



# 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)

November 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### President:

Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: & Membership:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

I am writing this message on November 11 and reflecting on all the terrific veterans that I have the pleasure of knowing. It's amazing to me after all the years that pass after our service; we still connect on a level that non-veterans do not really understand. We truly are family.

As some of you may know, on October 17 I was in San Diego playing with grandchildren and fell. I smashed my left knee pretty seriously, and smashed my face. Fortunately, the only things that broke on my face were my

glasses. My left knee required surgical repair that I had done in Longview on October 31. And as these things usually happen, the timing was bad. Jim has been undergoing treatment for melanoma on his face and has had a couple of surgeries so far, with one more to go. So, I am not going to be able to come to the last 2 meetings as the chapter president. I am so grateful to our chapter and board members for their kind thoughts. Our executive board was already stretched very thin, and the few board members still healthy are working very hard. Please thank them all.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to step forward and help our chapter. **Rod Williams** has agreed to be the new President and



will gratefully accept all the help we can give him. We need a 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Chair, Recruitment Chair, plus anybody who just wants to help but not hold office. Let **Dave Casteel** know if you will step forward.

Our Holiday/Scholarship party is Thursday December 5 at Club Green Meadows. It is always a pleasure to meet the scholarship recipients and hear their stories. Please see details on the calendar page 9.

[Continued on page 2]

**5 December  
Thursday  
Holiday/Scholarship  
Party  
Club Green Meadows  
5:00-8:00 pm  
Details page 9  
RSVP NLT 29 Nov**

### Newsletter Highlights

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

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual business meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2020. It will be the last meeting that I will preside over, and I promise to be mobile enough to attend. We will approve some by-law changes and install the new chapter officers. It is at Club Green Meadows and we will have a brunch buffet.

I have learned a lot while serving as the Chapter President. MOAA is an organization that I am proud to represent, and I will continue with the mission of advocacy for service members, active, former, and retired. I believe we have a most excellent chapter and our members are certainly the best of all. We have had lots of fun and accomplished many good things. Thank you so much for this honor.

Never Stop Serving!

**Evelyn Brady  
President**



(L-R) **Dawn Shultz** and Fisher House Manager **Kelly Konikow** presenting **Dave** and MOAA CRC with a fruit basket and Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation. **Dawn** is an assistant manager who has been with Fisher House since its opening.



October 9, 2019. Chapter President **Evelyn Brady** and two other veterans meet with **Senator Patty Murray** to discuss the changes that accompanied the VA Mission Act roll out.



***Scholarship Corner: by Paul Crosby***

It is once again that time of year when I have the pleasure to introduce the Chapter's four 2019-20 school year Clark and WSU-Vancouver scholarship recipients.

You will get to meet all four scholarship recipients on December 5th at our Holiday Social at Club Green Meadows. Here are our four recipients for this school year.

**CLARK COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Marina Bruener	Early Childhood Education	Chriss Scholarship
Roger Speas	Mechatronics	Doty Scholarship
Savannah Jones	Nursing	Fenning Scholarship

**WSU-VANCOUVER SCHOLARSHIP**

Charles Evers	Business	Allan Scholarship
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Each of the four recipients will introduce themselves at the Club Green Meadows. I hope you will be able to attend.



**Charles Evers** (center), WSU-V Scholarship Winner



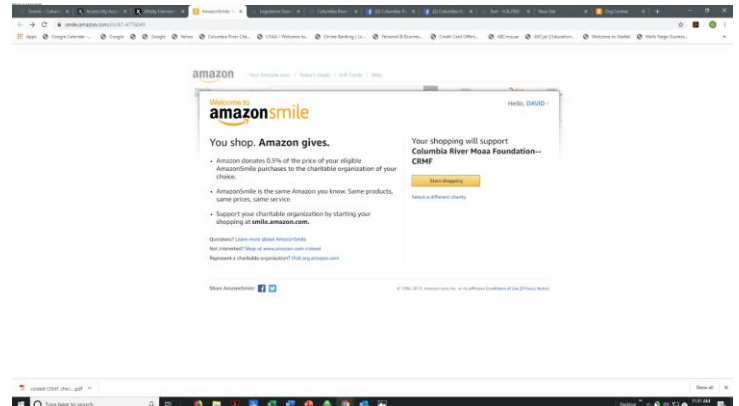
## Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Update: by Dave Casteel

Thank you to the eleven families who shop at Fred Meyer (down one family since the previous quarter) and have designated the Columbia River MOAA Foundation as recipients of your Rewards donation dollars. We just received notice that we earned \$20.67—not enough to meet the \$25.00 quarterly threshold, so the funds will be combined with this quarter's earnings. **If just a few more families participated, we could easily get a check every quarter**—and it all adds up. It's easy to support the foundation this way. All you do is get a Rewards Card at the Customer Service desk and then link it to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (**Fred Meyer fund number AU238**). After that, just tell the checker your phone number (or type it in yourself if) at checkout. Hope to see more of you doing this method.

Also, try **Smile.Amazon.com**! We are now registered with Smile.Amazon.com so when you shop online at Amazon our Foundation receives money! To get started, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4776049>, (our unique charity link), which takes you directly to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) where you are automatically asked if you want to support Columbia River Moaa Foundation--CRMF. **Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4776049>.**

This is simple and painless. For future purchases though, you must use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and **NOT** Amazon prime (same company, same products, you just need to use this web address). I have saved [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) as a favorite on my browser, so I will remember to use it for all my online Amazon purchases,. Hope you will also. Quarterly payouts are \$5.00 or more. I have already generated \$3.56 myself since the last newsletter. Remember, it all adds up.

Sample pages that you will see:



Hello, **DAVID**

You shop. **Amazon gives.**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

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Your shopping will support  
Columbia River Moaa Foundation--CRMF

Start shopping



**Dave Casteel** presenting two \$500 VISA cards on behalf of our chapter and CRMF to Fisher House Manager **Kelly Konikow**.

## 244<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday 10 November 2019:

*submitted by Rich Wersinger*

The **United States Marine Corps Birthday** is celebrated every year on 10 November with a traditional ball and cake-cutting ceremony. On that day in 1775, the Continental Marines were established.

The official birthday of the [United States Marine Corps](#) is on 10 November 1775. That was the day when the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines with the following decree:

That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one Colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates as with other battalions, that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to offices, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve for and during the present war with Great Britain and the Colonies; unless dismissed by Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the First and Second Battalions of Marines.

Tun Tavern, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is regarded as the birthplace of the Corps as the location of the first Marines to enlist under Commandant Samuel Nicholas, though it is disputed if a recruiting drive may have occurred earlier at Nicholas's family tavern, the Conestoga Waggon [*sic*].



When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, the Continental Navy was disestablished, and with it, the Continental Marines. The Corps was re-established on 11 July 1798, when the *act for establishing and organizing a Marine Corps* was signed by President John Adams.



## PERSONAL AFFAIRS—MOAA CHECKLIST

Columbia River Chapter has many new members since a presentation on “Personal Affairs” was last presented at a MOAA meeting. An important part of an individual member’s documents for end of life planning should be an easy to find checklist of essential, urgent actions to be taken by survivors or appointed representatives.

Provided separately in this Newsletter (see page 10, following our Calendar) is the checklist used for several years within our Chapter. The second item on the Checklist is an urgent step that should be done with 24 hours of the death of a member, or surviving spouse, who was receiving retired pay, disability compensation, Survivor Benefit Plan annuity, or other compensation/pay from the U.S. Government. You do not have to wait for a death certificate to make notifications.

If you have questions or need assistance, call our Membership Services Committee Chairman, Terry Babin, at (360) 608-7789



### ***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.

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### ***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).

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### ***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).





## 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**

Last month, I described the federal defense legislative progress as “clucking with no eggs.” The clucking has continued and arguably gotten louder by people on all sides of the aisle given the incredibly impactful impeachment proceedings in the House. While a package of domestic related bills has advanced, the defense relevant fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has remained stalled. The Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Inhofe, described the progress on the NDAA as “inching” forward. This assessment was as a result of a legislative counteroffer by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, **Rep. Adam Smith**. In its seventh week of arbitration without an overall agreement, the good news is that the direction of the progress is “forward.”

At the bottom line the stumbling block is the signature element of the President’s agenda, the border wall with Mexico. **Sen. Inhofe** has built a slimmed down version of the Senate NDAA version just in case the negotiators are unable to reach a compromise. But few believe that the “skinny” NDAA version would gain Democrat support unless the final bill blocks using military construction money to fund the border wall.

Interestingly and relatively unpublicized, a “skinny bill” does not contain a detailed list of authorized military construction projects. This makes a skinny bill undesirable to the Administration who has used construction projects as a funding source for the border wall. A skinny bill would only keep alive military pay and benefits which expire at end of the calendar year. As reported earlier, despite a 94-0 vote in the Senate recommending the repeal of the SBP/DIC offset, the Senate NDAA version does not address a repeal and neither does **Senator Inhofe’s** “skinny” version.

Good news on the compensation front is the announcement that military retirees will receive a 1.6% retired pay increase for calendar year 2020 along with the 3.1% raise for active service members.

Survivors of service members who died on active or inactive duty or survivors of military retirees who

participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan will also see the 1.6% increase.

As always, the central issue in passing another CR is funding the border wall. The bottom line is that we all need to advocate for the passage of the NDAA to halt the stop gap funding. After a year of revitalizing the Services readiness, a yearlong CR would likely wipe out the gains of 2019. The Services buying power would be drastically reduced effectively negating planned modernization. The White House has scaled back its border wall funding request considerably in recognition of the huge impact of full year stop gap funding on military funding.

The remaining months of 2019 will be legislatively “exciting.” There are many, many visible and contentious issues hovering over the Congress. Anyone of them could derail the proper funding of the government and/or passing a defense authorization bill. We continue to hear words from key Congressional representatives that they feel reasonably confident of doing their job to pass required legislation.

As active MOAA members, we have a job to do also. We need to remain aggressively engaged in advocating our positions regarding defense personnel issues. At the end of the day, we live in a democracy where every citizen must insist that elected officials do their job and keep the government running while providing adequately for the collective national security.

**ADDENDUM:**

Since the 12 Nov writing of this article, much has happened in the Federal legislative area. Another CRO bill was passed and signed by the President permitting Government operations until Dec 20. And, during the night of Nov 23, negotiators from both houses passed top line spending figures for all 12 government funding bills. Bill specifics will need to be finalized, passed and signed by Dec 20 or Congress will require yet another continuing resolution. We all need to track the content of each bill, particularly the defense bill, and advocate accordingly.

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

**2019/2020 CHAPTER CALENDAR**

5 December  
Thursday

**Our Holiday/Scholarship Party** will be at Club Green Meadows from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Please join us for this celebration and meet our scholarship recipients. We will have a buffet dinner and a bar available for purchase of adult beverages. The cost will be \$28 per person.

We will have a raffle! Please bring an item for our raffle and we ask you to wrap it or disguise it in some fun way.

**RSVP:** Yes only to **S. Ellis** ( [sdellis1973@gmail.com](mailto:sdellis1973@gmail.com)) 360-910-0357 by November 29



12 December  
Thursday

**Executive board meeting.** 0900 at Bingo Hall. Everyone is welcome

18 January  
2020  
Saturday

**Annual business meeting** at Club Green Meadows at 1030 am. We will have a brunch buffet, then conduct the chapter business including annual reports and installation of new officers. Please mark your calendars now.

**2020**

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/>



**RECOMMENDED STEPS WHEN A RETIRED SERVICE MEMBER DIES**

- ☐ Contact a funeral home to begin making arrangements (See Note # 1).
- ☐ Report the death all government agencies paying retirement and disability benefits (See Note # 2).
- ☐ Gather important documents (will, birth certificate, DD Form 214, insurance policies, etc. (See Note # 3)
- ☐ Call to start applicable claims processing (See Note # 4)
- ☐ Determine immediate and short financial needs and income sources.
- ☐ Arrange for help, if needed, to settle financial and legal matters.
- ☐ Notify joint account agencies (banks and credit unions, brokers, credit card, auto insurance and state registration/titles, home insurance, associations and clubs, etc.).
- ☐ Review your own legal documents for possible revisions or amendments (will, power of attorney, insurance policies, medical directives, etc.)
- ☐ Update dependent's military identification card.

**NOTES**

1. The following services and assistance are usually included by the funeral home:
  - o Notifying the Social Security Administration (SSA)
  - o Arranging for interment in a cemetery (including state and military cemeteries.
  - o Ordering "certified" death certificates.
2. The funeral home does **not** usually notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or U.S. Office of Personnel (Civil Service pay). You need to make sure you do not incur indebtedness by failing to notify these agencies.
  - o **DFAS:** ([www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html), or call 1-800-321-1080).
  - o **VA:** ([www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call 1-800-827-1000).
  - o **U.S. Office of Personnel:** (call 1-888-767-6738)
3. The following are the most common documentation requirements:
  - o Service member's copies of all DD Form 214s. This frequently is a problem when there is a combination of enlisted and officer service, or a combination of Reserve/Regular service.
  - o The inclusive dates and termination of all marriages by both the deceased and spouse.
4. Give priority to notifying life insurers and any financial institutions where you can access funds quickly. Additionally, most veterans' organizations (including your local MOAA Chapter) offer assistance to help you complete applicable government forms:
  - o The death notification to DFAS should automatically initiate action by DFAS to notify a surviving spouse if the deceased retiree elected the Survivor Benefit Plan. If you have questions, call 1-800321-1080.
  - o The death notification to the SSA should automatically initiate SSA action for the \$225 death benefit, and notification to a surviving spouse regarding any changes to monthly Social Security Benefits. If you have questions, call 1-800-SSA-1213.
  - o The VA provides government-furnished headstone/marker and burial in a national cemetery. Also, a surviving spouse may be eligible for pension benefits when a determination is made that the death is service-connected and there is a financial need. If you have questions, call 1-800-827-1000 or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) online.