these vacancies out of that pool.

Think about what has held you back from volunteering to do more for the chapter. Is a two-year term too daunting to sign up for? Would you commit to a one-year term?



**27 May  
Monday  
Memorial Day at  
Vancouver Barracks**  
We will have a booth  
and free coffee  
Please come by and  
help man our table.  
Details page 11

I will be asking for more volunteers for specific events and I applaud **Lew Meyer** and **Dick Ionata** for stepping up for the JROTC awards nights. Think about coming a few minutes early to a meeting and help us greet any new members or visitors we might have. Volunteer to run the raffle for a meeting. Consider manning the Costco Heroes Night table on

June 22. It's just for a few hours and we need to raise our visibility in the community.

[Continued on page 2]

### Newsletter Highlights

President's Message .....	Page 1
NW Leadership Workshop .....	Page 3
Congressional Contacts .....	Page 8
Legislative Affairs.....	Page 9
Chapter Calendar.....	Page 11

### **President's Message continued**

Our chapter mission statement includes three purposes: social, advocacy, and community involvement. This chapter does pretty well with the first two missions, not so great with the last one. In order to recruit and retain members, we need a community activity to support. Our robust scholarship program is terrific, but it won't cut it for younger members. Something like more service to the Fisher House or supporting the Stand Down being held in September, etc.

I learned a few ways to engage a prospective member. People are busy, and often think "What's in it for me?" We can ask about insurance, on their house, on their car, etc. Well, MOAA membership is insurance for the pay and benefits we have earned, and for the pay and benefits of the currently serving. Anything of value is worth insuring.

Once again, I am asking you to let the board know what programs are of interest to you. If you were not the military member, are you tired of military subject matter? My husband wants the Master Gardener back. Thoughts?

May and June are busy months for our chapter. Please read the calendar and carefully mark the dates and join us as much as you can. See you soon.

Never Stop Serving!

**Evelyn Brady  
President**



Director of MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs **Terri Coles** and our Chapter President **Evelyn Brady** at the **NW Leadership Conference** on **3 May 2019**.



**Pacific Northwest Region MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Leadership Workshop**



**The NW Leadership Conference wasn't all work. May 2019.**





NW Leadership Conference on May 2019.



WASCO Communication Award Winners for 2018. Awards presented at the NW Leadership Conference on 3 May 2019.

## ***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](mailto: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](mailto:clrubadue@comcast.net).



**Dave Casteel** with **LtGen Dana Atkins**, **ADM Doran**, Board Chair and **Peter Troedsson**, on 9 April 2019.



# Now and Always We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com)





**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](http://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.





## CMAC - Community Military Appreciation Committee

1 hr • 

Who needs some Nike gear? Shop their company store in May!

# MILITARY PERSONNEL YOU ARE INVITED.

### ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL:

*active duty, retired, veteran, reserves, and spouses*

**TO SHOP AT THE NIKE COMPANY STORE FROM  
May 1<sup>ST</sup> – May 31<sup>ST</sup>**

*The following are the rules for check-in:*

- *Invitation is Valid for One-Time Entry*
- **Must provide Valid Military ID for entry**
- Each Military Personnel may bring with them:
  - Spouse/Permanent Partner
  - Your own Dependent Children 24 and younger
- Your Spouse/Partner must provide proof of the same address to accompany you into the store
  - Dependent children must be:
    - 22 or younger with the same address
    - 24 or younger with a valid college ID
    - 15 and Older Require some form of ID
- Also, we kindly ask that you refrain from wearing any competitor brands in our store.
- 40% off most merchandise, select merchandise may be available to employees only.
- Returns with receipt will be refunded based on original method of payment within 30 days of purchase. **NO EXCHANGES MAY BE MADE.**



STORE HOURS	ADDRESS	CONTACT	VALID DATES
MON-SAT 10a-8p SUNDAY 10a- 6p	3485 SW KNOWLTON RD BEAVERTON, OR 97005	503.671.1601	5.01.19 – 5.31.19

### Shop at the Adidas Employee Store in Montgomery Park, Portland

Show your Military ID; You and four more can shop all year long!

Address: Montgomery Park:  
2701 NW Vaughn St #209, Portland, OR  
97210

Store Hours Every day of the Week 9AM-9PM

Thanks, Dave Casteel, for this tip!



NEVER STOP  
SERVING



## 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](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)

### Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

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

<b>Washington, DC Office:</b> U.S. House of Representatives 1107 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	<b>Vancouver, WA Office:</b> 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: <a href="https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/">https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/</a>	

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/>

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

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

<b>WASHINGTON, DC</b> 154 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	<b>SW WASHINGTON</b> The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798	<b>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON</b> 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: <a href="https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme">https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme</a>		

## Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 14	District 20
<b>Senator</b>	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
<b>Representative, Position 1</b>	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Chris Corry 786-7810	Richard DeBolt 786-7896
<b>Representative, Position 2</b>	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](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature)



**Federal Legislative Update:****by Buck Marr**

Since publishing the April newsletter, a lot has happened on the Hill and a lot has not happened. Now you are suspecting what you have thought for some time—Buck is losing his mind.

Under the heading of “a lot has happened” we have: The Mueller Report, Congressional subpoenas for scads of people to testify before Congress, subpoenas for reams of documents from the Judicial Department and the Administration, the ongoing legislative challenges of: immigration at the southern border to include the building of a wall; climate change; opioid crisis, U.S. infrastructure repair and I haven’t addressed any of the myriad of foreign policy issues like counterterrorism, arms control and oil embargo’s and the list goes on.

Under the heading “not much has happened” we have “progress on the 2020 Budget.

In April issue, I mentioned the Administration had initiated the 2020 budget process by submitting its proposed budget to the Congress. If you recall, by law, step two is for the Budget Committees to produce a budget resolution which sets budget limits and provides a framework for revenue and spending decisions. I know you are on the edge of your seat waiting for the budget resolution status.

The Senate Budget Committee followed the law and did introduce a budget resolution. Depending on whose opinion you read/believe, the 2020 Senate budget resolution moves in the right direction by requiring any Budget Control Act cap amendment to be fully paid for and by eliminating ‘Changes in Mandatory Programs.’ Nonetheless, their budget is not balanced and would do little to address the autopilot programs driving spending growth and the national debt.

The House took a different approach choosing to skip releasing a budget resolution for FY2020. The House Budget Committee in a vote of 19-17 advanced a bill to increase spending by \$358B over the next two years as an alternative to automatic spending cuts set to take effect next year. Their version would increase domestic spending by 5.7% and defense spending by 2.6%. (Of course, this doesn’t include their Overseas

Contingency Operations funding of \$69B). The total defense budget would be \$733B versus the President’s proposed \$750B. Is skipping the budget resolution a big deal?

Some say the resolutions are mostly symbolic documents providing the parties a chance to publicize their priorities. So, not a big deal? Others see it as an indication the majority party cannot reach an agreement on what their priorities are. So, a big deal? I’ll let you decide. MOAA doesn’t take sides. All I will say is that, in a recent communique the MOAA CEO mentioned the turmoil on the Hill is making it very difficult to accurately track the status of key issues on our legislative radar scope.

Two things appear very clear—the President’s proposal for \$164B in the contingency war fund and another \$9B for the “emergency” project on the southern border aren’t going to pass either the House or the Senate. Secondly, the budget caps are scheduled to remain in place for FY20 and FY21 unless Congress reaches a two-year spending agreement to lift them. Congress has until Jan 15, 2020 to do so before across-the-board sequestration cuts take effect.

Lately, big MOAA newsletters have kept us focused on the priorities addressed by our Council and Chapter leaders who stormed the Hill a few weeks ago including our own **Dave Casteel**. Interestingly, HR 553 introduced in the House by Representative **Joe Wilson** which proposes to repeal the requirement responsible for the “Widows Tax” now has 234 cosponsors. And, on April 30 the Senate released the following:

**Washington, DC April 30 2019** – “U.S. Senator Doug Jones (D-Ala.) today announced that his legislation to end the so-called military “widow’s tax” has surpassed a key threshold of support in the Senate. His bipartisan *Military Widow’s Tax Elimination Act* has earned its 61<sup>st</sup> cosponsor, which surpasses the 60 cosponsors needed to protect the bill from being blocked from a vote on the Senate floor. The bill has also earned support from more than half of the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.”

[Continued on page 10]

**Federal Legislative Update continued**

This is a big deal, my friends. The central issue is how will the Congress pay for the costs of repeal. We should all watch this carefully to ensure that the “costs not be levied against any uniformed services beneficiaries.”

**Foot stomper here:** there is a strong rumor that the services will not get the 3.1% pay raise justified by the Employment Cost Index and included in the President’s proposal.

Here are three other off the radar issues which are noteworthy:

- ♦ -The VA Secretary, **Robert Wilkie**, announced that the new community care standards expanding veterans’ access to private-sector physicians is on track for a June 6 rollout despite a heavy dose of skepticism on the part of the Chairman of the House Veterans Committee.

- ♦ -MOAA is strongly supporting a Congressional initiative encouraging Veteran Affairs to work on improving health care for women veterans. Advocates maintain that as the number of women in the armed forces increases, we must increase the quantity and quality of care available within the VA for women veterans to include focused suicide prevention programs.
- ♦ -A group of elected representatives introduced legislation which would add nine more diseases to a list of conditions presumed to be caused by Agent Orange. This would give veterans who suffer from these diseases a fast-track to VA disability compensation and health care.

I encourage all members of the Columbia River Chapter to carefully follow the status of legislative issues and be ready to advocate for them. It is apparent that the emerging activity surrounding Presidential candidates can and will dominate much of the national attention. We need to watch that our legislative initiatives don’t get pushed into the backwater of the Congressional agenda.

**Buck Marr**  
**Federal Legislative Affairs**



**2019 CHAPTER CALENDAR**

23 May Thursday	<b>Prairie High School JROTC Awards</b> 6:00 pm - <b>Low Meyer</b> will be presenting the MOAA award. Feel free to attend and support the kids!
27 May Monday	<b>Memorial Day Event at Vancouver Barracks</b> We will have a booth and free coffee Please come by and helps man our table. It's a terrific event. We usually set up by 0900, stay until about 1300.
29 May Wednesday	<b>Battle Ground High School JROTC Awards</b> 6:00 pm - <b>Dick Ionata</b> will be presenting the MOAA award. Feel free to attend and support the kids!
29 May Wednesday	<b>Fisher House Anniversary Open House from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.</b> Light refreshments will be served as they celebrate 3 years of serving veterans and their families. On the Vancouver VA campus at 1601 E 4th Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661
9 June Sunday	<b>Save the Date! Social to kick off our summer!</b> From about 1200 to 1500 Details to follow.
22 June Saturday	<b>Costco Heroes Night</b> <b>East Vancouver Costco</b> 19610 SE 1st St, Camas, WA 98607 We will have a table and it is a good opportunity to network and talk about MOAA with veterans, first responders, etc.
7 September Saturday	<b>Save the Date! Social is our fall kick off and scholarship drive!</b> The <b>Casteels</b> have graciously agreed to host it again.

Don't forget to check our [Chapter Website](http://www.moacolumbiariver.org/events-3/) for more events and the latest event details  
See: <http://www.moacolumbiariver.org/events-3/>



NEVER STOP  
SERVING



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

