



# 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)

December 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**President:**

Rod Williams  
503-317-2273

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

Terry Babin  
360-608-7789

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

**Secretary:**

Jim Morse  
360-433-5605

**Treasurer:**

Larry G. DeVries  
612-743-3509

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President,**

Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865

**CRMF president:**

Dave Casteel  
360-834-2448

**Army Rep:**

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360-576-9078

**Marine Rep:**

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**Navy Rep:**

Rich Wersinger  
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**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

Happy Holidays! May you all enjoy a Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Omisoka, or whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year. May the new year, 2023, find you healthy and full of joy.

We are quickly approaching the end of 2022 which has been volatile in many ways. As a country we continue to struggle with: the invasion of Ukraine with ever growing costs in lives, infrastructure, and threat of escalation; a harshly divided partisan Congress and country; a tumultuous mid-term election and the subsequent changes; an economic roller coaster led by soaring inflation, economic inequality, and ballooning federal budget; a lingering pandemic feeding concerns for health care affordability and service delivery; staggering crime and gun violence trends; climate change and strange weather trends; and so much more, ad nauseam. All of that on top of what is happening within our families and relations close to home can be overwhelming...still, we continue to struggle, face forward, and march on each day. MOAA, our Columbia River Chapter, and you *“Never Stop Serving.”*

Without seeming Pollyannish, there were some good parts of 2022 and there are glimmers of brighter days to come.

Contrary to some media talking heads, civil war has not broken out across the country. As our November luncheon speaker, **Roger Rosenbury**, briefed us, Ukraine, NATO, and Europe have



responded to Russia's invasion without escalating to World War III. Whether you see it as result of Democratic leadership or despite its absence, the economy has signs of better days or at least lessening recession worries. Gas prices are going down, more jobs are being created, people are traveling, and some industries are seeing profits. My personal financial advisor keeps reminding me to keep the long view, as the US economy is strong and will rebound. I pray she is right.

[Continued on page 2]

### Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Scholarship  
Social  
3-6 pm  
Old Spaghetti Factory  
Vancouver  
See Page 8 for details

### Newsletter Highlights

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

Our CRC chapter also saw good trends in 2022 coming out of the COVID lockdowns. Our CRMF met our charitable goals for both scholarships and supporting the troops thanks to your continued support. Our legislative advocacy has been solid, but our legislative lead, **Buck Marr**, raises some end of term concerns in his article later in this newsletter. We renewed in person meetings and are hitting pre-pandemic attendance numbers.

Our next membership meeting is our Christmas Scholarship Social on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 6 PM at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 730 SE 160<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, WA. Free will scholarship donations gladly accepted. The cost is \$30 per person at the door. The menu will include three entrée choices listed below. You don't have to decide until you arrive. The three entrée choices are 1) Lasagna, 2) Manager's Favorite Pasta with two sauces (Rich meat sauce and Mizithra cheese), or 3) Chicken Parmigiana. This meal price includes the entrée, salad with choice of dressing, ice cream dessert, and a non-alcoholic beverage (soda or tea only). Other beverages or alcoholic drinks can be ordered through your server and paid for separately.

Please RSVP to **Larry DeVries** at 612.743.3509 or email: [larrydev1@earthlink.net](mailto:larrydev1@earthlink.net) as early as possible. The Old Spaghetti Factory needs to know how many will attend to be able to plan staffing, etc. We won't have a raffle at this meeting in the restaurant, but it will resume at our January meeting.

During our Keeping Connected telephone outreach to chapter members, some said they were no longer getting the MOAA monthly magazine, *Military Officer*. If this is your case, you should check to see if you are current on your MOAA dues. In researching this question, I found the three-tiered MOAA memberships comes with different levels of benefits. Members who were given a free year of membership when they joined may not have upgraded to Premium or Life membership. Others let their annual Premium dues lapse to the Basic level. MOAA policy and our Chapter By Laws require all chapter members to be members of MOAA national. The Basic (free) membership provides some "basic" benefits and access

to the MOAA Web Site but does not include a subscription to the MOAA magazine and other exclusive benefits.

I am looking forward to a very positive 2023 and continued growth of the chapter and hope to see many of you at the December 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

**Rod Williams**  
**President**

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

**QUACK, QUACK, QUACK...WHAT IS THAT NOISE? DUCKS?** Oh Yeah. 535 Ducks have waddled onto Capitol Hill for the LAME-DUCK congressional session attempting to wrap up urgent or unfinished business much of which should have been completed before the end of the fiscal year. Many of the members involved are representatives who did not run for re-election or were defeated. Hence "Lame-Duck." **Quack, Quack.** A lame-duck session generally lives up to its definition; "one that is weak or that falls behind in achievement" particularly when one or both Houses flip flop the leadership" after an election. Historically, there is a reluctance to tackle controversial legislation at the end of a congressional session. In our current politically polarized 117<sup>th</sup> Congress funded by concurrent receipt, there is a lot of important unfinished legislation to consider in the 12 legislative days following the Thanksgiving holiday.

You be the judge. Here are some of the issues which Congressional leaders have said they must address: Dec 16 deadline for government spending, Title 42 border policy, DACA, Debt ceiling. Oh yes, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which is near and dear to veterans and active duty alike. It has been signed into law for 61 consecutive years. That is in jeopardy at the time of printing. The change in leadership in the House has now created a sharply divided view of whether to pass a FY23 funding bill and/or the Defense Authorization Act. Stand by for more fire and brimstone as this article goes to press.

[Continued on page 3]

**Federal Legislative Update continued**

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee failed to include The Richard Star Act (S. 344) in their NDAA proposal despite the bill having been designated for rapid passage because of a large number of cosponsors.

Recall that The Starr Act will fix a dollar for dollar offset of DoD retirement pay and VA disability pay for 50,000+ combat related disabled retirees with less than 20 years' service. It was the lead topic for MOAA's 2022 spring advocacy campaign. Why was S. 344 excluded from the NDAA after the Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee said he would get it into the NDAA? Pretty easy question; the Bill was not included due to cost concerns. That's a hard pill to swallow for the MOAA advocacy warriors given the amount of dollars spent the last two years by the Federal government.

What can I say to encourage all of you who tirelessly advocated to keep up the good fight in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress which starts work 3 January? Bills do not pass from Congress to Congress. If unpassed in the 117<sup>th</sup>, The Star Act must start over in the legislative process in the 118<sup>th</sup>.

Let's also keep in mind that **Major Richard Star** died before his namesake bill passed into law. He passed in February 2021. We owe him.

Finally, let's understand and accept the fact that this Act is extremely expensive. The Congressional Budget Office estimated a cost of \$80B for this Act over 11 years. In order to comply with the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budgetary rule, Congress had to find a source of revenue which would not increase the federal budget deficit. That proved to be impossible. In exceptional cases with at least 60 Senators' support, PAYGO can be waived. With 67 cosponsors, the idea was considered and quickly rejected given the current federal financial environment.

Three former DoD Comptrollers recently wrote that inflation has eroded \$50B in projected DoD buying power. Additionally, operating on a concurrent resolution is costing the DoD about \$6B a month in buying power. \$50B plus \$6B monthly is more than the budget for the combined Army and Air Force National Guard. Needless to say, for cost considerations, The Richard Star Act is finished for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

So, thanks to all who have faithfully advocated for this much needed legislation. And a great big request to keep it up starting in January 2023. Remember that concurrent pay relief for surviving spouses took roughly two decades to get passed. With your continued help, someday we will be successful with **The Star Act.**

**Buck Marr**  
Federal Legislative Affairs





## Legislative Contacts

### MOAA Legislative Action Center

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

**MOAA Capitol toll free hotline 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 Maria Gluesenkamp Perez Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District** <https://gluesenkamppez.house.gov/>

The U.S. Government's Portal: <http://www.usa.gov/>  
U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>  
U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>



|                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Washington, DC Office:<br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>1431 Longworth House<br>Office Building<br>Washington, DC 20515<br>Phone: (202) 225-3536 | Vancouver, WA Office:<br>1053 Officers Row<br>Vancouver, WA 98661<br>Phone: (360) 695-6292 |
| Contact Rep Perez via email: <a href="https://gluesenkamppez.house.gov">https://gluesenkamppez.house.gov</a>                                        |                                                                                            |

**U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell** <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/>

|                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WASHINGTON, DC<br>511 Hart Senate Office Building<br>Washington, DC 20510<br>202-224-3441<br>202-228-0514 - FAX<br>202-224-8273 - TDD                   | SW WASHINGTON<br>The Marshall House<br>1313 Officers Row<br>Vancouver, WA 98661<br>360-696-7838<br>360-696-7844 - FAX | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON<br>915 Second Avenue<br>Suite 3206<br>Seattle, WA 98174.<br>206-220-6400<br>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** <https://www.murray.senate.gov/>

|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WASHINGTON, DC<br>154 Russell Senate Office Building<br>Washington, D.C. 20510<br>Phone: (202) 224-2621<br>Fax: (202) 224-0238              | SW WASHINGTON<br>The Marshall House<br>1323 Officer's Row<br>Vancouver, Washington 98661<br>Phone: (360) 696-7797<br>Fax: (360) 696-7798 | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON<br>2988 Jackson Federal Building<br>915 Second Avenue<br>Seattle, WA 98174<br>Phone: (206) 553-5545<br>Toll Free: (866) 481-9186<br>Fax: (206) 553-0891 |
| Contact Senator Murray via email: <a href="https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/">https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/</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<br>786-7696 | Lynda Wilson<br>786-7632 | Ann Rivers<br>786-7634        | Curtis King<br>786-7626     | John Braun<br>786-7638    |
| <b>Representative,<br/>Position 1</b> | Sharon Wylie<br>786-7924      | Kevin Waters<br>786-7994 | Steph. McClintock<br>786-7850 | Chris Corry<br>786-7810     | Peter Abbarno<br>786-7896 |
| <b>Representative,<br/>Position 2</b> | Monica Stonier<br>786-7872    | Paul Harris<br>786-7976  | Greg Cheney<br>786-7812       | Gina Mosbrucker<br>786-7856 | Ed Orcutt<br>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)

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***Surviving Spouse Liaison*** by Leah Davis

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As I am about to reach the 19th month of my husband's death, I have realized that Grief is never very far away. At any moment, without a reason or a thought, it comes flowing back.

For those of you that have experienced this Grief/Loss, I would like to share an article that I found very helpful.

This article was from the [T\\*A\\*P\\*S](#) Daily Reflection, written by Elizabeth McCracken.

**Remember, GRIEF happens because you have LOVED!**



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

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NOVEMBER 6

*“Grief lasts longer than sympathy, which is one of the tragedies of the grieving.”*

— Elizabeth McCracken

Grief is usually quick to arrive but slow to heal. Even when we are anticipating the loss of a loved one who is ill, when they die the sudden force of our grief can knock us over. From there it lasts as long as it lasts. The most painful phase may take months or years.

When our grief seems slow, we must be patient. At the same time, we often find that actively expressing it gives it momentum.

Most of our friends and family members who are not grieving can't stick with us for the duration of our grief. It takes too long and is too hard to be present to. But if we can find just one or two people who understand the ongoing need for us to share our grief over the long haul, that is enough.

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*I give my grief permission to take as long as it takes. If I ever feel stuck, I will work at expressing my grief in some way, which will help set it in motion again.*

## **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Update**

**by Dave Casteel CRMF President**

I don't know about you, but it's hard for me to believe Thanksgiving 2022 has come and gone and we are already hustling to find the perfect Christmas gifts for our loved ones.

We want to thank two members whose generous donations to the Fall Appeal came in after the last newsletter was published: **Sally Cowles** and **Larry Smith, In Memory of Patti**. Thank You both very much.

Talking about donations, some of you like to make year-end gifts--especially if you are now taking your RMD. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your RMD is a win-win. Not only do you help support our Scholarship and/or Support the Troops work, but as the old cereal commercial used to say, "Try it, you'll like it...hey, Mikey likes it..." You will like it too, because your AGI is reduced by the amount of your QCD. Simply instruct your financial adviser to make out your QCD payable to: **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF)** and mail to same at PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668.

If you follow up with an email to me to advise me how you wish for us to apply the funds, we will know which fund you want to support and to expect your QCD. (Note, undesignated gifts are divided equally between the Scholarship fund and our Support the Troops fund). It can take several weeks for your financial institution to process and mail your QCD, so if you plan a year-end QCD, we urge you not to wait because, to count for 2022, it needs to clear by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Of course, we also gladly accept your donation by check. You can mail it to the same address, or if you attend our Christmas Scholarship social on December 18th, you can donate when you arrive PLUS you will get to meet our great Scholarship recipients!

Speaking of our scholarship recipients. This year, **Christopher Wannamaker** is our recipient of the Colonel **Paul S. and Ivadell M. Crosby** Columbia River MOAA Foundation Scholarship from WSU-V. An Army veteran, **Chris** is majoring in Business Accounting and will graduate in the spring. From

Clark College: **Megan Harris** is receiving the Colonel James Chriss scholarship and is majoring in Psychology and Counseling. She wants to become a mental health therapist. **Tara Naipo** is receiving the Captain Robert Fenning scholarship and majoring in Nursing. Her plans are to obtain a MS in Nursing and teach new nurses.

Unfortunately, our Colonel Daniel Doty scholarship recipient (a US Army veteran with children in college) had to withdraw from Clark and did not receive the scholarship. We are attempting to contact him to offer some of our Support the Troops assistance to him to assist him if we can. On a good note, Clark College believes they have a worthy candidate to award the Doty scholarship to who is both the daughter of a veteran and a veteran herself.

Our Support the Troops fund just donated \$500.00 in WinCo family-friendly gift cards to US Coast Guard junior enlisted families at Swan Island c/o **Paulette Fryar**, 2020-2021 AFI Military Spouse of the Year. Her husband, USCG Captain (select) **Troy Fryar** is a new chapter member who was recently stationed at Swan Island. The cards will be given out to junior enlisted families in need at "Breakfast with Santa" at the Base on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, **Paulette**, for coordinating this.

Hope to see you at our December 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Scholarship social at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

Feel free to contact **Dave Casteel**

([shilohcamas@comcast.net](mailto:shilohcamas@comcast.net)) or

[CRMFpresident@comcast.net](mailto:CRMFpresident@comcast.net)) or phone (360-834-2448) or (**Frank Hill**) by email

([hillhouse2@comcast.net](mailto:hillhouse2@comcast.net)) or phone (360-241-8252) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

*The Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is an IRC 501(c)3 public charity to which donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 47-4776049. As always, we recommend you consult your attorney or tax professional regarding your specific situation.*

### **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](mailto:jlmorse77@gmail.com)

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**

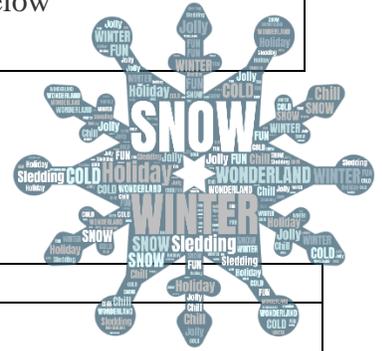
We continue to distribute our newsletter by e-mail. If you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify **Jim Morse**, our Chapter Secretary at 360-433-5605 or [jlmorse77@gmail.com](mailto:jlmorse77@gmail.com).



## Columbia River Chapter Membership 2022 Calendar Events

| Date                  | Event              | Program/Speaker                                                             |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 18<br>Sunday | Membership Meeting | Chapter Holiday Social, Details Below<br>RSVP as early as possible, please. |

**Christmas Scholarship Social** on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 6 PM  
Where: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 730 SE 160<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, WA.  
Free will scholarship donations gladly accepted.



| Cost is \$30 per person at the door                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Menu                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| This meal price includes the entrée, salad with choice of dressing, ice cream dessert, and a non-alcoholic beverage (sodas, milk, teas or coffee, but does <u>not</u> include shakes).<br>Other beverages or alcoholic drinks can be ordered through your server and paid for separately. | Three entrée choices<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lasagna</li> <li>2. Manager's Favorite Pasta with two sauces (Rich meat sauce and Mizithra cheese)</li> <li>3. Chicken Parmigiana</li> </ol> |

Please RSVP to **Larry DeVries** at 612.743.3509 or email: [larrydev1@earthlink.net](mailto:larrydev1@earthlink.net) as early as possible. The Old Spaghetti Factory needs to know how many will attend to be able to plan staffing, etc.

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

