



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

September 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**

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

Secretary:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

Treasurer:

Larry G. DeVries
612-743-3509

**Immediate Past
President,**

Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

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:

Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Public Health Rep:

Chris Rubadue
425-269-1902

**Surviving Spouse
Liaison:**

Leah Davis
310-491-8891

Legislative Affairs:

Buck Marr
757-636-8686

Membership Services:

Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Public Affairs:

John Donnelly
360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Roster Manager:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

The weather may still feel like summer, but it is pretty much behind us. Kids are back to school. By your reading this, Labor Day is past. For members of the Columbia River Chapter that means plan to attend our traditional September get together barbeque and scholarship fund raiser. My wife, **Pat**, and **I** have the pleasure of hosting the event at our home at 15305 SE Rivercrest Drive, in Vancouver, from 1 to 4 PM. We are hoping for a dry, sunny day but if not we have a large covered patio. You should have received a reminder of this in an email from Secretaries **Jim and Pat Morse** and a letter from CRMF President, **Dave Casteel**. Hopefully you have saved the date and we will see you there. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks to share. Smoked pork loin and chicken will be provided.

In this newsletter you will find information on many of the active programs which led to our chapter again being recognized for excellence as a Five Star Chapter of MOAA. **Pat** and **I** are honored to represent you at the October MOAA National Membership Meeting in Kansas City to receive this award. We should all be proud that our chapter has consistently earned this recognition over the years.

Our legislative advocacy program led by **MG Buck Marr** and **Col Dave**

Casteel fully supports MOAA's national goals and target legislation as we do for state legislation through the Washington State Council of Chapters and Veterans Affairs Action Committee. See **Buck's** article in the legislative section for the latest updates.



The Columbia River MOAA Foundation continues to actively guide our charitable programs. **President Dave Casteel, VP Jon Frederick,** and **Treasurer Frank Hill** have done masterful job assuring our support of the troops and scholarship efforts continue to thrive. Seek them out at the September BBQ for details.

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**Sunday,
September 18th**
Scholarship Fundraiser
& BBQ
Rod & Pat's Home,
Vancouver
See Page 13 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

The membership committee has been very active in 2022. **Chairman Terry Babin** has prepped the second round of our Keeping Connected program of telephone calls to all members. Thanks to all the volunteers who **are** reaching out to connect with members to make sure our roster information is up to date and accurate. This outreach helps us hear from members on issues they may be experiencing and connect them with the help they may need. The feedback we collect direct from members is invaluable. Our membership has grown by six new members this year. Hopefully many of them will be able to join us at the September 18th BBQ and you can meet them.

Another key program supports our surviving spouses. Several spouses have stepped forward to help Leah Davis with this essential program. Did you know, in 2013, MOAA's board of directors voted to change the name "auxiliary member" to "surviving spouse" and declared them full members with all the rights and privileges of membership, including a position on the board of directors. MOAA life membership also transfers to the surviving spouse. If the MOAA member was an annual dues payer, then the surviving spouse would have to continue paying dues to remain a member. In my humble opinion, this is a good reason to consider life membership, just in case your spouse needs MOAA support when you are gone. In our chapter we do not charge membership for surviving spouses and welcome the participation of spouses and surviving spouses in all our programs.

You will also see information about our travel forum in our newsletters. **Terry Babin** and **Dan Sockle** initiated and lead this forum to provide travel updates and discussion of favorites travel destinations. It originated during the COVID lockdown when there were constant changes and many questions about when and how travel would resume. It remains popular and has lively discussions.

Please contact me at rodwill50@hotmail.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns (see contact information for all chapter leaders on the front page of this newsletter.)

Rod Williams
President

Congratulations To The U.S. Air Force:

For 75 years, American Airmen have excelled as they execute the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win — delivering airpower anytime, anywhere in defense of our nation.

Airmen are called to “Innovate, Accelerate and Thrive” as the [U.S. Air Force and Department of the Air Force approach their 75th anniversaries](#) on Sept. 18, 2022. Airmen will always be there to provide America with the airpower it needs to defend the nation, deter or defeat our adversaries, reassure our partners and allies, and help diplomacy proceed from a position of strength.



Federal Legislative Update:**by Buck Marr**

As I write this update, both the House and Senate of the 117th Congress are on recess returning mid-September.

So, what better time for doing a 360-degree review of the MOAA legislative landscape?

Looking back, veteran advocates scored a mega win with the newly signed PACT ACT which adds 23 new presumptive conditions from toxic exposure as eligible for VA health care. There are approximately 3.5M service members who have been exposed to the toxic fumes in various deployed locations including Southeast Asia, Gulf War and post-9/11 eras. As the Beatles sang in 1970, “It has been a long and winding road” to achieving VA health care to fix health problems first detected in about 2004 with the appearance of inexplicable pulmonary complaints by service members.

18 years later on August 10th, the President signed “The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our **P**romise to **A**ddress **C**omprehensive **T**oxics Act” (PACT Act). Coverage is now extended from SWA victims to Vietnam Agent Orange victims to victims of the recent Camp Lejeune toxic water discovery.

14,000 messages from MOAA members flowed to legislators supporting this Act in the last four weeks prior to passage. 60 Veteran Service Organizations joined with MOAA to push this Act through despite last minute legislative gymnastics in the Senate. **Lesson learned:** Never give up. “Never Stop Serving.”

Many times, over the past six months, we were ready to “pop the champagne corks” only to have another hurdle appear. Hard core advocacy work overcame each and every obstacle. So, with that lesson learned in mind we need to keep an eye on the implementation of Act. Getting it signed into law will be a hollow victory without affected veterans actually getting meaningful care.

So, if long term relentless advocacy is the lesson learned from the “Widow’s Tax” and the PACT Act efforts, we must exert the same determination to the The Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344)

This bill was introduced into the Senate in February 2021. As I wrote in the February 2022 newsletter, it permits a veteran with a combat related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay and disability compensation concurrently without reduction. Over 50,000 medically retired veterans are forbidden from receiving their full retirement pay and disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this unfair offset, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability.

Reducing the retirement pay of combat-disabled veterans is just plain wrong. We must double down on previous efforts to encourage Congress to pass the Richard Star Act to eliminate this injustice...and in less than 18 years! And, that is an improvement over the 20+ years it took to get the Widow’s Tax (SBP/DIC Offset) repealed.

We cannot wait that long to correct this inequity. The update from the February newsletter is that the House version of the Act (H.R.1282) has passed 295 cosponsors. That is a magic number qualifying the bill for the House consensus calendar following a motion by its lead sponsor, **Rep Bilirakis** (R-Fla). That motion occurred on August 12. By House rules any bill on the consensus calendar is automatically forwarded to the floor for vote. One bill per week. This bill is the 8th bill on the calendar. While time is short, senior House members can waive budgetary rules and bring H.R. 1282 up for a vote. **Senator Tester** has agreed to push the Senate version, S-344, as an amendment to the Senate’s draft of the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act.

I strongly request each of you contact at least one House and/or Senate member per week until the end of the fiscal year.

Go to Page 5 for Legislative Contacts.

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Federal Legislative Update continued

Legislatively, we are trying to fill an inside straight to get this bill passed and signed this fiscal year given the small number of days remaining in the 117th congressional calendar. However, miracles rarely occur without Herculean effort. Passage of both the PACT Act and the Widow's Tax happened because of efforts from veteran support organizations like MOAA. Let's go for the hat trick with The Richard Star Act. Our disabled veterans deserve the effort.

**Never give up! Never Quit Serving!
And, never stop advocating!**

**Buck Marr
Federal Legislative Affairs**



**Let's Revive Our Monthly Get
Togethers!** by Leah Davis

ATTENTION:

**ALL MOAA COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER
SPOUSES.**

**Co Chairs: Marilyn Casteel, Leah Davis, Marlene
Laurie, Paulette Fryar, Sherry Marr**

MOAA members

**--Please read and share the following with YOUR
Spouse:**

As you may recall, for many years, pre-Covid, the spouses have had their own social get-togethers once a month. Sadly, that ended with Covid. **Liz Cross** had asked **Marlene Laurie** if she could pull together some ladies for her to have lunch with prior to her September 2022 departure to NY. There were 15 ladies that gathered at the Royal Oaks Country Club on the 24th of August 2022. It was obvious that these ladies were anxious to visit with each other. Needless to say, conversations were plentiful.



It has been brought to our attention that maybe we should revive the OWC monthly gatherings. We will be reaching out **SOON** to the **MOAA COLUMBIA RIVER SPOUSES** to get their input. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Looking forward to hearing from everyone.

**Leah Davis
Surviving Spouse Liaison:
310-491-8891
leah@sanfill.com**



Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<https://www.moaa.org/> then Select "Advocacy"

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

<https://jhb.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://jhbr.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 <https://www.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 <https://www.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/write-to-patty/		

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	Peter Abbarno 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

KEEPING CONNECTED—OUR TENTH YEAR

By Terry Babin, Chairman, Membership Services Committee

In the spring of 2013, the Chapter started its *Keeping Connected* with the following goals:



- Maintain contact with the membership on a person-to-person basis with particular focus on members unable to regularly attend Chapter meetings and activities.
- Verify member contact information and receipt of Chapter Newsletters and correspondence.
- Provide an opportunity for members to make suggestions, asks questions related to membership and uniformed military service, and use the Chapter as a resource to obtain assistance on matters pertaining to MOAA membership and benefits/rights earned during service.

The Program has been a great success thanks to the many volunteers throughout the years who have made the phone calls as well as the

Chapter leaders who have responded to the suggestions, requests, and updates.

Circumstances during 2020 through early 2022 affected the frequency of calls from semiannual to annual. We are ready to begin semiannual calls again now that we are almost fully staffed with volunteer callers.

You can expect to receive calls sometime during the first three weeks of September. Chapter callers will identify themselves by name and Columbia River Chapter, MOAA. If you have changed phone numbers or e-mail addresses since November 2021, please contact **Terry Babin** at (360) 608-7789 ASAP.

DO NOT FEAR ANSWERING THE PHONE—WE WILL NOT ASK FOR MONEY during these calls. We will ask how you are doing and ask for your inputs.

If you want to opt out of receiving calls by being on the Do Not Call List, contact **Terry Babin** at (360) 608-7789



WHO ARE WE?

The *Membership Services Committee* of the Columbia River Chapter, MOAA, is unique among almost all MOAA Chapters in the United States. The Committee was established by the Executive Board in 2013 to consolidate functionally similar and complementary committees/activities (common to many successful chapters throughout the country) into an integrated, focused, and less manpower-intensive single point of service to our own membership. Prior to the Pandemic, all the functions listed below were actively performed in whole or, at least, in part. Availability of many of these services are now dependent upon having volunteers to assist the committee in the post-pandemic period. If you are interested in helping in one of the functions listed below, contact **Terry Babin** (360) 608-7789 or tbear06@comcast.net. Most functions can be done from home, no activities require attendance at meetings, and hours per month do not usually exceed 2-4 hours.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: Develop and support activities which encourage active participation and long-term membership in the Chapter.

Responsibilities:

1. Establish and maintain a program for “welcoming” new members and their spouses.
2. Support a system to keep contact with members.
3. Provide casualty assistance services.
4. Coordinate with the Membership and Program Committees with the objectives to:
 - a. Ensure a smooth transition from “recruit” to “member.”
 - b. Provide recommendations on Chapter events, activities, and programs.

Principal Functions:

1. Welcome Aboard Program:
 - a. Assign Sponsors for new members
 - b. Prepare “Welcoming” letters for the Chapter President’s signature
 - c. Host orientations for new members, their Sponsor, and spouse/significant other (e.g., tea, brunch, etc.)
 - d. Establish a pool of “Greeters” for Chapter events
2. Sunshine activities:
 - a. Cards to ill members and spouses
 - b. Assistance in finding transportation to attend Chapter functions.
3. Keeping Connected Program: Support and operate a program for contact with members by phone (or e-mail backup) to:
 - a. Maintain contact with members who are unable to attend Chapter meetings and functions in person.
 - b. Request updates and inputs on contact information, concerns, recommendations on Chapter programs and activities, questions, and suggestions for the Chapter leadership.
 - c. Identify members for whom assistance/help/referrals by the Chapter can make a difference.
4. Personal Affairs:
 - a. Provide information to the membership to help in planning for their survivors.
 - b. Train Service Representatives to make casualty assistance calls and provide assistance to survivors.
 - c. Send condolence card to primary next of kin.
 - d. Furnish casualty assistance services and support.
 - e. Ensure that those survivors eligible for Auxiliary status are assisted in the transition.
5. Inter-committee Coordination: Coordinate with the:
 - a. Membership Committee to ensure a smooth transition to active membership.
 - b. Program Committee to make recommendations on programs for Chapter meetings.
 - c. Public Affairs Committee for providing information for public dissemination.
6. Other Functions: Perform such other responsibilities and functions as may be assigned by the Chapter President and Executive Board in support of the Committee’s mission.

Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Fall Update

by Dave Casteel CRMF President

Summer is almost over (we think) and I wanted to let you know what we are doing with your member donations this year to date.

First of all, we are very appreciative of the 44 members who donated \$4,360 in response to the dues letter mailout in January. We are using your donations as indicated below.

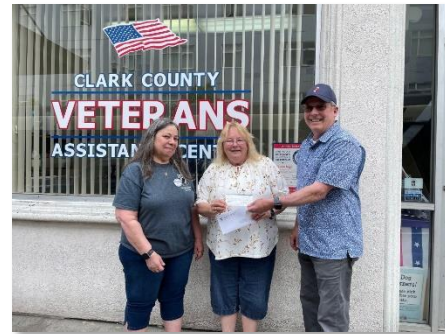
On the scholarship front we have great news. Our Endowment at Clark College paid out more than the cost of our three \$1,000 scholarships for the first time - by \$191. This means we did not have to pay out-of-pocket this year and the excess was rolled back into the scholarship account. Next year's returns might not be as generous. A second note of good news is that we were able to double our first installment payment of \$2,080 (i.e., \$4,160) to the Colonel Paul S. and Ivadell M. Crosby Gift Use Agreement (i.e., endowment) at WSU-V. If we can do the same next year, the GUA will be fully endowed at \$25,000 after which we will start receiving payouts to defray WSU-V scholarships starting in 2024. In addition, we also supported our annual \$1,500 scholarship at WSU-V.

Regarding our Support the Troops fund, your CRC and CRMF board of directors approved \$500.00 in WinCo gift cards for the VA Transplant Lodge (Bldg 18) at the Vancouver VA which were delivered on August 10th 2022 (see photo). **Michelle Swanson**, Program Support Assistant, was thrilled to receive the gifts cards and thanked



us profusely on behalf of the veterans they serve. These gift cards will allow the staff to purchase food for those without transportation, and for those with a car, the gift cards will allow the caregiver to shop.

The boards also approved a \$750.00 donation to the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center which was



also delivered on August 10th 2022 (see photo). **Judy Russel**, Executive Director, and **Lori Pugh**, President, received the donation and

said how very much this was needed, especially with the food they provide to veterans on a daily basis and with their upcoming Stand Down. This is designed to be an annual donation as a Bronze level sponsor. If you go to the www.CCVAC.org website donations page, you will see our MOAA masthead scrolling across the bottom of the page. When you click on it, it takes you to our website. The CCVAC hands out breakfast and lunch bags during the week to individual veterans in need as well as providing food and financial support to those with families. They will have a Stand Down in September with an expected cost of \$30,000!

In addition, your boards approved \$500.00+ to support junior enlisted USCG members and families with the same family friendly (i.e., good only for food - not alcohol or tobacco) WinCo gift cards. We are in the process of determining how best to help support our Coast Guard families.

As I write this, we continue to look for ways to help more veterans and their families in the local area. In pursuit of this, we will again reach out to Vancouver Fisher House and the veteran students attending Clark and WSU-V.

Really looking forward to seeing you at the scholarship fund raising BBQ on September 18th!

Feel free to contact **Dave Casteel** (shilohcamas@comcast.net) or CRMFpresident@comcast.net) or phone (360-834-2448) or (**Frank Hill**) by email (hillhouse2@comcast.net) or phone (360-241-8252) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

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, Space 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 more than 350,000 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, **Jim Morse**, coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution. You can contact him at 360-433-5605 or email him at jlmorse77@gmail.com

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 **Jim Morse**, our Chapter Secretary at 360-433-5605 or jlmorse77@gmail.com.



MOAA Chapter Travel Forum

By Dan Sockle and Terry Babin

July 21, 2022, Update

The Columbia River Chapter has not validated and does not promote or endorse any websites or references provided by Travel Forum members. Websites and references are included in the Forum Notes solely to assist the readers' in researching travel opportunities, and readers should exercise appropriate caution.

The following trip summaries and tips were provided by several Forum participants:

- **Jon Frederic:** Bus tour of the Canadian Rockies.
- **Allan Jeska:**
 - Central Atlantic Coast tour
 - Space A update
- **Lee Golden:** Northern California road trip
- **Roy Korkola:** National Parks
- **Jim Morse:** More on Northern California
- **Terry Babin:** Touring Central Europe and cruising the Eastern Mediterranean

Canadian Rockies:

- Oregon West 6-day and 5-night bus tour:
 - Depart Salem-Portland area by bus with return air transportation from Calgary to Portland.
 - First class lodging and most meals included in the tour package.
- June the best time with some snow on the mountains, but pleasant weather.
- Opportunity to see lots of wildlife.

Central Atlantic States:

- Visiting U.S. Army bases at Ft. Lee (Logistics) and Ft. Eustis (Transportation) and their museums is very interesting.
- Include a visit to the Battlefield of the siege of Petersburg.
- The new Afro-American Museum in Washington, D.C. is highly recommended.
- Poconos (Mountains) of Northeast Pennsylvania also recommended as an area to visit.

Northern California:

- 17-Mile Pebble Beach drive and Big Sur still beautiful sightseeing.
- Lodging:
 - Visitor Quarters at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey a beautiful/comfortable place to stay.
 - Also recommended were the guest quarters at the Defense Language School in Monterey.
- The Taroko Asian Bar & Grill in Grants Pass OR and Redding CA were recommended for having excellent food—specializing in seafood.

Space A:

- Philippines currently closed to Space A.
- Mid-September and later a good time to take advantage of the twice-weekly Charter flights from Travis to Okinawa and the McCord to Ramstein flights.

National Parks:

- Check before you travel since some National Parks were requiring passes/reservations for entry (e.g., Glacier and Yosemite)
- North and northeast gates to Yellowstone remain closed due to road washouts from June 2022 rains.
- You may possibly be able to enter Glacier N.P. without a pass if you use the Sun Highway entry point before 6:00 AM.

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Travel Forum Update continued

Central Europe (Bavarian Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary):

- No COVID test requirements, only proof of being fully vaccinated, for Icelandair flight to Munich via Keflavik and entry from Germany to Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary.
- Italy dropped their requirement for entry COVID testing in mid-June.
- People everywhere were friendly and helpful—obviously happy to have the tourist dollars and euros flowing again—with unusually good service.
- Weather was pleasant in late May and early June 2022.
- COSMOS tour’s bus and hotel accommodations were excellent, but most hotels were away from the central part of the cities although always near public transportation options.
- This tour was designed for people who like to “do their own thing;” however, each stop included about a 2-hour orientation tour at the beginning of the stop/layover which was exceptionally helpful.
- Vienna, Prague, and Budapest all had major renovation projects ongoing in the historical areas which sometimes limited access.
- The cities were to the point of overflowing with tourists, and there were often no vacancies or long waits if no reservation.

12-Day Eastern Mediterranean Cruise on Holland America:

- Venice closed its port to cruise ships because the city could not handle the large influx of tourists.
- Both Celebrity and Holland America cruise lines arranged bus transportation to the new ports of embarkation for passengers who already had reservations to stay in Venice prior to sailing (or after the cruise).
- Holland America only booked 2/3rds capacity as part of their COVID safety protocols.
- A COVID antigen test was required within 72 hours of embarkation.
- Masking was recommended aboard ship—only about 10% did so.
- Masks were required when using public transportation, but usually not required during outside shore excursions.

- Port stops included Greek mainland and islands (including Crete), Croatia, and Turkey (including a 2-day overnight in Istanbul)
- Many of the key tourist sites, like the major mosques, had restoration projects ongoing which limited access.

Other information, tips, and comments:

- Almost no social distancing and masking by tourists and locals during the June 2022 European trip except on public transportation and while in Italy.
- International airports usually offered COVID testing, but reservations advised.
- International health and safety/security issues made it necessary for **Roy Korkola** to delay his Costa Rica and Russian tours.
- There was some discussion on use of cell phones during international travel—hope to explore this further in future Forums.
- VA cards—stating service disability—can entitle you to free parking for up to 14 days in the long term (Red & Blue) lots at Portland International Airport.
- TSA checkpoints at SEATAC are still excruciatingly slow.
- Expect air and rail travel delays and disruptions because bookings have outpaced airline and railway staffing, station/terminal services, and overall capacity
- Allow more time than usual for checking in, clearing security and passport control points, claiming baggage, and unexpected problems to transfer to connecting flights.
- Be prepared to be rerouted or experience missed flights and trains requiring an additional unplanned overnight.
- If you use a CPAP, make sure you have an outlet converter when traveling.
- Many tour companies and cruise lines are offering amenities, paid gratuities, and dining and beverage packages as “inclusive” in the price to rebuild business.

Next Forum Zoom meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 PM.

Be Alert: New Scams Abound,
by Leah Davis

I was recently on the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends](#) website and ran across an article written by the administrator about **NEW SCAMS**. After reading the article, I thought you all might be interested. One of our own recently received a phone call, what she thought was from USAA. Being on high alert, she called USAA and it was a SCAM. This article is a reminder to all of us that we need to be alert and on top of these issues. Be smart and careful, these scammers are **VERY** clever.

“NEW SCAMS” by Kathy Soliozy Prout

There has recently been digital money movement fraud on the rise. A scammer can contact you requesting payment through a Wire Transfer or transfer via Zelle® --these methods allow money to be sent quickly, and the funds are often hard to trace and recover.

You should never wire money or send money using Zelle® to:

- Anyone who claims to be from a government agency
- Any stranger, no matter what reason they give
- A telemarketer trying to sell you something
- Anyone claiming your account is compromised
- Unauthorized, unverified cryptocurrency sites or salespeople

- Anyone asking you to send money to yourself
- Stay vigilant to protect your personal accounts**
- If you get a suspicious call, email, or text, don't disclose any personal information until you verify it's from a legitimate source. If you have any doubt, contact the company directly.
 - Only allow remote access to your computer when you've initiated the contact with a company you know through a verified phone number or website.
 - Always protect your credit and bank cards and account PINS. Be sure it is not easily guessable, do not enter it on a non-branded website that corresponds to your specific account.
 - Set up 2-factor authentication (multiple ways to identify yourself) with the companies you work with to help keep your device and money secure.
 - If you suspect one of your accounts has been compromised, immediately change your user ID and password for your Bank accounts and other important accounts.



LOCATION Vancouver Waterfront 415 W. Sixth St. Vancouver, WA 98660	ABOUT THIS EVENT Please join us in memory of all who lost their lives 21 years ago during the terrorist attacks of 9-11 and honor all our local hero firefighters, police officers, and first responders serving our city today.
DATE AND TIME Sunday September 11, 2022 9:00 AM	
EVENT SPONSORED BY	 

Columbia River Chapter Membership 2022 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
September 11 th	Patriot's Day	CMAC sponsored event at 9 AM at the Vancouver Waterfront, 415 W. Sixth St
September 18 th	Membership Meeting	Scholarship Fundraiser and BBQ 1 to 4 PM, at 15305 SE Rivercrest Dr, Vancouver
October 20 th)	Membership Meeting	Luncheon 11:30 AM at 40&8 Boxcar

CRC Newsletter Schedule
First week of month
February
April
June
September
November
December



LOCATION

Vancouver Waterfront
415 W. Sixth St.
Vancouver, WA 98660

DATE AND TIME

Sunday
September 11, 2022
9:00 AM

EVENT

SPONSORED BY

ABOUT THIS EVENT

Please join us in memory of all who lost their lives 21 years ago during the terrorist attacks of 9-11 and honor all our local hero firefighters, police officers, and first responders serving our city today.

