



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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April 2008

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President's Message

(By Marilyn Hunt for Dick Oates, who is recuperating from back surgery)

FIRST PLACE WEBSITE! It's my great pleasure to announce that the Spokane Chapter took First Place for the 2007 Communications Award for our outstanding website www.spokanemoaa.org. We topped Mt. Vernon VA, Montgomery AL, and Tampa FL. This award is especially gratifying because our website was only established one year ago. We received a beautiful plaque that was displayed at the April social.

Credit for this achievement belongs to Beth Ann Daigre and her son Travis Bonifield. Beth Ann serves as our Web Page Coordinator and Travis is the Webmaster. We're also indebted to Walter Parker, son of members Ed and Nancy Parker, who hosts the website. A huge Well Done to Beth Ann, Travis and Walter! (By the way, if you would like to have a [website link to your business](#), you may do so for \$20 per month. Contact Beth Ann for details).

Now, more great news: Beth Ann has also been selected to serve on the six-member MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee. This position at the national level is a great honor for her and for our chapter.

This means we now have board members Chuck Latimer and Beth Ann serving at the national level and Merl Gorton as President of WSCOC (Washington State Council of Chapters). All three participated in MOAA's "Storming the Hill" in late March, which was hugely successful.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT: We'd like more members to meet troops at the airport, donate items to send to them (bring them or money to the socials), and recruit new members for the chapter and MOAA. I bet some of you would like to do this, so please call Beth Ann Daigre or Marilyn Hunt. Members *and* spouses are encouraged to participate.

TOP FIVE QUESTIONS: The top five questions people ask MOAA pertain to finances, SBP, and estate planning so we passed out a sizeable variety of MOAA brochures and manuals on these subjects at the April social. We hope to have more at our next social, which will be 18 May at the Cathay Inn.

MANN HALL ARMY RESERVE CENTER in Spokane is scheduled to be closed and realigned to Fairchild Air Force Base. It was named after Pvt. Joe E. Mann, U.S. Army, a Spokane WWII paratrooper who was awarded the Medal of Honor. The Inland Empire Allied Veterans Council recently voted to request that the Spokane VAMC be re-named the Mann VAMC in order to preserve the memory and honor of Pvt. Mann. I'd like to know whether our membership would like to support this cause, so please contact me with your input.

~~~ News Brief ~~~

92nd Medical Group at Fairchild AFB Immunization Walk In Clinic is open Monday thru Friday, 0730 to 1600 hours. You must over 60 for the **Shingles vaccine** and over 65 for the **Pneumonia**. **No prescription necessary**. Bring your shot record if you have it. Call ahead of time to make sure both or either are in stock.

## Now Hear This!

### Our Hat is off to:

| <u>Member Recruiters</u> | <u>Chapter</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>National</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Marilyn Hunt             | 2              | 6          | 4               | 16         |
| Dick Oates               | 0              | 2          | 0               | 2          |
| Frank Potter             | 0              | 1          | 0               | 2          |
| Merl Gorton              | 0              | 1          | 3               | 4          |

And because of the members recruited in 2007, National MOAA has sent our chapter \$610 as part of the Give Me Ten.

### Supporting Our Troops

Members attending the April Luncheon Meeting gave \$40 cash (for shipping costs), 24 pounds of goodies which were shipped in two of the newer larger flat rate boxes to Marine serving in Iraq from the State of Idaho.

### Ponderosa Elementary School in the

Spokane Valley 5th Grade classes wrote 40 letters thanking the Idaho Marines for protecting our country. One boy wrote "This is such an awesome thing to be able to write you and let you know how much I appreciate what you are doing for our country." A girl wrote that her mom used to be a marine.

### Luncheon Raffle

At the April luncheon we received \$205.00 for the ROTC and JROTC programs in our area. At the May luncheon the raffle proceeds will go to the Fisher House. If you have something to contribute to this fun money raising program—don't forget to bring it! And remember, raffle donations do not have to be new items. And Thank You to Barbara Wunderlich who always brings home baked cakes and/or cookies. YUM

During the month of May, Marilyn Hunt and Barbara Wunderlich will be presenting graduates from ROTC and JROTC programs at Wellpinit HS, Medical Lake HS, Kellogg HS, Rogers HS, EWU and Gonzaga with certificates from MOAA.

### MOAA Storms Hill for Troops, Survivors, Retirees

By Chuck Latimer

MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from the 50 states and Puerto Rico, accompanied by Board of Directors and headquarters staff, swarmed Capitol Hill on April 2, 2008 to visit Representatives' and Senators' offices on key MOAA issues. Lt Col Roger Fogelman, USAF-Ret, President, Rattlesnake Chapter at Mountain Home, led the Idaho team. Ms Julie Waters, who is on the MOAA support staff, accompanied Roger on his rounds.

Merl Gorton led the Washington team as the Washington State Council President. I accompanied Merl, as did Beth Ann Daigre, and Major General Patricia Hickerson, USA-Ret. Pat is a national board member who was living in the Tri-Cities area of Washington when elected. We focused on three main issues selected by the MOAA Board of Directors. These issues were :

1. Oppose disproportional TRICARE fee increases proposed by Defense leaders
2. Eliminate unfair compensation penalties imposed on thousands of disabled retirees and military survivors
3. Increase the 2009 military pay raise above the 3.4% proposed in the President's budget to 3.9%.

### TAPS

LT Bryan Auwen, USN

### Retiree Activities Office 509-247-5359

Monday—Thursday 1000 to 1400 hours  
Located on the 2nd floor of Personnel Office Building.  
Volunteer Staffing at the RAO has been a special interest of our chapter for many years. Most of the staff are chapter members.

**Casualty Assistance Officer:** Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and the surrounding area. His office is in the personnel/finance complex at the base. He can be reached at 509-247-8551. If you are calling long distance, leave a message and he will call you back.

### **WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

This month we are sending goodies to 25 male and 7 female sailors from Washington. They live in trailer pods, some have microwaves and refrigerators. They would like to have:

|                                                                             |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jolly Ranchers                                                              | Twizzlers          |
| Hard Candy (things that don't melt and it helps with the dry sandy weather) | Lots of Chap Stick |
| Hand Crème                                                                  | Sun Block          |
| Lotion                                                                      | Baby Wipes         |
| Travel size toiletries                                                      | Cup O Noodles      |
| Any food in cans i.e. tuna, Dinty Moore Stew                                | Oatmeal            |
| V8 juice                                                                    |                    |
| Books                                                                       | DVD's CD's         |

**Have you visited our  
Award Winning Web Site?  
[www.SpokaneMOAA.org](http://www.SpokaneMOAA.org)**

MOAA Hill-Stormers received positive feedback from most congressmen, and we've already seen a jump in the number of cosponsors for MOAA-supported bills. Roger Fogelman told me that they had a good day. Pat and I went on cold calls to the offices of four congressmen with whom we were unable to get appointments. We left our MOAA brochures and issue papers with the appropriate staffers. The representatives involved were Congressmen McDermott, Reichart, Hastings, and Inslee. Merl and Beth Ann reported they had a good meeting with our 5<sup>th</sup> district Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers. Our "storming" team got back together and we visited Congressmen Rick Larson, Brian Baird, Dicks, and Adam Smith before going over to the Senate office buildings. Beth Ann, Merl, and I met with Senator Murray, but unfortunately, Senator Cantwell had become ill during the day and could not meet with us. Her top legislative assistant, who works our issues, did meet with us.

The enhanced military pay raise is not in a separate bill, but will be in the Defense Appropriations Bill. Here are the bills:  
H.R. 579 and S. 604 - Protect against disproportionate health fee increases  
H.R. 1589, H.R. 1927, and S. 935 - Repeal the SBP-DIC offset  
H.R. 333, H.R. 303, and S. 439 - Eliminate remaining offsets of retired pay

## Now Hear This!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**LTC Donald Haden, Army and wife Jean, Newman Lake**  
**CAPT Edward Kelly, USN and wife Cecily, Spokane**

#### When Veterans Retire

When a good Military Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder. We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know. We know for example that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know that in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was, and in his heart, still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing. Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that 'Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God,' and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

We at MOAA continue that feeling of camaraderie at our chapter meetings. Please come and check us out at our monthly meetings, we always have room for more.  
By: Heinz Haskins, Mt. Rainier

#### Spokane Auxiliary Corner

By Beth Ann Daigre

As you have already read, I have been appointed by General Carns, Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors, to the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee. I can't begin to tell you how honored I feel to have this privilege of serving the wonderful spouses of our military. And again, as I do with each task I accept, I pray God will guide me to do my best in all things.

I flew to Alexandria VA on March 27<sup>th</sup> and went through orientation on the 28<sup>th</sup> at MOAA headquarters. Phil Odom is the advisor to our committee. What a gentleman – he picked me up at the hotel, fed me lunch and returned me to the hotel after the orientation. He also recommended I take a nap after the fast paced orientation – I said "oh I'm fine but thanks." Went to my room felt a bit tired and lay down for a minute and woke up two hours later. That is when I understood Ana Smythe's comment about being fed information with a fire hose.

VADM Ryan welcomed me and then I learned about Marketing from Mike Jordan; Government Relations from Steve Strobidge; Scholarship from Shelly Marshall, Members Services from Ana Smythe; TOPS by Dick Crampton; Publications by Warren Lacy; Chapters from Lee Lange; Benefits by Bud Schneeweis and General Counsel from Pete Wylie.

I could go into more details about the 6 days I was there but the point I really want to make is this: We belong to one of the most wonderful organizations in the world! The department heads are a cut above. These retired officers are what you would expect in a perfect world. Their staffs' strive to achieve and measure up to their standards. **They truly care about us, the membership.**

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### Legislative Contacts

#### Washington

##### Senator Patty Murray

United States Senate  
601 W. Main, Suite 1213  
Spokane WA 99201  
509-624-9515 fax 624-9561

##### Senator Maria Cantwell

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

##### Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers

United States House of Representatives  
10 N. Post Street, Suite 625  
Spokane WA 99201  
509-353-2374 fax 352-2412

#### Idaho

##### Senator Larry Craig

United State Senate  
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 121  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814  
208-667-6130 fax 765-1743

##### Senator Mike Crapo

United State Senate  
1000 W. Hubbard, Suite 209  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814  
208-664-5490 fax 664-0889

##### Representative Bill Sali

United State House of Representatives  
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 206  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814  
208-667-0127 fax 667-0310

March 19, 2008 the **Washington State Veterans Cemetery** sign was unveiled. It is located on W. Espanola Road near Ritchie Road, north end of West Medical Lake.

**Mark your calendar** June 22nd is the picnic and the Imles will be preparing by doing the non-rain dance.

## Now Hear This!

### THE LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE

Merl Gorton, President, WSCOC

Washington State Council Of Chapters represents more than 10,000 MOAA members. Of these, only about 2,000 are members of the 10 Chapters located through out the state. During this years legislative session Lt. Col Ken Deich UASF (Ret) was our representative on the Veterans Legislative Committee (VLC). He met weekly with the committee during the legislative session and kept member chapters informed by email. There were more than 20 bills to track but a major effort was made to pass SSB 5256. This bill passed and headed to the governor for signature on 10 March. The VLC had tried to get this bill passed for 10 years. But it seems when Ken put out the call to inform the legislators of your support, as many of you did, it helped in getting this favorable action. Disabled veterans benefits will now be excluded from the income calculation for the retired person property tax relief program.

Just as we are the grassroots for National MOAA congressional bills, we can help our state veterans with the state legislature.

On 31 March I traveled to Washington DC to participate in the National MOAA "Storming of the Hill." More than 125 members of the MOAA staff, Council and Chapter Presidents met with each state congressional representative on 2 April. Each year National MOAA selects three to four issues to discuss with congressional members and their staffs. Because of the efforts of MOAA, we see constant improvement in veteran's, retiree, and surviving spouse benefits. National defense personnel issues and the needs of the active duty members are also part of the effort.

The backbone to legislative actions is the support provided by council and chapters at the grass root levels. Individual members cannot be as effective as the disciplined and organized 410 chapters and councils from throughout the United States. Supporting effective legislation at state and national level is a major responsibility of MOAA.

### HELP WANTED

- Reporters and Photographers for the Web Page.
- Auxiliary Members to work our telephone tree.
- Members to participate in the We Support our Troops program by collecting and shipping the goodies .
- Members to write letters and notes to our troops serving in harms way.
- Members to make up teams to Welcome Home returning troops and write them welcome home notes.
- Members to help organize a luncheon with the Officers Wives Club at Fairchild to let them know we care and make them feel welcome in the Spokane area.
- To sign-up call Beth Ann Daigre 921-9581 or 220-6508

### "Is Your Husband Still Accepting Donations?"

by Marilyn Hunt

The lady next to me at the beauty shop asked that question while I was telling my hairdresser about my husband Bob's responsibility for buying DAV Christmas presents for children of local veterans. "Oh, absolutely," I said, and then the conversation went even further.

**Nancy Reish** proceeded to tell me that her husband **Bob Reish** is a retired Navy CDR, so I asked if he belonged to MOAA. She said yes, but they weren't aware that we had a local chapter. So of course I told her all about it and she signed them right up! Who would think of this as recruiting? Well, that's exactly what it was and it's great fun. You simply have to speak up.

Another way I recruit is by reading articles in the local paper. Very often you'll read about someone who's in a leadership position of some sort, such as a government board. Or sometimes the info at the end of the article will say the author is a former military officer. Assuming they've had honorable service, they're eligible for membership in MOAA and our chapter. Two of our newest members, **Bill Booth** and **Matthew Crotty**, came to my attention this way. I simply looked up their names in the phone book and gave them a call. You'd be amazed at how many people will join if you just ask!

Officers are motivated to join MOAA and the chapter for a variety of reasons. You never know what will pique their interest, but here are some that I've found to be persuasive:

1. **MOAA LEADS THE CHARGE.** Many people are motivated to join when you say that MOAA leads the charge with Congress to ensure a strong national defense and good benefits for all veterans and active duty personnel. They like to be able to support that.
2. **NO PRESSURE TO ATTEND SOCIALS.** Our members are not required or pressured to attend chapter socials. Only about 125 of our 500 members do so, but that's okay because *numbers count!* Their membership helps to persuade our senators and representatives to pass legislation of interest to us.
3. **18 NEWSLETTERS FOR \$25.** People think that 18 newsletters for \$25 is a bargain, not to mention three years of chapter membership.
4. **COMMON VALUES & INTERESTS.** People are often eager to make some friends with similar values and interests, folks with whom they'll have an instant common bond.

Recruiting is actually a real kick and we'd like to have a few more chapter folks who would agree to help us find new members for our chapter and MOAA. There's lots of ways to go about it, and you probably have more good ideas. You won't be assigned any numerical goals, so there won't be any pressure. If you're interested, please call me at (208) 773-1074.

**Now Hear This!**

**Spokane Chapter of MOAA  
P O Box 466  
Veradale WA 9903**

**18 May 2008 at Cathay Inn  
3714 North Division, Spokane**

**12:45 p.m. Social time, 13:30 p.m. meal service begins**

**Please mail your reservation so we receive it by Saturday, 10 May. We cannot accept late reservations or walk-ins.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places for the Sunday 18 May 2008 luncheon meeting at the Cathay Inn.  
The cost is \$16.00 per person. My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Please make your check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to the chapter mailbox above.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest  
(circle one) (circle one)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest  
(If more guests, please write in)

[ ] Please write in your phone number if you can provide a ride to the luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Future Program suggestions (food, location, speakers, etc) \_\_\_\_\_  
Changes in your address, email, etc:

Cut here-----cut here

**18 May 2008 – Cathay Inn, 3714 North Division, Spokane - telephone (509) 326-2226. Cathay Inn is on the east side of Division; look for their large sign on the left if you are southbound, on the right if northbound. If you have questions, please contact Bob Imle @ (509) 701-3342. Dining will be family style.**

**NEED a RIDE to the LUNCHEON MEETING?**

Idaho:

Richard Oates 208-777-2671    Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Washington:

Clif Collier 509-443-6490    Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483

Chic Juber 509-926-9817    Chuck Latimer 509-326-2978

Ed Parker 509-891-6380    Clinton Piper 509-747-9305

Omak: Jerry Zee 509-442-7735

**Chapter Recruiting Incentives**

1. If you recruit three new chapter members by 31 December, you will receive a free one-year extension on your chapter dues.
2. If you recruit two more, you'll also get a free ticket to a chapter luncheon.

**Membership Chair/Committee  
Spokane Chapter of MOAA  
P O Box 466  
Veradale WA 99037**

**Clip and complete this form and send it to the address to the left so we can update our roster. Thank you.**

**Member name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)

[ ] I would like to be added to the chapter e-mail list to receive important information in a timely manner.  
My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)

[ ] My mailing address and/or phone number has changed to:

\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I will be temporarily away starting \_\_\_\_\_ and returning \_\_\_\_\_. I do do not (circle one) wish to receive the newsletter while I'm away. If "do" please send it to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
SPOKANEMOAA.ORG



**Spokane Chapter of the Military Officers  
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P.O. BOX 466  
Veradale WA 99037**

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#### **Chapter Board Member & Historian Frank Potter**

Frank graduated from high school in 1938, married June in 1940, and enlisted in the Air Force Cadet flying program in 1943, graduating in 1945 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. At the end of WWII he instructed French Cadets and was awarded French Pilot Wings. He took the exam for regular commission, passed and given 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rank. Mid 1946 he went to Japan and was assigned to the 317<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group flying the C-46 and C-54s. There he flew all over the Far East, Iwo Jima, Guam, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, etc. hauling passengers and freight. One time his cargo was 75 million dollars. In 1948 Lt. Potter participated in the Berlin Airlift. In 1949 Lt Potter went back to Japan returning the back way and a month later was sent to Fairfield Suisun. In 1950 as a Capt he was sent to Atomic school and made a Bomb Commander. During 1951 the Air Force wanted all officers to have at least a two year college degree so Frank attended night school at Sacramento State College. 1953 saw Frank and family moved to Mountain Home where he led the first formation of three B-29s to arrive. He was an instructor or check pilot in all aircraft he flew. Fairchild AFB became home in 1954 flying B-36s, switching to B-52's in 1956. Frank made permanent Lt. Col in 1963. In '63 & '64 he was Squadron Commander of the 325<sup>th</sup> BS at FAFB. In 1964 he went to Beale as Deputy Director of Ops and in '66 was promoted to Colonel, and in '67 sent to Minot as Deputy Base Commander. During 1968 June had a heart attack they transferred to FAFB where he served as Deputy Base Commander retiring in September '69. He accumulated almost 10,000 hours flying. Frank has served on the Spokane MOAA Board for many years and has been faithful in keeping a running history of our chapter plus recruiting many new members.

#### **Chapter Board Member & 1st VP Merl Gorton**

Merl was born in Spokane in 1929. His family to the Spokane valley in 1945 and he graduated from Central Valley High School in 1947. He joined the Army National Guard (ANG) in 1947 and at the age of 22 he was a Battalion Sgt. Major of the 1st battalion of the 161st Infantry. In 1953 he became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. In 1955 he was the state representative supervising the reconstruction of the Spokane Armory. Merl also served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the National Guard Association and several years on the National Resolution Committee. In 1972 he was transferred to the coast and assigned as the logistical officer for the ANG for the state of Washington. During the period of civil disturbances in the 60's and 70's he trained law enforcement officials and city leaders of the state of Washington in crowd control.

He was the editor of the Army's MOBEX 76 world wide report on mobilization while serving at the Army's FORCES Command. Later he edited a major readiness report at the Department of Defense that reported on readiness status of all of the reserve components. He is a graduate of the Infantry School, the Army's Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

While stationed at Camp Murray he was promoted to Colonel. In 1980 he was appointed as Chief of Staff for the WA ANG. He retired in 1985 after almost 38 years of service. Merl has served a number of years on the Spokane MOAA Board, is also President of the MOAA Council of Chapters for Washington and is the VP of the Armed Forces and Aero Space Museum. He has been married to the wonderful Diane for 30+ years.