

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 June 2024

President's Message

Wine Tasting Social

Uptown Barrel Room

Vancouver, WA

1500

Please RSVP by 12 June

See Page 11 for details

President:

Roger Rosenberry 360-831-5706

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

Immediate Past President,

Rod Williams 503-317-2273

CRMF president:

Dave Casteel 360-834-2448

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Jon Frederick 360-576-9078

Marine Rep:

Terry Babin 360-608-7789

Navy Rep:

Jack Holland 360-249-6443

Air Force Rep:

Roger Rosenberry 360-831-5706

Public Health Rep:

Roger DeRoos 360-448-9260

Surviving Spouse

Liaison: Leah Davis

310-491-8891

Legislative Affairs:

Membership Services:

Terry Babin

360-608-7789

Public Affairs: John Donnelly

360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Roster Manager: Jim Morse

360-433-5605



I am honored to represent the Columbia River Chapter as your newly elected President. We already have a dedicated and experienced

membership making this job all the

easier. Our Chapter's efforts continue to Saturday, June 15th

support our greater Vancouver area, Washington State and our Nation supporting

Active Duty our Serviceman, Veterans

Spouses.

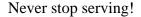
and

Member recruitment Service retention are impacted by the way we treat America's Veterans.

Surviving

And, we are fortunate to have the Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) that brings together dedicated volunteers, support from local businesses and our elected officials. Our community supports those both now serving and recognizes the contributions of Veterans.

Our Chapter will remain closer to CMAC through our now Past President Rod Williams. Thank you, Rod! You remain a valued Chapter Member, my valued colleague and my personal confidant.



Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry

President, Columbia River Chapter of

MOAA

Cell: (360) 831 5706

Website: moaacolumbiariver.org





Newsletter Highlights

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Chapter Photos



Fisher House 8th Anniversary L-R: Frank Hill, James Dorce, Dave & Marilyn Casteel



L-R: Dave Casteel, Grant Yenney, Frank Hill at WSU-V



Memorial Day event 5/27/24, our Chapter's MOAA tent. Left to Right – Steve Fleischmann, Roger Rosenberry, Frank Hill, John Donnelly, and Rod Williams.





Federal Legislative Update: submitted by Dave Casteel

The following article is from the MOAA website

Pay Hike, BAH Boost, TRICARE Updates: What's in the FY 2025 House NDAA (So Far) May 29, 2024

By MOAA Government Relations Staff

From a revamped pay table to improved housing benefits to expanded TRICARE coverage, the House version of the must-pass defense bill addresses even more MOAA priorities after its May 22 markup by the House Armed Services Committee ... but more hurdles must be cleared, and more opportunities remain for your voice to be heard.

The Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 now tops 1,000 pages, with many provisions added via amendment – the committee considered almost 700 amendments during the markup before a 57-1 vote sent the bill through to the floor. The Senate markup will begin June 12, with details on floor amendments and votes, and the House/Senate conference committee process that generally creates the final bill, still to be determined.

"The most important investment we can make is in the foundation of our military: our people," said Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "No servicemember should have to worry about making ends meet, putting food on the table, or having safe housing. The FY25 NDAA will boost compensation, improve housing, expand access to medical care, increase access to child care, and provide support for the spouses of servicemembers."

[REGISTER NOW: MOAA's Legislative Action Center]

MOAA has been on Capitol Hill to <u>urge support</u> and additional funding for recommendations from the committee's Quality of Life Panel – appropriations for quality of life improvements are key to avoid levying unfunded mandates on DoD. We also worked with member offices to ensure other key provisions were contained in the HASC version.

MOAA priorities not included in this still may be added via amendment as the NDAA process moves forward. Here's a look at what's in the legislation, as

well as how you can keep pressure on lawmakers to ensure key improvements remain in the bill, or are added in the coming weeks:

Active Component

Junior Enlisted Pay Increase: On top of the 4.5% annual pay adjustment slated for 2025 (a figure in line with the Employment Cost Index, as per statute), the House bill would provide servicemembers E-1 through E-4 with an additional 15% raise. This would be a vital increase in the challenging recruiting environment.

Funding Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%: The bill would authorize \$1.2 billion intended to fully fund BAH for FY 2025 to address housing challenges. This is not the <u>full repeal of BAH reductions</u> MOAA has supported through the BAH Restoration Act, as it would apply only to the coming fiscal year. This approach is necessary to circumvent Congressional Budget Office scoring mechanisms that would lead to additional offsets in other places.

[TAKE ACTION: <u>Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers</u>]

Pilot Outsourcing BAH Rate Calculations: Given the challenges with BAH accuracy, especially during the pandemic, the House bill calls on DoD to create a pilot program to use machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms to calculate rates. MOAA supports seeking new ways to increase BAH accuracy in light of concerns raised by servicemembers across the nation about BAH being insufficient to cover their expenses.

Reserve Component

Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program (TAP): The bill would require the creation of a reserve component TAP course, an essential change given the unique circumstances faced by these servicemembers. Often, when returning to civilian life, Guard and Reserve troops have a job waiting for them and do not require the full TAP used by active duty servicemembers.

Expansion of Coast Guard Reserve Parental Leave: The House bill would expand parental leave to the Coast Guard Reserve, creating parity with DoD reserve components.

[Continued on page 4]

Federal Legislative Update continued

Health Care

Pregnancy Qualifying Life Event (QLE) Pilot: The bill would direct DoD to expand TRICARE QLEs to include pregnancy as part of a five-year program. Greater flexibility in switching between TRICARE Prime and Select will help ensure access to vital prenatal care. Although active duty servicemembers are not typically eligible for TRICARE Select, an amendment would expand this provision to allow certain members to switch to TRICARE Select during, and up to 180 days after, a pregnancy.

Reserve Component Dental Coverage: The bill would provide TRICARE Dental Program coverage to Guard and Reserve members with zero premiums and cost sharing to support dental readiness, using language from the MOAA-supported <u>Dental Care for Our Troops Act</u>.

[MORE HEALTH CARE RESOURCES: MOAA's TRICARE Guide]

Pilot Program to Prevent Perinatal Mental Health Conditions: The legislation includes text from the MOAA-supported Maintaining our Obligation to Moms Who Serve (MOMS) Act, which would require the DoD secretary to implement a perinatal mental health prevention pilot program for pregnant and postpartum members of the armed forces and covered beneficiaries.

TRICARE Contraception Policy: The committee adopted two amendments related to contraception coverage. One would eliminate TRICARE copays for certain beneficiaries for all Food and Drug Administration -approved contraception for one year to more closely align TRICARE with Affordable Care Act requirements for zero-copay contraception. Another would allow certain servicemembers and their dependents to get a year's supply of contraception at a time.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART): The bill would require TRICARE Prime and Select to cover ART, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), for Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force servicemembers and their dependents. It includes language that specifically excludes ART coverage for retirees and their dependents.

TRICARE Young Adult: MOAA sought inclusion of the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act, which would provide parity for TRICARE families with young adult dependents when compared with private sector. While the House did not include this provision, the bill would require DoD to alert families to this TRICARE coverage gap by notifying young adult dependents and their parents nine, six, and three months before loss of TRICARE coverage, with a final notification on the dependent's 21st birthday.

Families

Flexibilities for Military Spouses Employed by the Federal Government: The legislation includes text from the MOAA-supported <u>READINESS Act</u>, which requires federal agencies to offer military spouse employees remote work, reassignment to a position, authorization to perform a similar position, or leave without pay when facing PCS orders. The markup also includes an extension of non-competitive hiring authorities for military spouses.

Addressing Food Insecurity: The bill would increase the Basic Needs Allowance eligibility threshold from 150% to 200% of an area's federal poverty guidelines based on family size, and would require DoD to implement a program to increase access to food on base at dining facilities, commissaries, exchanges, restaurants, and other locations.

Impact Aid: Local educational agencies supporting military and DoD civilian families would receive \$50 million in general impact aid and another \$20 million in aid for military -connected students with severe disabilities.

Expansion of Child Care In Your Home Pilot: The bill would add four new locations to the in-home child care pilot: Fort Drum, N.Y.; Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.; and Naval Air Station Lemoore and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Child Abuse Prevention and Safety at Military Child Development Centers: The bill would require services to notify parents and/or legal guardians of incidents of abuse within 24 hours and ensure installation commanders establish a process for investigating and addressing incidents of abuse or harm at child development centers.

[Continued on page 5]

Federal Legislative Update continued

Retirees

"180-Day Rule": The bill includes language found in the MOAA-backed Retain Skilled Veterans Act (H.R. 939/S. 334), which will support badly needed DoD talent acquisition for GS-13 and below positions through repeal of the 180-day waiting period for those transitioning out of uniform. Last year's House NDAA also included the provision, which was not supported by the Senate.

[TAKE ACTION: <u>Ask Your Lawmakers to Repeal the</u> '180-Day Rule']

What's Not in the House NDAA?

Despite over two-thirds of Congress' support, the Major Richard Star Act is not in the base text of the House NDAA. MOAA continues its work to urge lawmakers to end the unjust offset faced by combatinjured veterans, who remain unable to receive their DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

MOAA is asking <u>leaders in Congress</u> to include the bill (H.R. 1282/S. 344) in the FY 2025 NDAA though the amendment process and is urging the speaker of the House and the House Rules Committee to waive the necessary rules to allow for this inclusion.

[TAKE ACTION: <u>Urge Your Legislators to Include</u> the Major Richard Star Act in the NDAA]

Join our <u>Legislative Action Center</u> this election year and support legislation for our servicemembers, their families, retirees, and surviving spouses. You can follow updates on this and other MOAA advocacy campaigns at MOAA's Advocacy News page.











Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

https://moaa.guorum.us/issueareas

MOAA Capitol toll free hotline at 1-866-272-6622

White House

Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414

TTY/TTD: 202-456-6213 E-mail: https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Washington's 3rd Congressional District

https://gluesenkampperez.house.gov/

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1431 Longworth House Office

Building Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-3536

Contact Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez via email

https://gluesenkampperez.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/

1053 Officers Row

Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone: (360) 695-6292

Vancouver, WA Office:

| WASHINGTON, DC | SW WASHINGTON | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 511 Hart Senate Office Building | The Marshall House | 915 Second Avenue | |
| Washington, DC 20510 | 1313 Officers Row | Suite 3206 | |
| Phone: (202) 224-3441 | Vancouver, WA 98661 | Seattle, WA 98174. | |
| Fax: (202) 228-0514 | Phone: (360) 696-7838 | Phone: (206) 220-6400 | |
| TDD: (202) 224-8273 | Fax: (360) 696-7844 | Fax: (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 | SW WASHINGTON | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 154 Russell Senate Office Building | The Marshall House | 2988 Jackson Federal Building | | |
| Washington, D.C. 20510 | 1323 Officer's Row | 915 Second Avenue | | |
| Phone: (202) 224-2621 | Vancouver, Washington 98661 | Seattle, WA 98174 | | |
| Fax: (202) 224-0238 | Phone: (360) 696-7797 | Phone: (206) 553-5545 | | |
| | Fax: (360) 696-7798 | 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 | Lynda Wilson | Ann Rivers | Curtis King | John Braun |
| | 786-7696 | 786-7632 | 786-7634 | 786-7626 | 786-7638 |
| Representative, Position 1 | Sharon Wylie | Keven Waters | Steph. McClintock | Chris Corry | Peter Abbamo |
| | 786-7924 | 786-7994 | 786-7850 | 786-7810 | 786-7896 |
| Representative, | Monica Stonier | Paul Harris | Greg Cheney | Gina Mosbrucker | Ed Orcutt |
| Position 2 | 786-7872 | 786-7976 | 786-7812 | 786-7856 | 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

JROTC Awards Ceremonies May 2024:

submitted by John Donnelly



Prairie HS JROTC Awards Ceremony



JROTC Cadet Abigail O'Brien



Battle Ground HS JROTC Awards Ceremony Both Schools had over 50 Cadets in the program.



JROTC Cadet Anthony Zanetti & Lt Col Todd Oller

On Friday evening, 17 May, both Prairie HS and Battle Ground HS had their JROTC Awards Ceremonies. Roger Rosenberry stepped up to present the MOAA JROTC Medal to Prairie HS Cadet TSgt Anthony Zanetti and John Donnelly presented the MOAA Medal to Cadet Lt Col Abigail O'Brien. Cadet Zanetti was an assistant First Sergeant supervising 35 cadets and Cadet O'Brien was the Cadet Corps Commander and a top notch student in the diesel mechanics running start program at Clark College. Both Cadets demonstrated leadership and academic excellence during the past year.

John was also able to meet the Booster Club Treasurer for BG HS to present our Chapter's donation check. She stated that their club now has the ability to deposit checks on line. I am sure our treasurer, Frank Hill, will be glad to hear that.



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER

Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Update by Dave Casteel CRMF President

Spring's last hurrah rainstorm is past and hot and dry weather ahead is forecast. Maybe so weather-wise, but certainly not Foundation-wise. Despite the weather (wet or dry), your Columbia River MOAA Foundation CRMF) is still very active.

On April 29th, **Frank Hill** and I met with the Development and Alumni Relations Director, **Jennifer Miltenberger** and our WSU-V Development Director, **Grant Yenney**. We presented Grant with a check for \$1,575 for our current use fund scholarship. We also presented a check in the amount of \$2,080 to pay off our Colonel **Paul S.** and **Ivadell M. Crosby** Columbia River MOAA Foundation Scholarship Gift Use Agreement (GUA) obligation two years early. This final payment endowed the GUA at approximately \$27,500. Starting in 2025, we expect the endowment to begin making distributions to help defer part of what we owe on our \$1,500 annual scholarship.

Of interest, Jennifer confirmed that the first WSU-V scholarship (named after Col James Allen) was from our MOAA chapter. Jennifer said it was started in 1993 or 1994 in the amount of \$600 when tuition was approximately \$2,000 a year (now tuition is closer to \$11,000 a year).

Afterwards, Frank and I met with **Jaylene Wecks**, WSU-V Veterans Coordinator and educational bill certifying officer. Although not a veteran herself, her father was in the US Army when she was growing up. She is the only paid staff person and relies on workstudy students to assist her drafting forms which she then reviews, edits, and certifies.

On April 22nd, I was able to tour the Clark College Veterans Center of Excellence (VCOE) Open House and chat with former Army veteran, **Megan Anderson**, M.E.d., Resource Program Coordinator/Veterans Planner and **Donna Larsen**, Ed.D, Associate Director of the Veterans Resource Center, as well as their Chapter 31 specialist who helps veterans and certifies them to receive their educational bill benefits. I learned the center is really thriving, but can always use support.

On April 25th, using the PengquinsGive24 website, we were able to make a \$500.00 gift to the VCOE and a \$500.00 gift to our MOAA scholarship endowment. Both gifts were matched making our gift worth \$2,000!

Frank and I also attended the 8th anniversary of Fisher House on May 8th as did **Jack Holland**. I asked the Manager, **James Dorce**, for a tour and was very pleased to see the Fisher House is well maintained. The rooms still looked very nice, but some of the carpets are starting to show wear, so they are planning to replace the carpets in the rooms in the near future with flooring that is durable and easier for walkers and wheelchairs. He also wants to upgrade the central family area with a more current gaming system for children who stay there and also install a retractable awning on the patio area.

On May 17th, Chapter President **Roger Rosenberry** presented the MOAA Leadership medal and certificate to a Prairie High School JROTC senior and a check for \$250.00 to their JROTC booster club. Simultaneously, **John Donnelly** presented the MOAA Leadership medal and certificate to the Batlle Ground High School JROTC Cadet Corps Commander, and a \$250.00 check to the Batlle Ground High School JROTC booster club.

The CRC and CRMF boards have also approved up to \$1,000 for support for the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center. Some or all of this will be donated in the fall to help offset the cost of the Stand Down on September 27th at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

As always, support of scholarships and veterans needs are made possible by the generous support of our chapter members, for which we are <u>very</u> appreciative.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact **Dave Casteel** at 360-834-2448, shilocamas@comcast.net or CRMFpresident@comcast.net, or **Frank Hill** at 360-241-8252, hillhouse2@comcast.net.

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. We encourage you to consult with a tax advisor for complete information about the tax deductibility of your gift.

NEWSLETTER

DON'T GET SCAMMED,

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

On May 24, 2024, I received an email from the our Defense Finance and Accounting Services Department (DFAS) titled "5 Tips to keeping your myPay SAFE". Many of you may have received it also. I thought it might be worthwhile for a repeat.

I'm sure all of us receive SCAM mail everyday...it is becoming a daily habit and all of us need to really pay attention. These scammers are very smart and cleaver in trying to trick us into what can become a nightmare. Hope this is helpful..

Leah Davis, MOAA Columbia River Surviving Spouse Liaison.

"DFAS has learned that unofficial communications have gone out from a non-DFAS source suggesting that myPay's system has been compromised. This is false. While in some cases individual myPay accounts have become vulnerable when the users inadvertently shared their login credentials, we want to assure you that the myPay system itself remains secure. Your online habits go a long way in keeping scammers away from your personal and account information. The bottom line is that what you do and don't do protects you, your family and your financial security.

Here's some things you need to be aware of:

- 1. Always make sure your browser goes to the right URL. Imposters have tried to lure my Pay users to a site that looks very much like myPay, so make sure you are at myPay.dfas.mil.
- 2. Don't use third party financial websites or apps that promise early deposits and ask you to provide myPay login credentials. Giving that information away may result in having some of your myPay settings and information changed without your awareness.
- 3. DFAS will only communicate electronically using official DFAS emails (look for ".mil" at the end of the sender's address). Don't click on links in unexpected or suspicious emails or texts.
- 4. Beware of calls, emails or text messages allegedly from DFAS asking for information, money or containing active links to other online destinations. DFAS does not make unsolicited calls

- regarding debts, payroll mistakes or to ask for information.
- 5. Got a call, email or text you are unsure about? Check with 1-888-332-7411. Our customer service representatives can tell you if the call or information is legitimate. You can also use the online ASK MyPay secure tool to submit your questions or concerns.

For more information about protecting yourself online, visit https://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/Protect-Yourself-Online/

ABOUT LINKS: SmartDocs sends website addresses in plain text due to increased cybersecurity protocols. Your email service provider may automatically convert a website address to a hyperlink for your convenience. Before you click any active link in any email, make sure to read the target address that shows when the mouse pointer is over the link before you click. It is safer to always copy and paste any website address into your browser, rather than clicking on it.

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





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 editor@moaacolumbiariver.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.





Jump to Our Chapter Website

Columbia River Chapter Membership 2024 Calendar Events

| Date | Event | Program/Speaker |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 15 June Saturday | Wine Tasting Social Event | Uptown Barrel Room at 2011 Main St., Vancouver WA. We will taste 5-wines and be served 3-substantial hors d'oeuvres. |
| July / August | Summer break | No member meetings — Enjoy! |
| 15 September | Annual BBQ and Scholarship Fund Drive | We'll be celebrating at our President's residence: River's Edge, 2001 SE 12th Ave. Camas WA. More details to follow |

June 2024 Wine Tasting Social Event

Please join us at 3 PM on Saturday, 15 June 2024 for a unique wine tasting experience at the Uptown Barrel Room at 2011 Main St., Vancouver WA. We will taste 5-wines and be served 3-substantial hors d'oeuvres. This is a *must_RSVP* event; your reservations need to be into our treasurer, Larry DeVries by Thursday, 12 June. Larry can be reached at:

<u>larrydev1@earthlink.net</u> or (by phone or text) at 612.743.3509.

So, let's get together and enjoy an afternoon of good food, wine, and camaraderie on 15 June at the Uptown Barrel Room! As your newly elected Chapter President, I am looking forward to meeting you.

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



