



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

5-Star Excellence Chapter



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
P.O. BOX 871152 VANCOUVER, WA 98687

ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

September 2026

President's Message



President:

Roger Rosenberry
360-831-5706

1st Vice-President:

Terry Babin
360-608-7789

2nd Vice-President: & Programs

Toby Clairmont

Secretary:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

Co-Secretary:

Pat Morse
360-433-5604

Treasurer:

Larry G. DeVries

Immediate Past

President,

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

CRMF president:

Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Army Rep:

Jon Frederick
360-576-9078

Marine Rep:

Toby Clairmont

Navy Rep:

Larry G. DeVries

Air Force Rep:

Roger Rosenberry
360-831-5706

Public Health Rep:

Roger DeRoos
360-448-9260

Space Force Rep:

Roger Rosenberry
360-831-5706

Surviving Spouse

Liaison:

Leah Davis
310-491-8891

Legislative Affairs:

Bob McFarlin
360-991-8458

Membership Services:

Public Affairs:

John Donnelly
360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Susie Clairmont

Roster Manager:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

Greetings to all as summer ends, autumn begins and our chapter returns to exciting and educational luncheon programs. And we continue our venue at Cascadia Tech Center where quality, service and value for money are superb.

The season begins quickly with "9/11 Remembrance" also called "Patriots Day" with a significant event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the tragic loss. We all remember the shock of events that day. Our chapter member, Colonel **Josh Havanas**, was a key note speaker with firsthand understanding. Other noted speakers included our Vancouver Mayor and our U.S. Congresswomen. Our own **Leah Davis** and her son **Scott** were within two blocks of the Twin Towers 25 years ago. Read on page 5 her riveting story of their experiences that day!

The annual CRC BBQ is scheduled on 13th of September in my Camas backyard. This year, I will be included on the attendance list instead of being in Intense Care undergoing unscheduled major surgery. While not attending my own BBQ, I appreciate

chapter members who rose to the moment and pulled off a successful fund raiser for the Foundation. Many thanks. Much has changed for the better in the last year as my recovery continues.

Other upcoming chapter events include the Stand Down supporting our honored Veterans in need of our community support. We are fortunate to have the dedicated Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) organizing the event at the Army Reserve Center in East Vancouver.

And Veterans Day is always a significant community event at Fort Vancouver. The parade brings enthusiastic marching groups and appreciative crowds.

In all community events, our chapter provides support both with our chapter volunteers and financial support when needed. The Community Military Appreciation Community (CMAC) has a central role, sharing our own MOAA objectives.

Continued next page

Sunday, Sept 13th

MOAA-CRC BBQ

Rosenberry's Home

2001 SE 12th Avenue

Camas, WA 98607

2-5 PM

See Page 11 for details

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
New CRC PO Box	Page 2
Federal Legislative Update	Page 3
WA State Legislative Update	Page 3
Legislative Contacts	Page 4
Survivor Spouse Liaison 9/11 Report	Page 5
CRMF Update	Page 7
CRMF Online Donations	Page 8
JROTC Awards	Page 9
Chapter Calendar Events	Page 11

President's Message continued

These events are opportunities to tell the MOAA story and provide visibility for our chapter. Recruitment remains critical to our long-term organizational health. We have a strong and effective chapter but constantly requiring new members to sustain and lead for the future.

In conclusion, I remain both excited and proud at the accomplishments we make to the community while assisting in

MOAA's national objectives. These are challenging times. At the national level, our troops are engaged again in the Middle East. Whenever our nation engages in conflict, we have a deeper understanding of the sequences. There are casualties. Some return impacted for life. Others never return. We each have our own experiences drawing a deeper understanding. This understanding is often the bond we feel that drives our volunteerism for veterans, servicemen and their families.

And a reminder of our motto: "Never stop serving".

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry

Immunizations Update by Roger DeRoos

In this season we are all seeing an uptick in immunization information from a variety of sources. This is just a note to refer you to our own [Washington State Department of Health website](#). I found it easy to navigate to move to items of interest quickly. Just select from the left-hand light green column.

Depending on how much time you have, you may want to start on the overview page for "Immunizations and vaccines".

However, I would suggest early focus on:

1. Immunizations for adults age 50 and older
2. Access your family's immunization information
3. And for those of you who have trips planned, Immunization for travelers

I see there's also a time sensitive training link requiring establishment of an account. Webinars begin in September.

The Columbia River Chapter' New Mailbox!

The NEW address to be used by any sender is:

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER MOAA

PO Box 871152

Vancouver, WA 98687

The new Post Office is located at Cascade Park, 304 SE Hearthwood Blvd in Vancouver. (Note: at this location the *five* digit ZIP code is used only for PO boxes.)

All chapter members and donors may begin using the NEW PO box number on 1 September 2026. Mail sent to the phased-out PO box will be auto-forwarded to the new PO box for some months. This has been tested to demonstrate that mail forwarding is working, so there should be no problems with mis-delivery or returned mail.



Federal Legislative Update:
Contributed By Dave Casteel

**Urge Congress to Pass the comprehensive
Take Care of America's Veterans Act
(TCAVA)**

(19945 actions taken only 55 needed to reach next goal—our chapter can do this)

A comprehensive veterans legislative package would advance more than 20 standalone MOAA-supported bills, bringing reforms the association has championed in the 119th Congress (and in several previous sessions) on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, survivors, and their families.

Multiple high-level MOAA priorities are among more than 60 pieces of legislation wrapped into the bill, to include:

- **The Major Richard Star Act**, which would end an unjust pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured military retirees who lose a dollar of earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation.
- **The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act**, a top MOAA priority which would assist caregivers in returning to the workforce and planning for their financial future.
- **The Love Lives On Act**, which would allow surviving spouses to retain critical benefits regardless of remarriage.
- **Twenty more pieces of legislation** MOAA has supported as standalone bills, to include increased survivor benefits, expanded veteran health care benefits and services, improved claims processing, and much more.



YOU can make a difference—just take a few minutes to add your voice and ask your lawmakers to support swift passage of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act. Do it now before the general midterm elections and again after the elections. Congress responds to the constant “squeaky wheel.”

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.

Washington State Legislative Update:
Contributed By Dave Casteel

The Washington State legislature will convene on January 11, 2027 and will end on April 26, 2027 (odd-numbered years are long 105-day sessions).

The Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition is already meeting in Olympia reviewing veteran-related bills that did not pass in the short 60-day session in 2026. They are actively working with bill sponsors to generate support for these bills again in the 2027 session.

Once the session starts, you can follow these bills by going to Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.WDVA.org and click on "About WDVA," then "Laws and Legislation," then below the "Contact us" box, click on the "sign up for Email updates." Even easier, paste this URL into your browser <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WA/DVA/subscriber/new> and enter your preferred email address.

You will receive weekly updates on the status of these bills and then you can let your elected state district legislators know your position on these issues by going to <https://leg.wa.gov/>.



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	



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

On the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, I thought I'd share my story where I was when the skies over New Your City turned DARK.:

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Along with many others, I felt like I was running for my life in New York City.

Our son had just moved from San Francisco to New Your City, and I volunteered to fly from Washington State to help him unpack and get settled into his new apartment. It was my first trip to New York City, and I very much wanted to visit the Statue of Liberty.

It was a bright, beautiful sunny day on Sept 11, 2001. Around 8:30 a.m., my son and I entered the subway heading for Battery Park and the Statue of Liberty. We had just boarded the subway train, when an announcement came over the intercom, telling us that this subway train would not be stopping at the World Trade Center (WTC) today due to some "congestion."

There was a lot of commotion all around. When we asked what was going on, no one would tell us what was happening.

It was approximately 9:05 a.m. when we ascended the stairs leading up to Battery Park. We were met with several hundred people running toward us crying and trying to make calls on their cell phones. The WTC buildings were on fire and all we could see, from where we stood, was black boiling smoke over the top of trees. It quickly became quite apparent that something horrible was happening. We were approximately two blocks from "Ground Zero" and could see both buildings burning and saw people running in a state of panic.

For about an hour, we were in conversations with people who had come from the Stock Exchange and the WTC Towers, discussing the probability of the towers collapsing.

Then the unthinkable happened. All the sudden we could see people jumping from the towers...a horrible

sight and then the second tower came tumbling down, imploding onto itself.

An avalanche of smoke, cement, and debris came rumbling toward us. We were unable to outrun the smoke and debris. We ran back toward the end of the island along with hundreds of other people. People were literally running out of their shoes. Parents were grabbing children out of their strollers and clutching them close to their chests to avoid them breathing the soot and dust. People were jumping into the water to wet their clothing to use as a breathing filter. It was total PANDEMONIUM.

It quickly became extremely VERY dark. The smell of burned rubber and electrical wiring filled the air with a chalk-like substance (concrete dust).

My son and I were holding hands because of the reduced visibility, fearful of losing contact with one another. Because people were knocking into me, and in order not to lose contact with him, I clasped his belt loops and ran behind him.

The air was so polluted that we pulled my son's shirt out of his slacks and shared it as a filter so both of us could breathe. Upon reaching the end of Battery Park we heard fighter jets overhead. Because we could not see the planes due to the smoke, we only prayed that the jets belonged to the U.S. As we reached the end of Battery Park, with nowhere to go, an empty Staten Island Ferry actually pulled its front end up directly onto some very large rocks, & close to a 5-foot-high fence. (this was not the normal ferry dock)

The personnel from the ferry instructed those that were closest to the fence to climb over and come aboard. People were shoving and pushing to get on. I feared the ferry might sink because there were so many jumping the fence to get on board. My son literally picked me up and pushed me over the fence, he then climbed over himself. The ferry rescued about 150 plus people, leaving five times that many on shore.



Continued next page

The ferry took us to the outskirts of Jersey City. From there we walked about 25 blocks to the center of a small town, where emergency services had dispatched buses to all points away from NYC. Talk about feeling like a refugee in your own country running for your life...that is exactly how we felt.

We jumped on a bus and rode about an hour to Newark's Penn Train Station, where a friend of my son picked us up and took us to their home. We stayed there for two full days until we were able to finally take a train back into NYC. It was wonderful to get back to my son's apartment to shower, change clothes and feel safe again.

I will never forget the horrible smell of burnt wiring; the chalk dust that was so thick one could hardly breathe; and the sight of people running or jumping for their lives. It is very hard for me to

describe the trauma in witnessing people jumping to their death.

(I never made it to the Statue of Liberty)
**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO NEVER
FORGET THIS DAY!**

"GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

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

Photos with this article were taken by Leah's son, Scott Davis, a professional commercial photographer on that day. <https://www.kioteproductions.com>



Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) September 2026 Update ***by Dave Casteel CRMF President***

Wow. Where did the summer go? The dog days of summer are giving way to the refreshing rainy days of fall...

Fall is when our chapter gets back together at our traditional Fall BBQ—a chance to refresh acquaintances, share stories and support our scholarships. Fall is also the time we learn the names of the young men and women who are recipients of our scholarships. Later in the year, at our Christmas holiday event, we will learn of their aspirations and how our scholarship has given them a chance to receive a higher education and offer them brighter future.

Our WSU-V scholarship was recently increased to \$2,000. However, when you factor in the higher annual costs at WSU-V vs. Clark College, our three scholarships at \$1,250 each cover a much higher percentage of the recipients expenses. To maintain parity between the two, our WSU-V scholarship should be closer to \$3,000! With your support, we plan to take another incremental step towards this goal in 2027. The good news is that with your support, we are steadily growing our Col **Paul and Ivadell Crosby** Columbia River MOAA Chapter endowment at WSU-V. **Paul** was our scholarship chairperson for many many years and was instrumental in maintaining our excellent relationship with both institutions. Before he moved to California he and **Ivadell** started the WSU-V endowment. **Paul and Ivadell** still support our efforts and send their best regards to all their CRC friends.

As you know, we also have a Support the Troops fund. From this fund this month, we are donating \$500 to the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) for on-going general veterans support and \$1,000 to help support their area-wide Stand Down on September 25th at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Vancouver.

This is a massive event that supports around 500 veterans (many of whom are homeless) and costs

upwards of \$20,000 to put on. Shuttles run from around the greater Vancouver area bringing veterans in and returning them at the end of the day. One community volunteer brings bicycles he restores throughout the year and gives them away free to those in need. The entire hall is filled with organizations that provide outreach support to veterans. Clothing, footwear, haircuts, massages, dental, and pet care, etc., etc., are available free to veterans at this event.

The chapter also supports the event with volunteers in a number of capacities assisting as greeters, assisting at the haircut and massage booths or as ushers guiding or escorting veterans to some of the available resources.

If you are interested in making a donation, please let me know—my contact information is on the front page of the newsletter and below. We will be there from 8:00AM until about 3:00PM.

If you want to volunteer for the whole day or just for a few hours, let us know or you can just show up at 8:00AM (note, a complimentary lunch is provided for volunteers).

Hope to see you at **Roger's** home on Sep 13 for our get-back-together Fall BBQ social and scholarship fundraiser.

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.



CRMF Contributions to the CCVAC

On September 9, 2026 **Frank Hill**, CRMF Treasurer, delivered two contributions) from CRMF to the CCVAC. The first contribution, for \$1,000, is designated specifically to help cover the expense of their upcoming Veterans Stand Down (25 Sep).



L-R Sonja Wood VP & Outreach Director, Frank Hill Treasurer CRMF, Judy Russell, President & COO

The second contribution (\$500) is designated to be used by CCVAC where most needed.

Judy Russel, President and COO of CCVAC , and **Sonja Wood**, VP and Outreach Director accepted the contributions on behalf of CCVAC and commented on how both contributions, as well as those made in the past, have directly impacted lives hundreds of veterans in need.

They further recognized the direct contributions of clothing and other items, as well as the many hours of Volunteer support, provided directly by individual Chapter members.

The CRMF could not provide support like this without the generous financial contributions of our Chapter members.

THANK YOU!!!!



MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow members on a hosted cruise or land tour



LEARN MORE



Prairie High School And Battle Ground HS

JROTC Award Ceremonies

On 14 May, **John Donnelly** presented the MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate to **C/LtCol Skylar Faller**. **Lt Col Oiller** selected Skylar for her leadership qualities and academic achievement.

At the awards ceremony, **Skylar** actually sang our National Anthem to open the ceremony. She has a great voice and her Mom said she is constantly singing in the shower. I was impressed with one of the awards she received from her fellow cadets, “**Most Inspirational**”.



On 22 May, **Jim Bowen** presented the MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate to **C/ Lt Tanahleigh Boomhower**. **Lt Col Andrew Woodrow** selected **Tanahleigh** for his leadership and participation with the unarmed drill team and precision marksmanship team.

Jim was impressed with the Cadets and said, “*Inspiring to see these young people and what they do and their accomplishments over the last year.*”



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
September 13 th <u>Sunday</u>	MOAA-CRC BBQ	At the home of MOAA/CRC President Roger Rosenberry. 2-5 pm
October 21 st <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 20 th <u>Friday</u>	Chapter Luncheon Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy 11:30 am	Speaker: Rachel Case , Coast Guard Rep
December 6 th <u>Sunday</u>	Holiday Party	Old Spaghetti Factory, 3pm-6pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Columbia River Chapter/MOAA Annual BBQ & Scholarship Fund Raiser

WHEN: Sunday September 13, 2026 @2 to 5 pm

WHERE: **CRC President's Home** 2001 SE 12th Avenue, Camas, WA. 98607

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 some drinks, including beer, wine, coffee, and water. Our host and Chapter President, **Roger Rosenberry**, will provide a main course dish (fresh-caught salmon!) and you are requested to please bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert. You may bring your own beverage as well.

We would encourage you to attend this event if 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 871152, Vancouver WA 98687, 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 an MOAA-approved option and no transaction fees are charged to either the donor or the Chapter.

RSVP To James Morse - ;Imorse77@gmail.com or 360-433-5605

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

