



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 2025

President's Message

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310-491-8891

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360-991-8458

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360-721-3792

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Chaplain:

Roster Manager:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605



Our Chapter soon returns to our active calendar starting with the annual BBQ and Scholarship Fund Raiser. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday the 14th of September at our Camas home.

My extended stay in Europe has been facilitated by our superb Chapter Executive Board Members working to get all necessary things done. We held Virtual (Zoom) Executive Board ad hoc meetings transatlantic with a nine-hour time zone difference. Modern technology works!

This was my first long stay at our alternate residency in Germany since assuming the Chapter presidency. Reflecting on nearly 30 years of living and working in Europe, the differences now seem more pronounced. My observation is a new normal is ever more apparent between Europe and America. In the last 80 years Europe has transitioned from post-WW2 (beginning 1945) and post-Cold War (beginning in 1989) and now to a new approach to transatlantic defense.



Sunday, September 14th

Annual CRC BBQ & Fund
Raiser

Roger Rosenberry's Home
2pm to 5

Please RSVP by 8 September!
See Page 10 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

Our Chapter takes a very central role in honoring and supporting all US veterans. I am reminded by the WW2 cemeteries nearby our home where soldiers and airmen are buried. The contrasts in war cemeteries are stark. On one end of the city deep in the forest are 2718 Wehrmacht soldiers of which 297 graves reflect "unidentified". At the other end of the city are graves of 7672 Allied soldiers and airmen of the Commonwealth who served under British command. Today I walked both sites more cognizant of the attention still paid by WW2 Allied nations verses Germany. The Bundeswehr (today's modern German army) has restrictions on honoring fallen German WW2 soldiers but is establishing appropriate recognition of post-WW2 fallen soldiers.

With this as backdrop, I contemplated that NATO Nations remain committed to mutual defense (including NATO Article 5) but no longer looking preferably to US manufactured defense equipment and munitions. Future new weapons will likely be much more Eurocentric.

Both NATO and the European Union (EU) are now actively pursuing shared production of armaments (aircraft, equipment, drones and munitions) within Europe. For example, Canada and Portugal are planning contract terminations of U.S. built F-35s in favor of French Mirage or Swedish Gripen fighter aircraft. Concerns have been expressed for the long-term assured logistical support of US built military equipment.

This shift is largely due to the current US policy regarding Ukraine. Europeans overwhelming view the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 as a threat to themselves, hence, a proactive response. Historically neutral Sweden and Finland only joined NATO because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. From my perspective, European defense cooperation has never been greater.

As a personal illustration, Kiev is a mere 650 air miles from Kleve (our German residence) and receives daily air attacks (missiles and drones) with civilian loss of life. Ukraine is now domestically producing a third of their own defense equipment and supplies assisted by European investments. These infrastructure costs are being paid by European Union (EU) nations. And

are now credited as part of their respective "national defense budget" as part the agreement at the NATO Summit the week I arrived in Europe. No doubt related, the Dutch rail from Schipol (Amsterdam) Airport was sabotaged the day I arrived simultaneously with the nearby NATO Summit attended by 32 NATO leaders and Ukraine. European nations have dealt with similar internal acts of espionage believed to be related to their support of Ukraine.

In summary, there appears to no longer be a shared transatlantic view of threat. Hence, this difference is generating the view among Europeans they might have to "go it alone" outside of NATO. This for me is a stark new reality affecting cooperative defense. MOAA in its infancy took a pre-WW2 view that establishing a rapid growth of defense industry was critically necessary. Europe is now realizing the same approach is required. Hopefully, there is no need for a repeated history of another devastating war in Europe.

I may have overextended my President's message for this newsletter with apologies. Transitioning back to Washington State has caused a deeper look into today's "sea state change" in our transatlantic relationship. Again, looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

With best regards!

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry



President's Message continued

Regarding the following photos, I wanted to compare the stark conditions of difference between war cemeteries in my city (large town) of Kleve, Germany, on the Rhine River at Dutch Border.

Here is a better way to show differences:

Kleve Cemetery for WW2 Allied (Commonwealth) Soldiers (2 pics)



Kleve Cemetery for WW2 German Soldiers (2 pics)



FYI: No US forces fought immediately in this area and those airmen who died here are buried at a US war cemetery in The Netherlands (in Margraten). US Military are not buried ever in Germany but rather "liberated" countries (France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, etc. ...).



Federal **Legislative** **Update:**
Submitted by Rich Wersinger

MOAA.org Current Advocacy Campaigns

Featured Campaigns:

- [Pass the Major Richard Star Act](#)
- [Improve TRICARE Access for Families](#)
- [Support Military Spouse Employment](#)

MOAA's Advocacy By Issue Area

- [Currently Serving](#)
- [DoD Health Care](#)
- [Families & Survivors](#)
- [Retirees & Veterans](#)
- [VA Health Care](#)

MOAA-Supported Legislation

MOAA's experts in Washington are constantly reviewing and assessing legislation that may impact the earned pay, benefits, and support programs of the uniformed services and veteran communities. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center

MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) is a powerful online tool that helps servicemembers, veterans, and their families engage directly with Congress on key issues. Through the platform, users can easily identify and contact their legislators, support MOAA-backed bills, and send messages advocating for military pay, benefits, health care, and much more.

Your Action is Vital:

As our own MajGEN Buck Marr, USAF (Ret) has said, "I strongly suggest each CRC member continue to visit MOAA's legislative action center and send in proposed letters on various important subjects to our elected WA legislators."



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://gluesenkamppez.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://gluesenkamppez.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 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	Paul Harris 786-7632	Adrian Cortes 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	Gloria Mendoza 786-7810	Peter Abbarno 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	David Stuebe 786-7976	John Ley 786-7812	Deb Manjarrez 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

Attention Surviving Spouse:

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

leah@sanfill.com

The **MOAA National Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter** invites, not only the **Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons**, but **ALL Surviving Spouses** in our Columbia River Chapter to join them in their monthly Zoom meetings.

[Surviving Spouse Corner: Join Our Virtual Chapter](#)

I personally encourage you to join. It has helped me in many ways not only being a Surviving Spouse but also working as your Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison. This group is comprised of Surviving Spouses from across the U.S, as well as professional guest speakers. This site is packed full of valuable information.

Attached after our Calendar of Events on pages 11-12 below is the membership application you will need to fill out and send to them either via email or by snail mail. If you have any questions, please contact me, **Leah Davis** at: leah@sanfill.com or cell 310-491-8891.

You may also download a membership application [at this link](#). It can also be obtained by sending a request to mssvc02@gmail.com.

Read the [Latest Surviving Spouse Corner Entries](#).

BENEFITS ARE:

1. There are no dues associated with their MOAA Virtual Chapter.
2. The time commitment is one hour per month.
3. You attend meetings from the comfort of your home, no travel involved.
4. Every month there is a plethora of valuable information and continuous updates on Surviving Spouse issues.
5. You will be in a network of National Leaders who have expertise in being a Surviving Spouse.
6. Your information is confidential; they will not sell or distribute their mailing lists.
7. We call this your "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!"

NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

Leah Davis
Surviving Spouse Liaison
310-491-8891



Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Fall 2025 Update by Dave Casteel CRMF President

Wow, Fall is already here (OK, not officially until the autumnal equinox on September 22) and we're turning more of our attention to scholarships for veterans at Clark College and WSU-V. Clark recipients have already been notified of their selection and we will learn of, and meet, our WSU-V recipient at the end of October.

Leah and team have already reserved our location for our Christmas holiday scholarship meet and greet social in December where you will get to meet them and learn their story and their educational goals.

As you may remember, we are now giving three \$1,250 scholarships at Clark College and one \$2,000 scholarship at WSU-V each year.

Backing up a bit, this summer we gave Fisher House Manager, **James Dorce**, a VISA gift card in the amount of \$500 to replace one of the barbecue grills we donated several years ago. (This is in addition to the \$500 we gave Fisher House at the Open House Anniversary in May).



1 Aug 2025 Frank and Dave presented a \$500 VISA gift card to Fisher House Manager, James Dorce, for a replacement BBQ grill, and for parts to repair another grill

This summer, **Frank Hill** has been busy cleaning up and refinishing the wood slats on the park benches that we donated nine years ago when they first opened. The benches are located just outside the front entrance to Fisher House and are the first items new guests see. Guests use these benches when waiting for transportation, or just to relax.



*Before and after photos and **Frank** and **James Dorce** enjoying newly refinished bench.*

CRMF Fall 2025 Update continued

I will miss seeing all of you at the September scholarship fund-raising barbecue this month as **Roger** and I will be “swapping” countries (that means more fresh caught salmon for you). **Frank** will be there and happy to accept your **generous free will donation**. I mailed my donation to **Frank** before I left and you can do so as well. Please mail your donation to: **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF), PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668** if you are not able to attend the BBQ. As an alternative, you can use MOAA’s “Cheddar Up” website (“Cheddar” comes from the U.K. where it means “money”).

NEW and Online. How to Donate to the Foundation

Simply enter <https://columbia-river-chapter-moaa.cheddarup.com/> in your browser window and it will take you directly to our Columbia River chapter donation portal. Or scan the QR below!

What could be easier?



This is a new MOAA-approved online payment option for 2025 and no transaction fees are charged to either the donor or the Chapter.



See you in October. No, we are not planning on attending the Oktoberfest (been there, done that, but will enjoy time in Munich with relatives).

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.



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 2025-2026 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
14 September Sunday	Annual CRC BBQ	Roger Rosenberry's Home 2pm to 5pm
16 October Thursday	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Skipper Neal Smith , Sea Scouts Pacific Council Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy
20 November Thursday	Membership Meeting	Speaker: David Stuebe , WA State 17 th District Representative Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy
December 7 th Sunday	Holiday Party	Old Spaghetti Factory 3pm to 6pm



YOU ARE INVITED TO

THE MOAA COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER Fall BBQ & Scholarship Fundraiser

The venue is our CRC President's home, 2001 SE12th Ave in Camas. This is our chapter's major fundraiser for our Clark College and WSU-V scholarship programs in support of veterans or their immediate family members. This "potluck" event extends from 1400 to 1700 hours and will include food and drinks. Our host and Chapter President, Roger Rosenberry, will provide a main course dish (hopefully, fresh-caught salmon!) and you are requested to please bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert.

Admission is free; however, free-will donations will be gladly accepted at the door.

Please get your RSVP into Jim Morse (360.433.5605) or jlmorse77@gmail.com by **8 September**

We would encourage you to attend this event if at all possible; but, if you cannot attend, please consider a donation to the CRMF Scholarship Fund and/or the Support the Troops Fund. Mail your check to: the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF), PO Box 1872, Vancouver WA 98668, indicating your preference(s). Checks should be made payable to: Columbia River MOAA Foundation--CRMF. Or, you may use our new online donation link: <https://columbia-river-chapter-moaa.cheddarup.com> This is a new MOAA-approved option for 2025 and no transaction fees are charged to either the donor or the Chapter.

Please get your RSVP to Jim by 8 September!

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





Dear Surviving Spouse:

Thank you for your interest in the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. We are very excited about this venture and look forward to having you join! Our purpose is to provide:

- A national forum for surviving spouses of uniformed services officers
- A common space to communicate with each other
- A arena to share information about concerns pertinent to each of us and our families
- A platform to advocate for the protection of rights for our members and our dependents

Additionally, we want to be a reliable source for surviving spouses who live in remote areas, who are housebound, who have jobs and children, or who might be unable to participate at the chapter level.

MOAA's Board of Directors chartered its second virtual chapter for Surviving Spouses March 5, 2018. It is an "affinity group," with members who can share information in a virtual environment with colleagues seeking to work together as we each adjust to a new life. We want to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally, because as members of national MOAA and its local chapters and councils, we "never stop serving."

Some of the topics we will address include information on where to go, who to talk to, how to take the first steps, and what to do next.

- If your spouse served in Vietnam, he/she may have been exposed to Agent Orange, PACT Act
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and your benefits
- Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSI)
- Rules on remarriage
- TRICARE, dental and vision care

We would like to invite you to join us in this exciting venture. We meet monthly via Zoom, and one of our goals is to have all 50 states represented. We all have busy lives, and we ask only that you participate to the degree you can. For additional information or to join the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, contact us at mssvc02@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your participation in our virtual chapter. Attached is a membership application.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Pat Green
President

Gail Joyce
Vice President

Roy Yenchsky
Membership

Viviane Wersel
Newsletter

Cheryl Toland
Treasurer



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
MOAA SURVIVING SPOUSE VIRTUAL CHAPTER**

Yes! I would like to be part of this exciting venture! Please accept my application below. I understand I must certify I am a member of National MOAA.

NAME (LAST, FIRST & MIDDLE): _____

MOAA#: _____ **IF NOT A MOAA MEMBER, JOIN ONLINE AT [MOAA.ORG/JOIN](https://moaa.org/join)**

(if you are a spouse serving as a Surviving Spouse Liaison, please provide your spouse's MOAA#)

WHEN DID YOU BECOME A SURVIVING SPOUSE? _____ **DOB (day&mon):** _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (if applicable): _____ **RANK (if applicable):** _____

SPOUSE'S SERVICE: ARMY _____ NAVY _____ COAST GUARD _____ SPACE FORCE _____

AIR FORCE _____ USMC _____ NOAA _____ PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ **BEST PHONE #** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

I HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, I AM COMFORTABLE WORKING ON FACEBOOK: __ YES __ NO

Please check below which category applies to you:

_____ **(a)** a surviving spouse of a uniformed services member (CWO and above)

_____ **(b)** the spouse of a uniformed services member of MOAA and currently serving as a surviving spouse liaison.

_____ **(c)** a uniformed service member currently serving as a surviving spouse liaison.

I agree to allow my contact information to be shared with members of this Virtual Chapter

Please initial: _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

a. Complete this form on your computer, save it, and then email it as an attachment to mssvc02@gmail.com

or

b. Print out the form, fill it in by hand, and mail to: Roy Yenchsky, Membership Chair, 5112 S 247 St W, Goddard, KS 67052

Revised 02/2025