



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER



Volume XVIII Number 6

November, 2008

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President's Message

Having just returned from the President's Symposium in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, I'll try to pass on some of the challenges facing MOAA's chapters today. First and foremost is recruiting. MOAA presently is 370,000 strong and going toward 380,000. In the past three years MOAA has recruited 100,000 new members. But the problem is that it has lost 80,000 due to attrition. It was emphasized at the Symposium that we need the second career people and currently serving officers if we are to maintain our strength. Second important item: Military retirees will receive a 5.8% cost of living adjustment to retired pay in 2009. Number three: Check the expiration date on the back of your Military ID Card.

At the October Luncheon we elected new Officers and Board Members to serve in 2009 for our Chapter. We will install them at the December Chapter luncheon at Mukogawa, Fort Wright. Thanks to Bob and Maggie Imle for a terrific lunch on 19 October at the Northern Quest Casino. We had a good turnout and lots of interaction. Support the Troops received a \$500 donation from the invited speaker, Hunter Financial.

Our newest Spokane Chapter Board Member is CW4 Jerry Garcia, US Army Retired. He replaces LtCol Chet Davis, US Air Force who re-signed due to ill health. I wish to thank Chet for his service to our chapter. Speaking of people stepping up to the plate for the Spokane Chapter, it is my pleasure to welcome Dean Thie, former LTJG, US Navy as our new Newsletter Editor.

Coming up in 2009 is the Wheel Chair Games; sponsored by the Veterans Hospital in Spokane. We intend to lend our support to the games; in future newsletters look for ways you may help.

Have you paid your dues? Save us the postage and do it now! Bring a friend to the 7 December Mukogawa Luncheon. Remember, this is the year of the Chapter.

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

Semper Fi!!

Dick Oates 208-777-2671



Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941

"...a date which will live in infamy..."

Now Hear This!

**Would you like to win \$1000?
by Marilyn Hunt**

Recruit just one new member for MOAA under the 2008 Give Me Ten program and your name will be entered in a random drawing for a \$1000 end-of-contest sweepstakes prize. If you win, you get the thousand dollars and the associated recruit gets \$500 and a free Life Membership in MOAA.

Our Program Chairs, **Bob and Maggie Imle**, thought this would be great, so Maggie went out on the flight line during the Fairchild Air Show and recruited NINE new members for MOAA. It's amazing what one person can do when they put their mind to it. **Dick Oates** got two more, **Chuck Latimer** snagged three, and **Beth Ann Daigre** got one, so we brought MOAA a grand total of 15 new members in just one day! And I got four officers at a VA groundbreaking ceremony in Boise, plus a member from my church. Our chapter has brought MOAA a grand total of 71 new members this year compared with 44 for all of 2007.

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW: WHY SHOULD I JOIN MOAA?

1.

Some of the services MOAA provides are:

• Monthly copy of <i>Military Officer</i> magazine	• 529 College Savings Plan
• Scholarship program for dependent children	• Insurance plans (including Tricare Supplement)
• Financial Planning (Garrett Planning Network)	• MOAA vacation cruises (reasonably priced)
• Pentagon Federal Credit Union membership	• Tricare Dental Program
• Money Market accounts	• Career Transition (TOPS) program

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR MOAA NATIONAL "GIVE ME TEN" MEMBERSHIP?

1. Active duty/drilling Guard or Reserve officers get one year of MOAA Membership and one year free chapter membership, if desired.
2. Former officers (including retirees) get two years for \$25 and one year free chapter membership (or three years for \$15).
3. Current members who convert their Annual MOAA national membership to Life get a \$20 refund from the chapter. Call 800-234-6622 and ask for the Member Service Center)

TO RECRUIT ANY ELIGIBLE OFFICER UNDER "GIVE ME TEN," DO THIS:

1. Get the following information from ALL eligible officers (active duty & former): Name, Date of birth, Rank, Service, Mailing address, Phone number, Email address (optional), Spouse Name (if applicable), Spouse date of birth.
2. Ask former officers to give you a check for \$25 made out to MOAA . Then send the info in paragraph 1 and their check to Marilyn Hunt, 2536 W. Falling Star Loop, Post Falls ID 83854. I will then fill out the appropriate form and send everything to MOAA.
3. If they get a free one-year active duty/drilling Guard or Reserve membership, send the info in paragraph 1 to me by **Phone** (208) 773-1074 or **E-mail** (cinc@verizon.net) or **U.S. Mail** (2536 W. Falling Star Loop, Post Falls ID 83854). I will then fill out the appropriate "Give Me Ten" form and send it to MOAA .

Welcome, New Members

Kevin Clapp, Capt, USAF & wife Jennifer, Fairchild AFB
Michael Gallant, LtCol, USAF & wife Lisa, Spokane
Howard McArthur, LtCol, USAF & wife Melissa, Fairchild AFB
Donald State, LTC, USA, Post Falls

Taps

George Livie, LTC, USAF (10/22/08)
Carl Chandler, COL, USA (11/1/08)

Support Our Troops

We're sending a package to an Afghanistan Marine unit with both male and female troops. Please bring some of the following to the December Social: socks, foot/hand warmers, hot chocolate, popcorn and soup mixes (microwavable), trail mix, personal care items, caps that cover the entire head, thermal underwear, etc.

Now Hear This!

WSCOC Report

By Merl Gorton

WSCOC PREPARING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SEASON

A major responsibility of WSCOC (Washington State Council of Chapters) is to be involved in both federal and state legislative issues. There are almost 12,000 MOAA members in the state with about 2,000 chapter members. WSCOC serves as the coordinator and active voice for all.

Serious issues concerning veterans benefits and needs can often only be resolved or defended by active knowledgeable representation. Ken Deich is our voice with the Washington State Legislature serving as a member of the VLC. Deryl McCarty serves on the VAAC which is the Governor's appointed advisory committee.

This year, the WSCOC Board meeting in Richland, voted to promote legislation that protects reservists and National Guardsmen who have been activated for war service. The first would permit them to renew professional licenses at other than a fixed date of testing or certification. Often that occurs while they are serving overseas and alternative time is not provided. So what happens to their ability to practice or work until the next test? Secondly, legislation to recognize credit for military acquired skills reducing lengthy and costly training would be promoted.

At the national level, it is important to realize that the threat of greatly reduced Medicare payments to primary care doctors has not gone away. The next programmed cut is 20.1 percent to take affect in 2010. This of course also reduces TFL payments. Many will find it impossible to find a primary care doctor if this happens.

MOAA now has 370,000 members. This strength is very important when seeking to protect our interests. The National Staff is one of the most respected on capital hill. So we must stay strong to survive in a very difficult environment. If you know someone who is an officer retiree or on active duty, encourage him or her to become a member.

The Spokane Chapter is to be congratulated on winning its Five Star award. Three other chapters in the State also qualified for this achievement. The Spokane Chapter has an outstanding legislative letter writing effort to Congress. Last year more than one thousand were sent. It also is among the leading Chapters in recruiting in the United States.

Raffle Reports for 2008

April: \$195 ROTC Units

May: \$153 Fisher House

July: \$235 Museum

September: \$175 MOAA Scholarships

October: \$174 Shriners Hospital

Independence Day

By Frank Potter

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners - men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Lewis Morris and Philip Livingston suffered similar fates. Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes this year and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

Now Hear This!

Spokane Chapter of MOAA
P O Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

7 Dec, 2008 at the Mukogawa Ft. Wright
Institute Commons Building
12:30 Social time, 1:15 Meeting, 1:30 Buffet begins

Please mail your reservation early; we must receive it by **Friday, 28 November**; We cannot accept late reservations or walk-ins. Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday 7 December Luncheon Meeting.

The cost is \$17 per person. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. Make check payable to **"Spokane Chapter MOAA"** - mail to chapter mailbox. above.

Menu will be roast beef, roast turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans w/almonds, cranberry nut salad, fruit salad, and cheesecake for dessert. Wine will be available. Entertainment by Randy Wagner's EWU choral group. They entertained us last year, and are back by popular demand.

Name: _____ **member/guest (circle one)**

Name: _____ **member/guest (circle one)**

Name: _____ **member/guest (circle one)** 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) _____

7 December 2008 - Mukogawa Fort Wright, 4000 West Randolph Road, Spokane. Directions: From I-90, Maple Street exit, turn left on 4th Avenue, and left on Sunset Blvd. Stay in the right hand lane. After the bridge, turn right onto Government Way, and right onto Fort George Wright Drive, go .1 mile, turn left onto Randolph Road and continue to the roundabout at the end. Questions? Call Bob Imle @ (509) 701-3342.
Bring something for our troops serving in harm's way (postage fees appreciated).

Legislative Report

By Chuck Latimer

This legislative report is inspired by what I've been hearing from our national MOAA legislative staff. I hope that it will inspire each reader to "gird the loins" and get ready for the budget battles to come. And, with a new administration and a new Congress coming to Washington next year, there will surely be some budget battles that will threaten the earned benefits of military people.

Yes, I know we're in the middle of a two-front war, but the defense budget will surely be scrutinized. Our national staff is reporting that, because the Bush administration won't submit a formal budget to Congress for FY 2010, leaving it to the next president, Pentagon planners are composing a defense spending "wish list" — unconstrained by the White House budget office — that would add almost \$450 billion for the next five years to past defense budget projections.

Leaders in Congress are reportedly looking in a different direction. Early in October, the chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee told reporters that the defense budget will be squeezed by the fiscal bailout, domestic needs, and the presidential candidates' proposed tax cuts. As a result, he said, planned increases in Army and Marine Corps force levels will be scaled back to pay for weapon needs.

The chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee also has talked about "slimming down" personnel and improving readiness through better equipment.

Here comes the historical likelihood of our federal politicians to unwisely declare a "peace dividend" and cut defense spending.

It doesn't take a genius to understand that our current wartime requirements aren't declining, nor that we've worn out equipment and weapons that have to be replaced. Nor is it

rocket science to recognize that it's been proven that our force levels are too low to sustain wartime needs.

In the defense budget, the easy way to save money quickly is to cut personnel — which means putting off even further any real relief for the service members and families who already have borne 100 percent of the nation's wartime sacrifice.

Since 9/11, our active duty, Guard, and Reserve forces have faced frequent combat deployments, and it looks like this will continue for the foreseeable future. So, it is amazing to me that we haven't had a retention crisis before now.

That we haven't is a tribute to the continuing patriotism, resilience, and dedication of the military people who've carried the full burden of wartime sacrifice — far beyond any reasonable expectation. But, the irony is that their willingness to sacrifice has had the perplexing effect of desensitizing their leaders to that same sacrifice.

So, we in MOAA must continue to step up and speak out for those who have served and who are still serving. And, frankly, for those who might be willing to join up and serve in the future... we must stay strong and organized. That means recruiting new members every chance we get — both for national and for our chapters. It means that every chapter needs to look at its legislative program and ask, "Are we ready for the upcoming budget wars?" If the answer is anything other than "Yes, 100 percent," then we need to get ready.

My challenge to you as a member of the Spokane Chapter: Recruit when you can. Keep up your membership in national and the chapter. Be an activist on our issues.

It's our duty to help the nation stay strong. After all, we're still serving proudly.



Spokane Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. BOX 466
Veradale WA 99037

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- In Memoriam -

COL Carl E. Chandler USA, (Ret.)
March 27, 1931 - November 1, 2008

It is our sad duty to report that past Chapter President Colonel Carl E. Chandler, USA Ret, passed away on 1 November, after a prolonged battle with cancer. He and his wife Mary Ann have graced us with their presence at many chapter socials up until recent months when Carl was no longer able to attend. Carl entered active duty in 1955 after graduating from the Army ROTC program at Gonzaga. He served a tour in Korea and later returned to Spokane where he continued in the Reserves and began a civilian career in real estate and insurance, most notably as owner of Evergreen Properties. His last military assignment was as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Brigade 104th Timberwolf Division. In his later years, he also served on the Spokane MOAA Board of Directors and as Vice President of the Washington State Council of Chapters (MOAA). Carl will be greatly missed and we hope that Mary Ann will resume attendance at our socials.

Membership Chair/Committee
Spokane Chapter of MOAA
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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: