



NOW HEAR THIS!
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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Volume XXI, Number 2



March 2011

5 Star Chapter President's Message
By Ralph Shrigley

We had an excellent turnout for the 20 March social at Northern Quest Casino. Our speaker, MGEN Buck Marr, USAF (Ret.), is our Northwest Region representative on the MOAA Board of Directors, and he was warmly received. As always, Northern Quest made it a special occasion.



Please check out our newly redesigned website at www.spokanemoaa.org. As with most endeavors by Spokane MOAA, this one was a group effort. Our web guru, Travis Bonifield, worked with the Board to help us decide what we wanted, and then made it happen. One of our new Board members, CAPT (Sel.) Chuck Lund, USN, has the benefit of being a generation younger than the others, and is very tech savvy. Chuck translated our needs into *tech speak* for Travis. Concurrent with the upgrades, Board member Chuck Latimer has stepped up to become our Web Page Coordinator. This will permit Beth Ann Daigre, who originally established the web site, to focus on the 15 or 20 other things she does on behalf of our veterans. My warmest "Thanks" to you all.

We are headed back to Mukogawa for the 17 APR social. This is our time to recognize the foresight of our founding members and to mark the passing of those for whom "Taps" has sounded over the past year. All widows attending will receive a corsage.

In mid-April a delegation from the Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) will "Storm the Hill" along with MOAA staff in D.C. and meet with as many of our legislators as possible to push for key issues. The Board has provided a letter emphasizing elimination of SBP-DIC offset, smooth transition from active service to VA coverage, and recognition that veterans benefits have been earned by arduous service over several years, rather than being a social program available to all.

Please read the article entitled "High Stakes" in the March 2011 issue of *Military Officer*, beginning on page 80. This is a thorough analysis of where DOD is focusing cuts and why we think it is not justified. Please contact the President and your Senators and Representatives with your views concerning these issues. We must ensure they hear our "One Powerful Voice."

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BRING SOMETHING TO THE
17 APRIL SOCIAL FOR
SUPPORT THE TROOPS &
Your Old Cell Phones
(see p. 3 for details)

2011 Chapter Socials

20 MAR- Northern Quest Casino
 17 APR - Mukogawa Ft. Wright
 12 JUN - TBD
 10 SEP - Saturday Picnic; TBD
 16 OCT - Coeur d'Alene Resort
 4 DEC - Mukogawa Ft Wright

Chaplain

Ann Hurst, Capt, NC, USAF
 509-326-2978 ann_hurst@comcast.net

Chapter Wives & Widows Club
2011 Meeting Dates:

4 JAN: Prospectors Bar & Grill
 1 FEB: Dockside, CDA Resort
 1 MAR: Twigs Bistro, Spokane Valley
 5 APR: Olive Garden
 3 MAY: Taste & See (High Tea)
 7 JUN: Ripples on the River
 5 JUL: CI Shenanigans
 2 AUG: Cedars Floating Restaurant
 6 SEP: Luna Restaurant
 4 OCT: Harvest House
 1 NOV: Max at Mirabeau Hotel
 6 DEC: TBD

See page 2 for details on upcoming events!

Now Hear This!

Welcome New Members

Mary L. Dowers (Auxiliary)
 LCDR Betty Krafft, USN (Ret.), Spokane
 LTC Greg Sassman, US Army (Ret.), Wilbur WA
 COL Heinz Schiemann, US Army (Ret.) & wife Gerrita ("Ike"),
 Hayden Lake ID
 Helen Trotter (Auxiliary), Coeur d'Alene ID
TAPS
 Jack E. Dowers, LCDR, CHC, USN (Ret.) 3/13/11
 Guy E. Trotter, LCDR, USN (Ret.) 2/24/11



**Spokane Chapter, MOAA
 2009 First Prize Winner**

**Best Legislative Coverage for
 Website**

Our Hat Is Off to:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2010	Give Me 10 2010
Marilyn Hunt	2	
Bob Imle		1
Chuck Latimer		4
Dick Oates		1
Ralph Shrigley	1	1
TOTALS	3	7

Support The Troops: 2011: JAN: 2 boxes (17#) to 13M & 2W in Afghanistan (Army). 2 boxes (20#) to 8M & 3W in Afghanistan (USAF).
Legislative Letters: 2011: 424 as of 3/20/11
Widows & Wives: 67# food, \$20 to Spokane Valley Food Bank. 10 wreaths to WA State Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America.

Examiner.Com



We received the following e-mail and have chosen to reprint it here, thinking that some of our members might be interested in a little employment. Spokane Chapter, MOAA cannot endorse Examiner.com for lack of personal experience. Caveat emptor!

"I'm with Examiner.com, one of the fastest-growing content sites, with editions in 244 markets throughout North America. We're looking for more writers to cover all aspects of the military. We pay based on performance. I was wondering if you wouldn't mind sharing this informational page with your MOAA chapter membership. <http://www.examiner.com/examiner-co,-recruitment-in-national/seeking-military-writers>.

"We're very much committed to providing military coverage that goes beyond news reports. We've also teamed up with the USO to raise money for the Wounded Warriors program. Thanks so much for your consideration." Nate Ferguson, Director, Targeted Recruiting, Examiner.com, Denver CO. (303) 291-8833.
 Twitter: examiner.com.

Widows and Wives Club

By Beth Ann Daigre



March 1st roared in just like it had been planned for years, with wind and rain. But we were safe and dry in Twigs Bistro & Martini Bar in the Valley. The service and food were very good, and conversation was excellent. The members picked up their collection boxes for the Cell Phones for Soldiers project and have placed them in select locations. We collected 16 pounds of food and \$10 for the food bank. Military Wives and Widows are a "cut above!"

Important notice. We have changed April and May locations around. **On 5 April** we will be lunching at **Olive Garden North Pointe, 9780 N. Newport Hwy.** at **1 PM**. Esther Starkey is the lady taking reservations: **509-325-3291**.

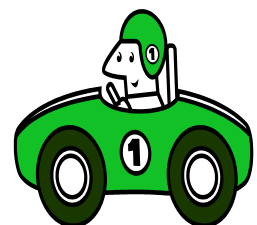
Our annual **High Tea** will be held **3 May** at **1 PM** at **Taste and See's new location, 521 E. Holland**. **Pat Tolley** will be our hostess for the tea. Call your reservations to **509-953-6768**.

June 7th 1 PM we will be at **Cl Shenanigans** watching the beautiful Spokane River flow by and the ducks beg for crumbs. **Diane Gorton** is our hostess and you can save your seat by calling her at **509-467-6138**.

We have one husband who comes and sits off in an area by himself. If there are any husbands or widowers who want to join him, feel free! Bet he'd like the company.

NEED a RIDE to a SOCIAL?

Idaho:
 Richard Oates 208-777-2671
 Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671
Washington:
 Clif Collier 509-443-6490
 Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483
 Chuck Latimer 509-326-2978
 Clinton Piper 509-747-9305



Now Hear This!

LCDR Jack E. Dowers, CHC, USN (Ret.), 6 December 1929—13 March 2011



Chapter chaplain Lcdr Jack Dowers, USN, pulled up anchor and passed peacefully into eternity on 13 March 2011, after faithfully serving our members since January 2007. He served as a Navy chaplain for 20 years, which included two tours in Vietnam. He married his gracious wife Mary in 1956 and they had three children. Before joining the Navy, he was Pastor of First Baptist Church, Yakima, WA; Greater Parish of the Cascades, Roslyn, WA; and First Baptist Church, Oak Harbor, WA. After retiring from the Navy, he pastored First Baptist Church, Coeur d'Alene, for 6 years and was elected Pastor Emeritus there in 2003. He was currently a member and Deacon of Community Presbyterian Church, Post Falls, Idaho. Jack had a degree in religious music, played the French horn, directed choirs and loved music. He enjoyed camping, fishing and pottery. He was a quiet, unassuming man with a great smile. He will be greatly missed.

Cell Phones for Soldiers

The Widows and Wives Club has picked up the banner from MOAA national for collecting old cell phones. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular which pays *Cell Phones for Soldiers* for each phone, and the money is used to purchase prepaid calling cards which are sent to our deployed troops.



About half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in over 40 countries. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and recycled to reclaim materials which include: Gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs; and (of course) plastic.

Please bring your old cell phones to the 17 April social. Other places to find collection boxes through September are all **Global Credit Union** locations in both Washington and Idaho, **Washington State Veterans Cemetery**, **Regional Readiness Center** 1626 N. Rebecca, **Vida Nails** 15607 E. Broadway, and **Coldwell Bank NW Group** 6519 Maple.

Auxiliary Corner: Health Care

By Beth Ann Daigre



A blitz of media stories about the new national health care plan is making the rounds, leaving surviving military spouses with concerns about their benefits. Put your mind at ease; little will change for you in 2011.

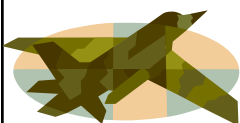
One concern is that with no Social Security COLA increase in 2010 or 2011, Medicare Part B premiums will increase and your total monthly benefit would be lower since the premium is deducted before you receive the benefit. True, the premiums will increase about 4%, but with the current income tax brackets, only those entering the Medicare system in 2010 or 2011 or those spouses whose annual income exceeds \$85,000 will be affected. Specifically: if you were in Medicare before 2010, you will continue to pay a \$96.40 monthly premium; if you entered Medicare in 2010, you will pay \$110.50 monthly; and if you enter Medicare in 2011, you will pay \$115.40. Should you be fortunate enough to have an annual income which exceeds \$85,000, your monthly premium will be \$154 if you were enrolled in Medicare before 2010. Win the lottery and you would pay about \$370. These income tax brackets are frozen until 2019 which may have a "premium creep" impact should your income change to another bracket.

Qualifying surviving military spouses will continue their current level of drug coverage. *Despite what you hear, you do not need to participate in Medicare's Part D Drug Program.* Your TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) provides drug coverage and is a federally approved and recognized alternative medical and drug program. In fact, if you have TFL and are eligible for Medicare, participation in another medical or drug supplemental program could complicate your claims, resulting in a delay of payments. MOAA *does* recommend that you use the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) to keep drug costs as low as possible. MOAA needs your grassroots efforts more than ever to maintain benefits. Contact your federal legislators on page 4. Quantity *does* count. MOAA will also be asking for your strong and timely support on numerous benefits issues throughout the year. Be ready. On the web: www.moaa.org/survivors.

NOW HEAR THIS! Is published 6 times per year by the Spokane Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, P O Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Editor: Marilyn Hunt cinc@frontier.com 208-773-1074. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

Now Hear This!

Board Member Jim Connell



Jim is a Korean War veteran with over 230 combat hours. During the Cold War, he flew over 1,000 hours in B-36's and more than 2,500 in B-52's. He spent in excess of 100 full weeks on Nuclear Ground Alert and over 400 hours on Nuclear Airborne Alert. He also flew more than 100 combat hours in Vietnam and planned over 700 Arclight sorties there while serving as War Plans Officer. This is in addition to duty as Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander and Aircraft Maintenance Staff Officer.

To say that Jim has "paid his dues" is definitely an understatement!

In his "next life" as a civilian, he's also been very productive in many areas, such as :

- Investment Marketing Seminar Speaker & Trainer, Nationwide
- College Instructor
- Arbitrator and Mediator
- Former Candidate for Idaho State Senate
- Published Author
- Former Marathoner

He served on our chapter's Board of Directors from 1995—1997, and was President of the Redwood Chapter in 1987. He now serves in the following volunteer capacities:

- Ombudsman, Hayden Chamber of Commerce
- Veterans Advisory Committee, Hayden City Council
- Board of Directors, Crime Stoppers of Kootenai County
- Board of Directors, North Idaho Pachyderm Club
- Board of Directors, Lake City Senior Center.

Jim and his wife Pat have been married for 54 years, and they reside in Hayden Lake, Idaho. They have 4 sons (3 living), 2 daughters, and 8 grandchildren.

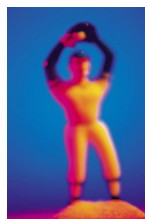
Spokane Indians Baseball Game



Join other chapter members on Monday, 11 July, at 3:30 pm for a Spokane Indians baseball game! At Vista Stadium, the Indians will host the Vancouver Canadians. Bring your sun-screen (planning ahead!) and your K cards; enjoy some excellent baseball and camaraderie this summer. Cost is \$10 – send your reservation and check to Fred Donovan, 1824 S. Vera Crest Drive, Veradale WA 99037. Pick up your reserved tickets at the Will Call window on game day!

Pitch in to Help Our Social Chairman

Chapter President Ralph Shrigley has "volunteered" to be Social Chairman. With over 400 successful members in our chapter, there must be a few generous souls who would help him plan individual socials. Since we only have six (6) socials, it won't take many hands to do the job. To pitch in, contact Ralph by phone or email at (208) 623-2671 or rshrigley@earthlink.net.



Legislative Contacts

Washington

Senator Patty Murray

United States Senate
10 North Post St, Suite 600
Spokane WA 99201
509-624-9515
Fax (509) 624-9561

Senator Maria Cantwell

United States Senate
920 W. Riverside,
Suite 697
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2507
Fax (509) 353-2547

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers

United States House of Representatives
10 N. Post St, 6th floor
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2374
Fax 509-352-2412

Idaho

Senator Mike Crapo

United States Senate
610 W. Hubbard
Suite 209
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-664-5490
Fax (208) 664-0889

Senator Jim Risch

United States Senate
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 213
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-6130
Fax (208) 765-1743

Representative Raul

Labrador, United States House of Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr.
Suite 243
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
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One More Reason to Convert Your Annual MOAA Membership to Life!
Last month we said you would get a 10% discount and a \$20 rebate.
But wait! There's one more reason!
You will be counted as "paid membership" under the Give Me Ten program.
If the chapter gets 10 paid memberships in 2011, we will get a \$100 bonus.
Help your chapter and yourself by doing exactly this:

1. Call the MOAA Membership Service Center at (800) 234-6622
2. Say you are a member of the Spokane Chapter and you want to convert your annual membership to Life under Give Me Ten
3. Call or email Marilyn Hunt at (208) 773-1074 or cinc@frontier.com and tell her you did it. (leave a message if she's gone).
4. **You MUST do all three of these things** to get your 10% discount and the \$20 refund.

Goodies for the Troops: Bring things like this to the 17 April social: small containers of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shaving cream, toothpaste, dental floss & deodorant; protein bars, beef jerky, cocoa, batteries, hand & foot warmers, laundry soap tabs.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and the surrounding area. His office is in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St.. He can be reached at 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, he will call you back.

FAFB Retiree Activities Office
Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4029
The Retired Affairs Office needs volunteers. Serving at the RAO is a perfect excuse to travel out to the base and visit the exchange/commissary at the same time. Call them!

Chapter Speakers Bureau: If you're willing to speak about your military experience, call Chuck Latimer (509) 326-2978.