



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

December 2025

President's Message



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360-831-5706

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360-608-7789

2nd Vice-President: & Programs

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360-433-5605

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Larry G. DeVries

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503-317-2273

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Navy Rep:

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360-831-5706

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Surviving Spouse

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Leah Davis
310-491-8891

Legislative Affairs:

Bob McFarlin
360-991-8458

Membership Services:

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John Donnelly
360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Roster Manager:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

Greeting's to our chapter members in the midst of a busy family and community events. Families come together and indulge in great food and companionship. And as always, our thanks giving for our many blessings and remembrance of the less fortunate.

Before my deeper involvement in CRC, I helped deliver Thanksgiving meals to remoter locations in Clark and Skamania counties. This year, I was offered a home meal delivery myself but declined. Instead, our stateside family came to Camas.

After a week in Trauma Center, nearly 2 months in a Rehabilitation Center, and now a few weeks in Home Care, this year focused on a new blessing: living at home! Zoom brought the German based family members into our virtual gathering.

Thanksgiving Day, like Independence Day, are great American unique holidays. Both days often were NATO work days and/or German school days and the celebration typically moved to the following Saturday. Luckily, I could always purchase a Butterball Turkey (and trimmings) at a nearby U.S.

Army Commissary, although cooking a challenge given the typical size of European ovens. The most practical method preparing a large Turkey became barbecuing on a covered Weber Grill in the backyard regardless of weather.

When **Annette** reported her first American foreign exchange student at her German high school (called a Gymnasium), we took the initiative to deliver the U. S.

produce to the student's adapted European family. Over the years, "**Operation Butterball**" expanded to families in nearby schools across three borders (Germany, Holland and Belgium) where American kids had opportunity to share the unique U.S. tradition.

Sunday, December 7th

Holiday Scholarship Social

Old Spaghetti Factory

730 SE 160th Avenue

Vancouver

3:00 PM

See Page 13 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

AAFES become a sponsor. **Annette** created a recipe checklist to follow in the 4 languages with special care taken to convert temperatures and oven measurements before Turkeys ordered. **Annette** also described the American Thanksgiving story in 4 languages.

At peak, we assisted 13 families before "Operation Butterball" terminated (I lost Commissary privileges with NATO retirement). Good memories of the effort to bring a little Americana into the lives of American kids and their temporary European families.

We met some great American kids over the years often struggling with their first holiday away from home. And, we also had a French high student live with us while attending the German school where **Annette** taught. Our son, **Nikolai (Nick)**, went to Brittany (on French Atlantic Coast) and adapted to the French traditions.



Bringing the topic back to our own community, an important reminder of how much our chapter does locally to assist Veterans and their families. Another successful "Stand-down" at the East Vancouver Army Reserve Center, the Veterans Day Parade at Fort Vancouver, assistance to support centers (like Fisher House) helping out-of-town families of Veterans while getting care at our regional VA hospital, and youth groups like Junior ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Scouts, and Sea Cadets. And our Christmas Party recognizes the outstanding scholarship recipients pursuing higher education. Throughout this range of community activities, our chapter shares a close relationship with the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC). Noteworthy is our financial assistance to the critically necessary relocation to a much-needed larger facility supporting local Veterans. And special recognition to **MGen (Retired) Buck Marr** who took a central role in making the relocation possible.

My physical contribution remains zero with my mobility still limited to a wheelchair and crutches while internal skeletal areas continue healing following extensive surgery. I remain optimistic that

physical therapy brings me closer to walking and driving in the New Year. Once again, I am reminded our organization self-sustains because of your diligent and dedicated voluntary efforts. None-the-less, the chapter needs both a larger orientation to include leadership focused on continued sustainment. This is not a unique CRC problem but rather recognized at MOAA's national level. While in recovery, I have participated in several Zoom meetings to discuss and share information. One initiative, likely to improve our recruitment, is that National is re-releasing membership information in the local area (our capture area) including the information on members who might have previously not wanted to share information locally.

Thanks to all for continuing to keep our charter on-target to our mission! Enjoy the season, family and friends while continuing to look forward to chapter events in the New Year!

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry



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



As the Holiday Season approaches it brings memories of those that we have lost. May those memories wrap you in comfort, joy, love and peace during this time of year.

Hugs to you! **Leah**

Memories are a special house
We build inside ourselves
Where love and laughter linger,
Where all our past life dwells.
On the holidays we can draw upon the store,
Reliving happy times
And feeling all that warmth once more.
Wherever we may travel,
This house is always there
To help to blend the old and new,
To build on . . . grow . . . and share.
This house can never get too full,
Just grow from floor to floor,
Because the joy of memories
Is always making more.

Memories- Author Unknown



NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

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



Quilts of Valor:

Submitted by Rich Wersinger

During our CRC September 14th BBQ and fund raiser **Lori Coffin** (left in photo below) of the Fort Vancouver Quilts of Valor presented a Quilt of Valor to **Amber Rosenberry** on behalf of her Dad, our Chapter President **Roger Rosenberry**. **Roger** at the time was hospitalized after a serious accident.



The evening of our BBQ Amber presented Quilt of Valor to him. See photo below. Here's what he shared with us in our September 2025 Newsletter, "My daughter, **Amber**, delivered the "Quilt of Valor" the evening of the BBQ. And it's been with me constantly since then. A tear in my eye. This beautifully handmade quilt is not for a caregiver but rather intended for those needing care. I never intended to be that person. Murphy's Law. I am humbled! Conversations are sparked constantly and a chance to tell our story."



Lori is a volunteer with the Fort Vancouver Quilts of Valor that is one of many local groups across our nation associated with Quilts of Valor Foundation. See: qovf.org/



The Mission of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

What is a Quilt of Valor?

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

Lori Coffin's presentation September 14, 2025



Welcome to our ceremony. We are here to honor **Roger Rosenberry** for his service to our country.

Roger served with honor, performed his duties, and helped to ensure the freedom we have today.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a grassroots group of quilters from all across the US. In 2003, a quilter named **Catherine Roberts** had the idea of comforting veterans with quilts during the time her own son was deployed in Iraq. She described her situation then as being '10 seconds away from a panic attack 24 hours a day.

Quilts of Valor continued

One night she dreamed of a soldier on the edge of a bunk, wrapped in a quilt and her mission was clear - to thank, comfort, and welcome home the service members and veterans who have so honorably served our country by wrapping them in beautiful handmade quilts...we like to say we are giving you a quiltly hug.

Since 2003 over 422,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded here in the United States, and in Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

These quilts bring a three-part message from our hearts: honor, freedom, and comfort.

First, we HONOR you for your service to our country in the Military Services. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear to stand in harm's way in times of crisis, protecting us from the effects of war.

Next, we know that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. The cost for our freedom is the dedication of lives of men and women like you, and this quilt is meant to say "Thank you" for your sacrifice.

And finally, this quilt is meant to offer COMFORT to you, and to remind you that although your family and friends cannot be with you at all times, you are forever in all of our thoughts and our hearts.

The founder of Quilts of Valor describes these quilts as the civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart. The quilts are awarded, not just handed out. The Quilt of Valor says, "thank you" for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.



This is NOT a charity quilt. It is NOT a blanket.



A quilt has three layers, held together by stitches. Think of the layers in this way:

- The top of the quilt with its multitude of colors, shapes, and fabrics represents our many individuals and communities.
- The batting, the filler, is the center of the quilt, its warmth. It represents the hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, and peace to the individual who receives it.
- The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the strength of the recipients, the support of their families, our communities, and our nation.
- Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude, and sometimes the tears of the maker.



Dec. 4, 2025:

Roger at home comforted by his Quilt of Valor.

Quilts of Valor continued

Quilt of Valor Poem

A few pieces of cloth
From people who care,
To honor your service
It only seems fair.
Carefully chosen materials
Of red, white and blue,
Sewn together for those Patriotic and true.
A top pieced together With caring and pride,
Then quilted with backing A warm layer inside.
Every stitch and seam
From the very start,
With appreciation and gratitude
Straight from the heart.
For you who have sacrificed
For those here at home,
May this quilt warm and comfort you
Wherever you roam.
Our hope with this quilt is to make sure you knew,
We appreciate all you've done
And all you've been through.
Mary Welch, QOVF

As of today, the story of these quilts is also YOUR story. We hope you will keep them as tangible reminders that there are many millions of women and men across this land who are forever in your debt, and that it was our pleasure to honor you with this Quilt of Valor.

Thank you, again, for your service to our country,
and thank you for participating in our ceremony

With permission of **Lori Coffin**.

You may contact **Lori** at 360-601-9023 or email at fabloricoffin@Gmail.com

You Can Nominate a Service Member or Living Veteran

Awarding a Service Member or Living Veteran a Quilt of Valor® Foundation is a shared responsibility of the nominator and our QOVF Volunteers. To nominate a service member or a living veteran visit this page. govf.org/nominations-awards



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

Can't believe it is already December! Christmas decorations and the trees are already going up. Before we know it, we will be ringing in 2026!

The end of the year also brings the end of the 2025 tax season. If you haven't taken all of your RMD, do it soon so you don't get hit with a penalty from our friends at the IRS. One great way to do this is by designating a 501(c)3 charity (like the CRMF) as a recipient of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Doing this not only benefits the charity, but also reduces your AGI dollar for dollar on the front side of your IRS form 1040 by the amount of your QCD*. Don't delay, some financial firms take up to three weeks to process and deliver your request. Simply make the QCD payable to: Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) and mail it to same at our PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668. It's that easy! If you have specific instructions how you want it applied, please contact Frank and/or me (see front page of newsletter for contact information) and we will make it happen. What could be easier?

In November, we supported the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center with a \$500 check. President **Judy Russel** gave four of us (**Toby, Jim, Frank and me**) a tour of their very impressive new 10,000+ sq ft facility at 907 Harney St in Vancouver (across the street from the FISH food pantry). With the new facility (over double the size of their old location), comes new needs and expenses. Of course, they always need volunteers (parking is now easy and free)!



(L-R Toby, Jim, Judy, Dave, VP Sonja Wood & Frank)

By the time you read this, you will have met some of our scholarship recipients if you attended the

December 7th dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory (OSF). Recipients from WSU-V: daughter of a veteran, **Maddie Clarke**, and from Clark College: veteran **Demi Wirewire. Mason Gibson**, while still a full-time Clark student, has moved out of the state and is not able to attend due to being on reserve military orders.

In other recent activity, Frank, Jim and I delivered a \$500 VISA gift card to the VA transplant Lodge (Bldg 18) to be used helping to provide meals to transplant or oncology veterans and their care givers over the holiday. We toured the building and were impressed with all the nice upgrades including new hospital beds in all the rooms as well as a full-size refrigerator in each room. The Lodge also has three spacious and well equipped common-use kitchens (one pictured is the dining area in front of the fireplace). We learned that auxiliaries from other veterans groups keep the kitchens stocked with water bottles and other kitchen incidentals including snacks.



(L-R: Jim, Tiffany, Dave, Frank. Photo by Lodge staff member Clint)

If we don't see you at the OSF, cherish Christmas with your loved ones and have a happy and safe New Year's Eve celebration. Most of all, we wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year in 2026!



*Some restrictions apply. Please consult your tax advisor for your specific situation.

Again, what we are able to do for our local veterans is because of YOU and your great support! Thank You.

Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) 10th Anniversary Thank You

by Dave Casteel CRMF President

The end of 2025 marks ten full years since we formed the 501(c)3 Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF). We formed it to better support veteran-related needs in our greater community—and the good news is that we have succeeded!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the CRMF has been able to donate nearly \$59,000 to Clark College and WSU-V for current use scholarships and endowment growth during this period. This means nearly 40 college students received MOAA scholarships from our Foundation.

We were the first organization to fund a scholarship at WSU-V in the 1980s. Back then, the \$600 scholarship went a lot farther when tuition was approximately \$2,000 per year (30% of a year's tuition)! Our scholarships increased to \$1,500 where it remained for many years. This year, we increased it to \$2,000. However, as you can imagine, tuition went up more quickly. It is now approximately \$10,300 per year. This means our scholarship now covers only about 19% of the tuition. With your support, it is our goal to increase the scholarship amount. To reach 30% of tuition costs, it would need to be raised to about \$3,100.

It's a different story at Clark College where we recently raised scholarships from \$1,000 to \$1,250. Current tuition for non veterans (i.e., children or spouses of veterans) is approximately \$3,500 a year (36% of tuition), and for veterans not receiving government agency tuition funds it is approximately \$2,650 a year (47% of tuition).

In addition, through our Support The Troops (STT) fund we have donated over \$30,000 to support numerous veteran-related needs in our greater community. The needs are still great and on-going, and we continue to search for ways to increase assistance to veterans in need.

Funds combined, your generosity has enabled our foundation to donate over \$89,000 to these needs and the year is not over. By year's end we will easily exceed \$90,000.

With your continued generosity, we look forward to busting through the \$100,000 mark before the end of 2026.

Thanks again. YOU do make (and have made) a big difference!

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.



***Donate Online to the Columbia River
MOAA Foundation (CRMF) by Dave Casteel
CRMF President***

**NEW and Online. Method 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.

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
December 7 th Sunday	Holiday Scholarship Social	Old Spaghetti Factory 3pm to 6pm
January 15 th 2026 Thursday	Chapter Luncheon	Speaker: Derek Jaeger , Port of Camas/Washougal, Director of Business Development and real Estate Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am
February 19 th Thursday	Chapter Luncheon	Program: Homeless in Vancouver Speaker: Jamie Spinelli , Homeless Response Manager, City of Vancouver Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am
March 19 th Thursday	MOAA-CRC & CRMF Luncheon	Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am
April 16 th	Chapter Luncheon	Speakers: Maj General Buck Marr and Sherry Marr Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE MOAA COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER
HOLIDAY
SCHOLARSHIP SOCIAL



December 7th, 2025 @3pm

WHERE:

THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY RESTAURANT
730 SE 160th Avenue
Vancouver, WA. 98683



PROGRAM:

David Casteel, CRMF President,

"Scholarship awards to Clark College & WSU-V recipients"

Please contact Jim Morse, Co-Secretary, by phone or text at 360.433.5605 or by email at jlmorse77@gmail.com. All RSVPs were needed by 2 Dec 2025.

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

