



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 2024

President's Message



I am delighted to summarize our Chapter's recent contributions to our Community, to our less fortunate Veterans and to ourselves.

by Mr. Daniel Sitterly, VA Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, as keynote speaker the "Red, White and Blue Gala".

On 16 July, I was honored to attend the "Red, White and Blue Gala" at the Ilani Native American Reservation Casino, Ridgefield, Washington. The first such CCVAC fund raising event since the Pandemic resulted in a substantial boost in

On the latter point, the passing of one of our CRC member, is a reminder "we are not getting younger". Many thanks to Leah Davis for stepping up quickly with helpful support to their surviving spouse. As your new CRC president, I found myself in unfamiliar territory and was reassured protocols established to assist our own.

Sunday, Sept 15th
Fall Scholarship Fundraising BBQ
Roger's Home
Camas, WA
2 – 5 pm
Please RSVP by 8 Sept
See Page 11 for details

financial support through the \$150 per seat dinner contribution, auction donations (including our CRC wine baskets) and other fund raising Gala activities. Many thanks to Virginia Babin for her organizational skills to include our CRC decorated baskets.

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Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Roster Manager:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

With a large area within the CRC, a community focal point for those less fortunate is the Clark County Veterans Assistant Center (CCVACs) in Vancouver. Having visited the center, a model of cooperation exists between community volunteers, business donors and veterans groups like CRC.

This cooperative community approach to assist veterans fills an important gap between Federal, State and County government support with obvious benefit to veterans less fortunate than ourselves. CCVAC has become a model recognized by the Veterans Administration, as mentioned

President's Message continued

Our CRC table at the Gala included **Virginia, Rod and Patricia Williams**, and my wife, **Annette**, here from Germany.



16 July 2024: "Red, White and Blue Gala" supporting CCVAC donations at Ilana. That's (Pres Roger) my wife Annette, and Virginia Babin (wife of Terry Babin). Both Virginia and Rod Williams made a huge effort from within CRC to make the fund raiser a huge success.

I have received an appreciation letter from **Sharon Tyre**, Chairman CCVAC, for our generous donations which included the auction proceeds from our CRC donated wine baskets as well as individual donations. Thanks to all who donated either wine or cash.

Best regards and hope all are enjoying the very warm Summer weather. Hope to see all at my house in Camas for the annual CRC barbecue on September 15th.

Never stop serving!

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry
President, Columbia River Chapter of MOAA
Cell: (360) 831 5706
Website: moacolumbiariver.org



Federal Legislative Update:
by Bob McFarlin

As the summer draws to a close so does this session of congress. Congress will be in session September 9-27. If we are to have an impact on legislation in the short term we need to act now.

The latest MOAA magazine and on-line newsletter provide pre-addressed letters for you to send to your congressional representatives. Be sure to put our chapter number, WA 01, on the letters. Letters provided ask for action to pass the Richard Star Act, Restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing, and resolving the difference between the House version of the Defense Authorization Act and the Senate version so that our junior enlisted members can receive the appropriate pay raise.

Even if you don't get your letters in before September 27, send them anyway. Let them know you still care about these issues. They will be back in session after the election.

Here is some newly received information. MOAA national says we have 103 chapter members. Of those only 34 of us have registered to be advocates and in total since the beginning of the year we have sent only 126 letters to our legislators. We should be able to do better than that.

To **keep on serving** go to the MOAA website and sign up to be an advocate then take the next step and contact your elected representatives frequently. Here is **Caitlin Harrington** from **Sen Murray's** office whom we visited on August 19.



19 Aug 2024 L-R Dave Casteel, Caitlin Harrington, Bob McFarlin visit Sen. Murray's Vancouver Office.



Washington State Legislative Affairs ***by Dave Casteel***

While all the media focus is on the national elections, we need to remember that a great many (if not most) of the laws passed that affect us are passed at the state level.

There are so many bills introduced at the state and federal level that it is almost impossible to keep up. At the federal level, we have MOAA to advise us of pertinent veteran-related bills and issues. At the state level, we have the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) advising us (of which MOAA has a representative). The VLC meets monthly starting in August planning for the next legislative session which in 2025 begins on Monday, January 13, 2025 and is expected to last 105 days, ending on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Once the legislature is in session, the VLC meets weekly reviewing and testifying on veterans-related bills. Last session there were 12 veteran-related bills signed by the Governor which was noteworthy during the nonbudget 60-day short session!

The VLC hosts an informal welcome standup “luncheon” in the Columbia Room in the State Capitol Building at the beginning of each legislative session. It is a chance for VLC members to briefly meet and chat with Legislators and their legislative assistants. I plan to attend this session again.

So, how does a person keep of track of all these bills? Bills tend to be a very fast-moving target and difficult to for us to share widely and quickly. However, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), publishes a weekly list of all veteran-related bills during session by subscribing at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADVA/subscribe/new>. If this doesn't work, you can contact the WDVA Legislative coordinator at WDVA directly at heidia@dva.wa.gov. Once you subscribe you should receive weekly updates. You can also visit <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> for more detailed bill information by bill number and importantly, comment on a bill.

In each chapter newsletter we publish all the federal and state legislative contact names and addresses for your convenience. We will update it again after the general election in November.



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www.moaainsurance.com/plans

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Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<https://moaa.quorum.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://gluesenkamperez.house.gov/>

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1431 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536	Vancouver, WA Office: 1053 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292
Contact Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez via email https://gluesenkamperez.house.gov/contact	



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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 Phone: (202) 224-3441 Fax: (202) 228-0514 TDD: (202) 224-8273	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7838 Fax: (360) 696-7844	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 915 Second Avenue Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174. Phone: (206) 220-6400 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 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	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Keven Waters 786-7994	Steph. McClintock 786-7850	Chris Corry 786-7810	Peter Abbamo 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Greg Cheney 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

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

Hope your summer was enjoyable, but boy, it sure went by fast!

Foundation activity was quiet but is picking up quickly in September. It started with **Frank Hill** and I visiting the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center on Sep 3 donating \$1,000 towards the annual veterans Stand Down. The Stand Down will be held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Sep 27 where we will also be volunteering as greeters.



3 Sep. Dave Casteel (l) & Frank Hill at CCVAC donating check.

Next, we have the annual Scholarship Fundraising BBQ at **Roger Rosenberry's** home on September 15, and really hope you can attend, but understand many of you are still traveling (we were last year at this time). We will certainly miss seeing you if you can't attend.

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation to the Scholarship fund (or the Support the Troops Fund (STT) if you prefer) you can mail a check to: Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF), PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668. As many of you have already done, we also accept Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your Required Minimum Distribution mailed to the same address. Donating via QCD is a win-win. You have to take a RMD anyway, and if all or part of it is a QCD, the amount you donate via QCD reduces your Adjusted Gross Income dollar for dollar! The good news is you do not have to itemize

to reduce your AGI this way. If you want to donate via a QCD, we recommend you do not wait until December as some financial firms take several weeks (especially at year's end) to send out a check (which needs to be received and cashed by the charity NLT Dec 31 to count for same year tax reduction).

If you would like to donate appreciated stock held long term, we also have a no-fee (to the CRMF) Vanguard brokerage account. This can also be a win-win. First, you potentially eliminate the capital gains tax you would incur if you sold the assets yourself and donated the proceeds, which may increase the amount available for our charity by up to 20%. Second, if you itemize, you may claim a fair market value charitable deduction for the tax year in which the gift is made. Please contact me if you are interested in this option so I can give you all the required information your financial advisor will need. My phone and e-mail are on the front page of the newsletter.

A really easy way to support the CRMF scholarship and STT funds is to connect your Fred Rewards card to the CRMF. That way, each time you shop and enter your phone number, a portion of your payment will be sent to the CRMF for which we receive a quarterly check. We thank the 12 families in the chapter who now do this for an on-going stream of donations.

Thank you for your great support of the CRMF. It is because of your support that we are able to support active duty and veterans. Please know, we are always looking for ways to help active-duty families and individual veterans.

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.

Preparing For Survivorship, ***by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison***

Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure of working with several of our widows who recently lost their spouse, helping them walk through the crazy maze of paperwork and processes.

It only reminds me how very important it is in your planning for the inevitable event. As you know it is important to cross every "T" and dot every "I". Even when you think you are totally prepared there will be times when "you don't know, what you don't know". It is very important to try and get as much information you possibly can.

A week or so ago, as a Surviving Spouse Liaison for our Chapter, I was invited to participate in a National MOAA Webinar, led by **Paul Frost**, Program Director, Transition Center, that focused on "Preparing a Spouse or Family Member for Survivorship".

This is the reason I am sharing the below webinar link with you. There could be one small item that might be of help in preparing your spouse for your passing.

- **To open:**
- Click on the link below and when it opens,
- **click on NOT REGISTERED.**
- Fill out the information that pops up and then **click Register.**
- This will take you to the site.

I hope you enjoy this Webinar that is chuck full of important information.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4228158/7C7154E2AA5E00655E2F01BDB6615C7D?mode=login>

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

Veteran Suicide Prevention

MOAA will offer a Virtual (Zoom) Suicide Prevention Presentation on October 23rd 2024.

Presenter: **Garret Biss, CPRC, MRED, USMC (Ret.)**, is a retired Marine Corps Pilot. Biss leverages his personal and professional experience as a presenter, certified recovery coach, and as a founder of a recovery residence. His mission is to empower others towards their best recovery through curriculum development, online programs, and recovery mindset coaching.



Register here: [Veteran Mental Health, Addiction, Suicide](#) (MOAA)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArdO6prTguH933aHeGJ0uaz6DULbDpXiXH>

You may preview what will be presented, Garret Biss gave a similar talk for NAADAC (National Association of Addiction Professionals).

You can watch it here - <https://www.naadac.org/veterans-addiction-and-recovery-webinar>

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 September Sunday	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 below.
17 October Thursday	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor Location: Cascade Culinary Academy
21 November Thursday	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Jack Holland- Past Aircraft Entertainment
8 December Sunday	Christmas Party	Speaker: Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret), MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs Location: Spaghetti Factory, Vancouver, WA

Annual Columbia River Chapter Fall Scholarship Fundraising BBQ

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, September 15, 2024

2001 SE 12th Avenue

Camas, Washington 98607

Meat entrees provided by chapter.

Please bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert to share for 12.

Non-alcoholic beverages and some adult beverages will be provided.

Your free will donation gladly accepted at the door

(Please make checks payable to:

Columbia River MOAA Foundation—CRMF)

Unable to attend? We will miss you!

If so, please mail donation to CRMF, PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668

or make a no-fee credit card payment by scanning QR code above

RSVP by **8** September to Larry at 612-743-3509 or larrydev1@earthlink.net



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

