



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 2026

President's Message

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Susie Clairmont

Roster Manager:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273



Our Chapter has been busy. First, members of our Chapter attended "Our Community Salutes" to recognize graduating seniors joining the military. This annual event includes speeches by elected officials:

Congresswoman (via video from Wash DC), **Marie Gluesenkamp**

Perez, and

Vancouver Mayor **Anne McEnemy-Ogle,** along with various other

community and veteran leaders. Our local recruits and academy candidates received a grand send off.

Our Chapter also recognized outstanding cadets with a MOAA Award at our two JROTC detachments. And, we provided financial assistance to the Civil Air Patrol cadet squadron that meets at Pearson Air Museum.

Supporting our youth with options for a military career is consistent with MOAA's National objective. We are fortunate to have excellent local community support principally through the Community Military Appreciation Committee or CMAC.

A number of us in the Chapter are also CMAC Members.

A significant annual CMAC event is the Memorial Day remembrance at Fort Vancouver. We enjoyed great weather, a superb program and a solace to our fallen comrades. Again, our elected leaders presented appropriate speeches to the somber occasion. This annual event

highlights our Chapter's commitment to the MOAA mission statement to "never stop serving".

Within the Chapter, the April and May luncheon programs provided both entertainment and information. First, retired generals **Buck Marr** and

Bob McFarlin, assisted by their wives, presented a senior officer perspective from their distinguished careers. Entertaining, informative and at times humorous too!

Wednesday, June 17th

Annual Wine Tasting

Uptown Barrel Room

2100 Main Street

Vancouver, WA

6:30 PM

RSVP NLT 12 June

See Page 11 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

In May, our luncheon had dual presentations by our WSCOC President and an informative presentation on resettling refugees in our community. **Dana Clay** presented the Chapter with the 5-Star Excellence Award and 5-Star Communications Award for 2025. Both awards reflect on the dedicated contributions made by our members. I thank you!



Dana Clark presents the Chapter's 5-Star Excellence Award for 2025



Dana Clark presents the Chapter's 5-Star Communications Award for 2025

The presentation on Refugees shared much insight into the role of federal agencies and local charity organizations assisting in resettlement. My appreciation to Steve **Bohn** for organizing the exceptionally informative and relevant presentation.

To repeat: the Chapter has been busy. At both the local and national levels, we promote "never stop serving".

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry



Federal Legislative Priorities:
By Roger Rosenberry

MOAA provides a key opportunity to increase awareness of issues to service members, their families, surviving spouses and all veterans. This awareness is at national, state and localized levels. **We make a difference.**

At the national level, MOAA is confidently recognized as the most successful organization for legislative impact. This is significant since Washington DC is the center focus of lobbyists. The "term belt way bandits" is humorously applied to organizations encircling the focus of power in our national capital. For MOAA honored to receive the "Congressional Advocacy Impact Award". The focus of the award was specific to MOAA's efforts to advance military spouse employment. This action highlights MOAA understanding of the difficulties encountered by frequent reassignments. Families are affected and that effect often has impact on retention.

Although just one area of focus, MOAA offered a total of nine proposals to lawmakers to address readiness, retention and "quality of life".

And in May MOAA orchestrated the "Advocacy in Action" visit to the U.S. Capital. Washington State was represented by two in-state members. **Dana Clay**, President of the WSCOC, spoke to our chapter's May 2026 luncheon of her participation in this year's event.

Dave Casteel sits as member-at-large on the Washington State council of veterans organizations that keeps pace with our state legislative initiatives. Especially for the active-duty military communities around Puget Sound, there are recognized less obvious issues at our more remote region in southwest Washington.



And at the local level, there are issues for veterans who travel here for VA care. Our chapter, through the CRMF, supports service facilities to dependents and those requiring care post hospitalization. As a regional hospital, veterans sometimes travel long distances to get needed care in the Portland-Vancouver area.

Recently, recognizing the impact of less VA facilities in rural areas, our Congresswoman has pushed to avert further closures. Also, she has pushed legislation to recognize those veterans living in Recreational Vehicles (RVs) and Trailers. This issue is interconnected also with homeless veterans. The proposal is to expand the coverage of VA Loans from only homes to pieces of land to permanently park their mobile residences. Also, a related proposal to provide accommodations at the VA facilities for RVs be parked overnight while veterans receive out-patient care.

My intent this month was to briefly describe a range of activities affecting servicemen, families, surviving spouses and veterans.

And, also a reminder, to use the MOAA website to send electronic letters to our representatives. **We can make a difference.**

Remember the access to the MOAA National Website is always available. And please use the [Legislative Action Center \(moaa.quorum.us\)](https://moaa.quorum.us) to easily and effectively send your support for all related issues.

Never stop serving!

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry



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/>

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 Spouses and Surviving Spouse:

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

CARING FOR SURVIVORS ACT (H.R.2055 / S. 611)

We need **YOUR** help to get this inequity passed. Contact your lawmaker today and ask them to champion this bill and push for its passage.

Passing of the **Caring for Survivors Act** would help to elevate our Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) military benefit for survivors of those who die in service or from service-connected conditions. Currently we lag behind other federal survivor benefits. DIC provides only 43% of what a 100% service-disabled veteran receives. Civilian federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of the employee's calculated retirement pay. This inequity leaves our military survivors with less support than their civilian counterparts, despite the sacrifices their loved ones made in service to our country.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) is a powerful online tool that helps service members, veterans, Surviving Spouses 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.

Contacting your Congressional Representatives is really easy.



MOAA offers an easy way to reach out to your elected officials about these bills through its [Legislative Action Center](#).

Once you click on the above **Legislative Action Center**...it will take you to the page. **"ACT NOW!"**

Fill out the info then click on **Sign up and Take Action**.

At the end of the application it will ask you for your **MOAA Chapter Affiliation**...it is WA01.

The letter from you to our Congressional Representatives will appear asking them to support the Caring for Survivors Act.

THANK YOU! Every vote-letter matters.

NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

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

Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Update

by Dave Casteel CRMF President

We mentioned our intentions in the last newsletter to distribute donations to several organizations this summer. We started with a meeting with our Foundation Scholarship team (**Grant Yenney** and **Melissa Bassett**) at WSU-V delivering a check for \$2,000 for our Col Paul and Ivadell Crosby Columbia River Chapter MOAA current use scholarship for the coming school year. We mentioned that we planned to gradually increase the annual amount to bring the scholarship to closer parity with our Clark College scholarships relative to tuition. While we didn't share a dollar figure with them, the amount is a little over \$3,000. We also gave them a check in the amount of \$5,000 to increase our endowment balance. They told us as of the date of our meeting, the balance stood at approximately \$40,000. Our donation brings it to \$45,000. (For comparison, our Clark college endowment balance hovers around \$100,000, so we have a ways to go...).



(L-R Dave, Grant, Frank)

Speaking of Clark College, the annual Clark endowment distributions support our three \$1,250 scholarships there. We also took advantage of gift matches during April's PenguinsGive during . We donated \$500 to our MOAA scholarships and \$500 to the Veterans Center of Excellence. Both of these gifts were matched.

Next, we visited Battle Ground and Prairie High Schools in April before the end of the year awards ceremonies dropping off our \$250 donations to both AFJROTC units. This enables the boosters who receive the donations to deposit the funds before the end of the school year rather than waiting on the new booster club in the fall. That way, our donations would start supporting the AFJROTC units right away. It worked.



(L-R Tiffany, Dave, Cliff)

In May, we visited Bldg 18, the Vancouver VA Transplant Lodge for veterans receiving a kidney or liver and their caregiver. We presented **Tiffany** and **Cliff** with a \$500 VISA gift card.

We then attended the 10th Anniversary of the Vancouver Fisher House, giving the manager, **James**, two \$500 VISA gift cards. While checks are also welcome, the funds go into a VA account which can only be used for certain items which have to be approved—not practical for short notice needs. Gift cards on the other hand, can be used to pay such things as Uber transportation for a caregiver if the shuttle has stopped running in the evening or on the weekend between the VA hospital in Portland and Fisher House or transportation coming from PDX. It can also be used to purchase last minute food needs for their guests if their pantry runs low.



Dave presents James with gift cards

Your donations DO make a difference whether you give using cash, check, Qualified Charitable Distribution from your RMD, or by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to the CRMF.

Let me know if you need any instructions (email: CRMFpresident@comcast.net). It's easy and at no cost to you.

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 to CRMF Online by Larry G. DeVries

NEW in 2025 and continuing in 2026 is our Online Donations method.

To Donate to the CRMF 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 throughout the year 2026. **NO** transaction fees are charged to either the donor or the Chapter.



CRC MOAA 2026 in Photos 97th Birthday, Chapter Meetings, JROTC



Chapter Community Support



CRC MOAA 2026 in Photos Memorial Day, 25 May



Roger Rosenberry talking with our
Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez



Keynote Speaker: Marv Serhan



Memorial Day MOAA booth
In front: Roger Rosenberry talking with Frank Hill.
Inside tent: Jim Morse, Jay Williams (CMAC co-chair,
talking with Dave Casteel



Veterans Chalet

Honoring Veterans at Hillsboro Airport



Heritage Flight: P-51 & F-35

NEVER STOP
SERVING

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 jl Morse77@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 jl Morse77@gmail.com.



Jump to Our Chapter Website



Columbia River Chapter Membership 2026 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
June 17 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Wine Tasting	Join us at 6:30 pm Location: Uptown Barrel Room, Vancouver, Washington
September 13 th <u>Sunday</u>	MOAA-CRC BBQ	At the home of MOAA/CRC President Roger Rosenberry. 2-5 pm
October 14 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Chapter Luncheon Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am	Speaker: Dennis Fisher , U.S. Marine Corps Cpl, Combat Veteran, Photographer & Author, Then All Broke Loose.
November 18 th <u>Wednesday</u>	Chapter Luncheon Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am	Speaker: Rachel Case , Coast Guard Rep

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Columbia River Chapter/MOAA Annual June Wine Tasting

WHEN: Wednesday June 17, 2026 @6:30 pm

WHERE: Uptown Barrel Room 2011 Main Street, Vancouver, WA. 98660

Located in downtown Vancouver, the Barrel Room has great food and an amazing beer, wine and spirits list. It has a relaxed atmosphere with a woodsy dining room and a barrel-vault ceiling. Our wine tasting will be in a private room on a balcony in the back of the restaurant/bar area.

The owner, **Dwayne**, is a former Marine and in the wine tasting area he has constructed a Hero's Wall honoring all the Services and First Responders. Of course, on the opposite wall, is a large Marine Corp Flag.

Wine Tasting Cost - \$25 for Five Tastings

and three good appetizers

Seating Limit - 32 People

RSVPs Needed NLT 12 June

To James Morse - jmorse77@gmail.com or 360-433-5605



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

