



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

5-Star Excellence Chapter



ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

February 2026

President's Message

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Welcome to the New Year! Having just submitted the 2025 MOAA Awards for our chapter, I want to share the success of our support to

the MOAA mission. Both at the local and national level, your volunteerism and financial donations are aiding veterans,

servicemembers and families. Attached is a colleague of photos I shared with our 2025 CRC Excellence Award submission to Washington DC.

While I remained stealth since September, the chapter continued seamless operations. The annual Barbeque and Fundraiser, Veterans' Standdown, Veterans' Day Parade and Luncheons stayed on schedule. This chapter has demonstrated both redundancy and versatility.

As we look to the New Year, our strengths are obvious, but we still face the challenges of recruiting new membership and future leadership. National has established an improved database for chapters to include MOAA membership information not previously shared with chapters. We are starting the analysis to determine if

we find new contacts in Southwest Washington. And, with younger new members necessary for the future, we may somewhat shift in direction. Younger people focus on Social Media in ways our traditional concepts have not explored. Our [CRC Website](#) is one example of change with appreciation for those keeping this site current.

Another consideration is our monthly luncheon schedule. Currently the Culinary

Academy often has two separate groups on the 3rd Thursday of each month. A move to Wednesday would allow our chapter to have more space, faster service and less noise. Our quality of food and service is excellent and keeping this venue is probably in the best interests of CRC. Some

schedule flexibility would be helpful as we look ahead. As the Academy is a public education facility, we must consistently reflect a good example of representatives of past and current military officers.

[Continued on page 2]

Thursday, February 19th

Membership Meeting
Cascadia Tech Center
Culinary Academy
12200 NE 28th Street
Vancouver, WA
11:30 AM
RSVP NLT 12 Feb
See Page 12 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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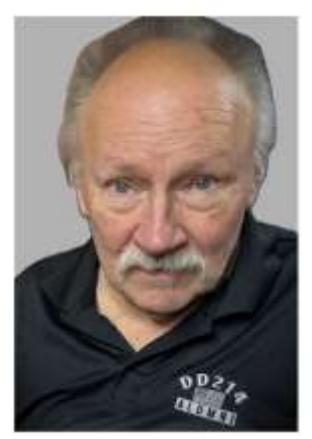
President's Message continued

We also need in 2026 to look to new leadership in key chapter roles. In 2025, I coined the motto, "If we all do a little, nobody has to do too much". We have a great core of active members doing things constantly in support of local and national MOAA objectives. Sharing that knowledge and experience will facilitate our successful future continuation.

Also, please consider an active role in sharing our concerns with elected representatives. We have more than 350,000 members across the nation and MOAA is a highly respected as lobbying organization for veterans, surviving spouses, servicemembers, and families. We can expand our part by actively using the MOAA Website. For 2025, our chapter was rated 3rd within Washington State for the number of letter submissions. The Website is convenient and gives all of us an opportunity to be advocates.

I am personally excited about leaving my stealth role by taking my first steps since summer. This milestone brings me towards mobility and attending our CRC events. Please take care as I look forward to seeing you soon.

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry



CRC MOAA 2025 in Photos



CRC MOAA 2025 in Photos



CRC MOAA 2025 in Photos



Federal Legislative Advocacy:
Submitted by Roger Rosenberry

I am pleased to share a personal perspective on an important membership role we share in legislative affairs. Whatever our individual role as previous uniformed officers of our armed forces, we share a bond to each other. We share the bond, first and foremost, to those we served side-by-side but, in reality, that bond is universal.

I am, as many chapter members, a product of the Cold War. I have vivid memories of the Cuban Missile Crises as an eleven-year-old. I watched the Vietnam War unfold on nightly television during high school. I attended high school in Portland during the time American had a draft. Eleven fellow students died in honorable service between 1963 and 1973.

A fellow AFROTC friend was lost just four days into his tour as an F-111A pilot. Listed as MIA, his body was officially identified in 2002. I was honored to stand with his wife and daughter when a "star" was placed next to his name as an MIA on the Vietnam War Memorial in Portland.

Shortly after returning from Southeast Asia, another close friend and my aircraft commander died in a tragic peacetime flying accident. Other friends lost friends training to wartime scenarios and a friend lost during the First Gulf War over Iraq.

Similar memories of friends lost are vivid for many of us. It's only when the theme of Hollywood movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers" that a reality became clear:

We honor our lost friend while helping everybody else who served our country. A common sense of support to our brothers-in-arms. And that is what MOAA has demonstrated since 1929.

Formed initially as The Retired Officers Association (TROA) as a fraternal organization in nature but shifted quickly as a second world war loomed. The need to have central representation in Washington DC brought the headquarters there in 1944 representing 2400 members. Many members of TROA were recalled to service in World War Two.

In 2003, the name changed to MOAA with recognition of the US armed forces as a "Total Force" of retired, active duty and reserve officers. Currently,

with over 350,000 members, MOAA is paramount in carrying the issues to our legislators among other veterans' support organizations (VSOs).



Within our community, our chapter represents MOAA's national mission. Our outreach is significant to assist veterans. Lacking active-duty installations in Southwest Washington, direct support to servicemembers and their families is less pronounced; however, through the Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) our voice is heard. And **Dave Casteel** serves as member-at-large for Veterans organizations with meetings in Olympia.

Returning to the national level, our chapter is fortunate to have **Buck Marr**, MGen, USAF, Retired, who for many years has been as our recognized expert in all things legislative. In recent years, MOAA has had success in Washington DC supporting veterans exposed by toxic chemicals since "9/11". **Dave** has provided a article in this newsletter where you can link to better understand current issues in the Washington State Legislature.

With this as background, I am asking your support in 2026 to actively use the MOAA Website on current legislative initiatives with letters to our Senators and Congresswoman. The process is simple and effective. In 2026, our chapter will be evaluated for our use of legislative contacts.

I encourage all members to use the MOAA Website and take an active role to support veterans, servicemembers, and families.

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry

Washington State Legislative Update: By Dave Casteel

Below are the veteran-related bills that have been introduced into this 60-day short session of the biennium that affect WA State veterans.

Members can click on the underlined bill number below to learn about details in the bills then can go to the legislative page of the newsletter to contact their district Representatives or Senator to comment. **Note Major Richard Star (RSA) emphasis below.**

- Disability, adjusting threshold for property tax exemption: [* EHB 1106, CH 200 \(2025\)](#)
- Employer incentives, b & o and public utility tax credits for employing veterans and active-duty spouses: [HB 1016](#)
- Lifetime disabled veteran pass, benefits: [* ESSB 5390, CH 323 \(2025\) PV](#)
- **Major Richard Star Act**, petitioning for: [HJM 4012](#)
- Medical foster homes, exempting from adult family homes rules: [SB 5200, * ESSB 5200, CH 108 \(2025\)](#)
- Property tax, local, deducted from state tax for certain services: [HB 1397](#)
- Tuition and fees waiver eligibility for veteran surviving child or spouse: [SB 5954](#)
- Veteran employability training and career advancement for reentry program, establishing for justice involved veterans: [HB 1161, SHB 1161](#)
- Veteran preference and "qualifying discharge" definition: [SB 5827, SSB 5827](#)

- Veterans affairs advisory committee, modifying membership: [HB 1541, 2ESHB 1541, SB 5338, SSB 5338](#)

- Veterans benefits, requiring provision of information and modifying veteran service officer program: [HB 1102, SHB 1102, * E2SHB 1102, CH 294 \(2025\)](#)

The report shows all versions of each bill. Bolded bills with **asterisks** have passed the Legislature.



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Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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/>



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/>

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>

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 Abbaro 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

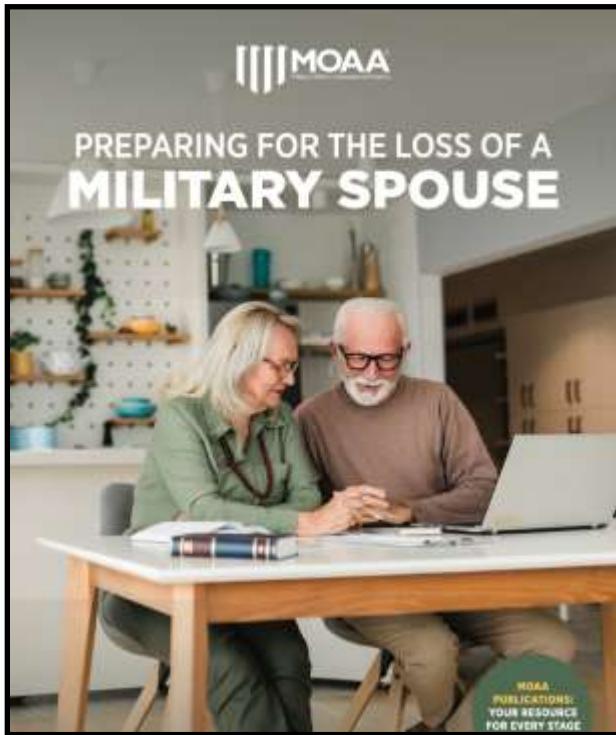
Attention Surviving Spouse:

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Our National MOAA Organization publishes a comprehensive brochure titled, "[Preparing for the loss of a MILITARY SPOUSE.](#)"

It contains very important information regarding Resources for Survivor Benefits, Getting Your Affairs in Order, as well as What to know about VA Disability Claims and more.

Preparation is essential not only for the surviving spouse, but also for the military officer who loses a spouse and must understand how to prepare beneficiaries in the event of their own passing.



NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

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

A Communicating Member

Have you logged in to MOAA.org in the last year?

Each of us as a member should communicate with MOAA National at least once per year.

Your action keeps your membership "fresh" with MOAA National and you are then noted as an active member.

We can't log in for you to <https://www.moaa.org/>. As the chapter membership committee we do not know your MOAA password.

If you have not yet shared your email address with MOAA, please call the MOAA Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622 and a representative will be happy to add it to your customer record.

Keep your Membership fresh!

Membership Committee

**Larry G. DeVries
Membership Circle
Columbia River Chapter, MOAA
(mobile/text) 612-743-3509
East Vancouver, WA**





MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members
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AFFORDABLE TRAVEL — Every MOAA Signature Group is a negotiated special which is not available to the general public — only MOAA members and their guests can attend. You can, however, bring as many friends and family members with you as you like.

EASIER, SAFER TRAVEL — Vacations are meant to be an escape. It is your time to relax and unwind, explore, and discover. So, let us take care of the details. This is valuable time that doesn't have to be spent worrying about how you're going to get there or, what you're going to do when you get there.

INCREASE THE FUN FACTOR — Being surrounded by like-minded people offers you the chance to share experiences and make new memories together. Group travel can give you the chance to meet people and make new friends. You'll meet individuals who are also passionate about travel and have experiences that are similar to your own. With shared military backgrounds and values, camaraderie forms naturally and often leads to lasting friendships.

2026 & 2027 SIGNATURE GROUPS

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

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Attention! Salute!
Submitted by Marge van Nus

In 1968, my husband, Ltc. **Fred van Nus**, was stationed at the U.S. Army Medical Research Lab, Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He phoned my cousin, **David**, a new recruit in basic training, to invite him to dinner at our house on post.

In **David's** words, "I was sent to the Company Orderly Room for a phone call. The Captain of the Company barked at me to stand at attention (and salute) while I was speaking (on the phone) with a superior officer."

[Editor's Note: I'd love to receive more stories like Marge's! Bring 'em on!]

Have I Got a Story to Tell You!
Submitted by Rich Wersinger

Do you remember what factors moved you to join the service? My Dad, an Army WWII South Pacific vet, encouraged me to join the Navy and be an officer.

I loved hearing about some of my Dad's World War II experiences and watching the 1950s TV series "Victory at Sea." with him. He hoped to see if the series might depict where he served as an Army Corporal Tech in the South Pacific.

Although I still remember some of his stories, sadly he is gone now. No more chances to capture any more of his stories first hand.

America wants to hear my story and yours, too. Stories like Marge's above and more!

Don't let your memories slip away. I feel all our stories are important to our country, traditions and values. We must do our best to pass them on.

The **Veterans History Project** (VHP) at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.

Please seriously consider visiting [**Veterans History Project**](#) and learn how to participate.

Perhaps we can join forces and help each other!? There's even a form for that!

Annual Chapter Dues; Donate Online
by Larry G. DeVries

NEW in 2025 and Continuing in 2026 Online. Method to Pay Chapter Dues and 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 the MOAA-approved online payment option using a credit or debit card for payments continuing for 2026. **NO** transaction fees are charged to either the donor or the Chapter.



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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.

To Join our Chapter: Visit our [How to Join page](#).
Download our [Application Form](#).

To learn about joining MOAA (National);
Visit [Why Join MOAA](#)



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 2026 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
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 18 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Chapter - Luncheon	Program: Speaker CRC & CRMF Yearly Reports to Membership Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am
April 15 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Chapter Luncheon	Speakers: MG Buck Marr and Sherry Marr , topic: "Reflections from Buck and Sherry Marr – A Fast 32 Years!" Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am
May 20 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Chapter Luncheon	Program: Regional Advancement Manager for the Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) "Settling of Refugees into Communities in US"

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Columbia River Chapter/MOAA Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: February 19, 2026 @1130

WHERE: Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy

12200 NE 28th Street, Vancouver, WA. 98682

PROGRAM: Homeless in Vancouver

Speaker: **Jamie Spinelli**. Homeless Response Manager, City of Vancouver

The Culinary Academy will provide us with a complete lunch including a main course, a salad, warm bread, dessert, tea, and coffee. The cost continues to be \$25 per person, all inclusive.

Please contact Jim Morse, Co-Secretary, by phone or text at 360.433.5605 or by email at jlmorse77@gmail.com. All RSVPs are needed by 12 Feb 2026.



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



You may fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Abraham Lincoln