



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXIX Number 2



March 2019

Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

President, Newsletter Editor
Dave Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
509-465-8867 spomooa@melges.net

1st Vice President
Alan Davis, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
208-215-5607 rota_al@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President, Membership Chair & Email Newsletter Coordinator
Clif Collier, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

Secretary
Jon Hall, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
jonshall@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Alan Davis, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
208-215-5607
rota_al@yahoo.com

Surviving Spouses Liaison, Widows & Wives
Audrey Oates, (208) 777-2671
AROates@roadrunner.com

IPP & Social Chair
Rufus Hoefer, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret.)
509-443-6822 1rands@comcast.net

Director, Chief Recruiter
Marilyn Hunt, CDR, USN (Ret.)
208-773-1074 cinc@frontier.com

Director & Veterans Home Chair
Vacant

Director, ROTC, Homeless Veterans
Robert Imle, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-701-3342
robertmargaretimle@gmail.com

Director, Chaplain & Social Comm.
Betty Krafft, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
509-768-3138 bkrafft@spocom.com

Director & Social Committee
Barbara Thornbrugh, Surviving Spouse
509-466-2108
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net

Director & Website Coordinator
Dave Melges, LCDR USN (Ret.)
509-218-0735
spomooa@melges.net

Personal Affairs Chairman
Pat Burns 509-466-2874
burnspc9@comcast.net

5 Star Chapter President's Message



Our next social will be Sunday, 28 April at Darcy's, Spokane Valley. We celebrate our 45th anniversary as a MOAA Chapter. We also honor members and their spouses who have transferred to their final command. I hope you will join us at Darcy's.

Agent Orange and Blue Water Exposure

What the Congress and VA have failed to correct may have been taken care of by the Federal Judicial system; the area for personnel affected by Agent Orange during Viet Nam should extend to the 12 mile coastal limit.

In a 9-2 decision on Procopio v. Wilkie, the court said those who served offshore in Vietnam should receive the same benefits as those who had "boots on the ground." This means that about 70,000 veterans potentially could be covered, and unfortunately about 20,000 have died during this process.

Blue Water Navy veterans are considered to be those who served aboard ships in the open waters off the coast of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and who did not go ashore. Historically, VA has excluded Blue Water Navy veterans from its presumption of herbicide agent exposure. Therefore, these veterans were required to show on a factual basis that they were exposed to herbicides during military service in order to receive disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

(Continued on page 3)

MOAA Websites & Membership:

MOAA Website: <http://www.moaa.org>

MOAA "Take Action": <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

MOAA Legislative: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#Legislative-Action-Center>

Spokane Chapter website: <http://www.spokanemoaa.org>



Membership in Spokane Chapter and MOAA national is open to present and former commissioned officers and warrant officers (including retirees) with honorable service in any of the United States seven uniformed services (including National Guard and Reserves) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. MOAA and Spokane Chapter MOAA are nonpartisan.



Find us on:

facebook®

@SpokaneMOAA

@MOAA



Chapter Scoreboard 2019

JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 3/02/19) \$1457

Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 3/2/19): 205

2018 Total: **1131**

2019 Raffles:

- MAR: Meals on Wheels
- APR: MOAA Scholarship
- JUN: Union Gospel Mission
- SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America
- OCT: Spokane Veterans Home
- DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships.

Widows & Wives:

Homeless Vets **\$63.00, 1082 items** delivered, including canned meat & fruit, 15 dozen cookies and personal hygiene products.

Spokane Veterans Home: **406 items** delivered, including 72 new golf balls, 10 puzzles, 40 postage stamps, 97 new greeting cards, 22 sticker sheets, 6 calendars, 7 magazines, 5 adult coloring books, 54 twist up crayons, 48 colored pencils, 10 unfinished wood bird houses, 23 bottles acrylic paint, 12 disposable razors

Meals on Wheels **\$62.00.**

Welcome

Please join me in welcoming new chapter member **Col Ace Bowman, USAF, (retired)**.

Hats Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Jon Hall	0	2
Marilyn Hunt	0	3
Dave Melges	0	2
	0	0
2019 Total	0	7

Judge rules men-only military draft unconstitutional

A federal judge has ruled that a men-only draft is unconstitutional, but he stopped short of ordering the Selective Service System to register women for military service.

The Houston judge sided with a San Diego men's advocacy group that challenged the government's practice of having only men sign up for the draft, citing sex discrimination in violation of the Fifth Amendment's equal protection clause.

"This case balances on the tension between the constitutionally enshrined power of Congress to raise armies and the constitutional mandate that no person be denied the equal protection of the law," wrote U.S. District Judge Gray Miller of the Southern District of Texas.

The government asked the judge to dismiss the suit or stay a decision until a national commission studying the issue of women's draft registration reaches a recommendation.

The judge noted that could take years, and even then Congress isn't required to follow the commission's findings.

Reported by **The San Diego Union-Tribune**

NOW HEAR THIS! *Is published at least 6 times per year by the Spokane Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, P O Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Editor: David Melges, spomoaa@melges.net, 509-218-0735.*

Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

Continued from President's Message on Page 1

As a result, tens of thousands of veterans were denied VA disability benefits over the years.

The Federal Circuit heard the case of Blue Water Navy veteran Alfred Procopio was seeking to overturn *Haas v. Peake*, arguing that the case was wrongly decided and that the intent of Congress in including the phrase "Republic of Vietnam" in the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was to include those service members who served off the coast of Vietnam. On January 29, 2019, the Federal Circuit issued a decision in favor of Mr. Procopio. Specifically, the Federal Circuit overturned *Haas v. Peake*, finding that "Republic of Vietnam" includes both the country's landmass and its territorial seas in which Blue Water Navy veterans served. As a result, Blue Water Navy veterans will now be afforded the same presumption of exposure to herbicides as veterans who served "boots on the ground" in Vietnam.

The Federal Circuit's decision represents a major victory for Blue Water Navy veterans who have been fighting for disability benefits for many years. The Federal Circuit decided that it was imperative that the 38 United States Code 1116 be interpreted and read in a way that favored a large class of veterans who had very important service in Vietnam.

This decision will likely impose significant costs to VA as Blue Water Navy veterans are now entitled to disability benefits for conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. Congressional Budget Office officials estimate that awarding the benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans could total about \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2019 and \$5.7 billion over the next 10 years. If the decision stands, VA will be forced to cover the costs regardless of whether an offset is agreed upon.

When VA adds a new condition to the presumptive list, it must: (1) identify all claims for the recognized disease that were previously filed and/or denied, and (2) pay retroactive disability and death benefits to the veterans or their survivors back to the date of the veteran's initial claim. Furthermore, the *Nehmer* decision ruled that a veteran's effective date would go all the way back to the date of their initial claim if their claim or denial for a presumptive condition falls between September 25, 1985 and August 31, 2010. Importantly, the *Nehmer* ruling only applies to veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Now that Blue Water Navy veterans are considered to have served in the "Republic of Vietnam," it is possible VA will consider them as part of the *Nehmer* class and award retroactive benefits.

Supreme Court: Retirees Can Be Court-Martialed for Crimes Committed After Service

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the Defense Department's authority to prosecute retired service members for crimes they commit, even after retirement. The court chose not to hear the case of a retired Marine who was court-martialed for a sexual assault he committed three months after leaving the service in August 2015. By not accepting the case, *Larrabee v. the United States*, the court upheld the status quo: that military retirees are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The law stipulates that "retired members of a regular component of the armed forces who are entitled to pay" and "members of the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve" are subject to court-martial jurisdiction. The reasoning, the government argues, is that retirement is simply a change of military status and retired personnel are subject to recall should the need arise.

Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act

Representative Clay Higgins introduced H.R. 1527. This would provide veterans who can no longer live independently an alternative to nursing home care. The veteran would continue to receive the care that they need in an intimate home-like environment through VA's Home-Based Primary Care program, and the Medical Foster Home (MFH) attendant program.

Started in 2000, VA Medical Foster Homes provide veterans who need nursing home level of care an alternative to being placed in a nursing home. VA Medical Foster Homes merge traditional adult foster care with comprehensive longitudinal care provided in the home by a VA interdisciplinary team that includes a physician, nurse, social worker, rehabilitation therapist, mental health provider, dietitian and pharmacist. Since its inception, over 4,000 veterans have resided in Medical Foster Homes.

However, many service-connected veterans who wish to reside in a VA Medical Foster Home are unable to do so because of substantial out-of-pocket costs of approximately \$1,500 to \$3,000 per month. Because VA does not have the authority to cover these costs, veterans are placed in nursing homes which VA pays for but cost more than twice as much.

As the veteran population continues to age, the need for long-term care services will continue to grow. Home-based community programs like MFHs will enable VA to meet the needs of aging veterans in a manner closer to independent living than institutionalized care. With the passage of this bill, veterans would have the option of care that more closely aligns with their independence while maintaining their quality of life.

(This bill is in accordance with Disabled American Veterans Resolution No. 085, which calls for legislation to improve the comprehensive program of long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans regardless of their disability ratings).

Big Income Tax Changes!

Have you filed your 2018 Federal tax return? Did you find that your refund is lower than last year? Do you owe more than you had withheld? The major tax changes made last year have really affected the withholding formula. Because of that your retirement check and your social security payment probably increased and less was withheld. You can make sure this does not happen to you for your 2019 tax filing, here's how:

1. Collect your 2018 return paper work (include all statements for investments and bank accounts)
2. Get online (if you don't have access to a computer at home try the public library)
3. Go to <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator>
4. On the upper right of the page you can view a video on how to use the calculator
5. When you are done, you can adjust your W-4 on the DFAS website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>
6. If you aren't familiar with this page there are video instructions available by going to <https://bit.ly/2AgEJf1>
7. Still need help? Your kids or grandchildren are great tech help resources.

Legislative Contacts

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20500

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 Russ Fulcher
United States House of
Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr. Ste. 241
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
(208) 667-0127
Fax: (208) 667-0310

Widows & Wives Club Upcoming 2019 Events

Date	Where	Hostess
8 January	Black Angus Steakhouse 14724 E Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-927-1177	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768
5 February	Darcy's Restaurant & Sprints 10502 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA 99206 509-891-0773	Shirley Melges 509-465-8867
5 March	Beverly's Coeur d'Alene Resort 112 S Second Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 800-688-5253	Pat Connell 208-772-2559
2 April	Anthony's Homeport 1926 Riverstone Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-664-4665	Maxine Mahony 208-762-3380
7 May	Tea	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768
4 June	Rad Ricci Italian Bistro 8049 N Wayne Drive, Hayden, ID 208-635-5821	Jan McMonigle 208-772-3735
2 July	Thai Bamboo 5204 N Division St, Spokane, WA 509-777-8424	Deanie Binsfield 509-466-8006
6 August	Tito Macaroni 210 E Sherman Ave, Coeur D Alene, ID 83814 208-667-2782	Jan McMonigle 208-772-3735
3 September	Christ Kitchen 2410 N Monroe St, Spokane, WA 509-325-4343	Kay White 509-315-9684
1 October	Bistro on Spruce 1710 N Fourth, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-664-1774	Pat Connell 208-772-2559
5 November	Twigs Bistro 14728 East Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-290-5636	Barbara Thornbrugh 509-466-2108
3 December	Clinkerdagger 621 W. Mallon Street, Spokane, WA 99201 509-328-5965	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768



Upcoming Events 2019 Mark Your Calendars!



Spokane Chapter Social Dates

- 17 Mar Ramada Inn
- 28 Apr Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 23 Jun Highlands, Post Falls
- 15 Sep Anthony's, Coeur d' Alene
- 27 Oct Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 8 Dec Mukogawa Ft. Wright

Need a Ride to a Chapter Social? Call Anyone Listed Below



WASHINGTON
Clif Collier 509-443-6490

IDAHO
Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates

- 8 Jan Black Angus Steakhouse
- 5 Feb Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 5 Mar Beverly's Coeur d'Alene Resort
- 2 Apr Anthony's Homeport, CdA
- 7 May Tea
- 4 Jun Rad Ricci Italian Bistro
- 2 Jul Thai Bamboo
- 6 Aug Tito Macaroni, CdA
- 3 Sep Christ Kitchen
- 1 Oct Bistro on Spruce, CdA
- 5 Nov Twig's Bistro
- 3 Dec Clinkerdagger



Local Resources

Washington Attorney General's Military & Veteran Legal Resource Guide

This guide summarizes in one place some of the many legal rights, protections, and resources available to Washington's military service members, veterans, and their families. It is designed to help promote awareness and understanding about the laws and protections among military service members, veterans, and others to help current and former military service members see the full benefit these laws provide.

Topics Included: Legal Assistance • Consumer Protection • Employment • Education • Housing • Family Law • Health Care • Disability and More...

The free guide can be downloaded at the following link or received by mail via written request to the address below:

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/veteran-and-military-resources>

Washington State Office of the Attorney General
Military & Veteran Assistance
800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA 98104

Fairchild AFB Retiree Activities Office (RAO)

SGM Jim R. Smith, USA (Ret.), Director

Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., Ste. 109,
509-247-5359

Hours: 1000—1400

They need volunteers to work four hours per month.

Casualty Assistance Officer

Claudette Becker is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area.

Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488.

If you leave a message, she will call you back.

U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance

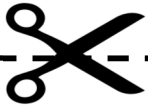
Fairchild AFB Wing Headquarters

(509) 247-2838

Legal Assistance: Tuesday & Thursday 0830-0930

Notary & Power of Attorney: Mon—Fri 0830-1600

Call to find out if they can help with your legal needs.



28 April Social Event Reminders



SUNDAY, 28 April, 12:30 p.m. Social, 1:15 p.m. Buffet
10502 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

DIRECTIONS: Darcy's is located just east of University Mall and has plenty of parking. West on I-90: Exit 289 (Pines), left on Indiana, then left on Pines to Sprague. Right to University Mall on left. East on I-90: Exit 287 (Argonne), right to Appleway Blvd, then turn left & go to University Rd. Left on University to Sprague. Left to University Mall.

PLEASE BRING:

- 3 postage stamps & 6 return address labels per person
- Something for the raffle which will benefit MOAA Scholarship
- Gloves, hats, XL white T-shirts, hand warmers, canned meat or hygiene items for homeless veterans
- Plastic tube type hangers, postage stamps, and unused greeting cards for birthdays & anniversaries etc., small gift items for residents to celebrate family occasions, magazines, and craft items

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 No later than Wednesday, 24 April for refund.



Mailing Address

Spokane Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

Social Registration April 2019

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Wednesday, 24 April**
To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 24 April for refund.

What's on the Menu:

Buffet of Prime Rib,
Salmon and Chicken
Cordon Bleu, feta Marsala
rice, garlic red potatoes,
veggies, salad and bread
sticks. Little bites for
desserts. *Cash bar.*

Date & Times

Sunday, 28 April 2019
12:30 Social, 1:15 Buffet

Cost is \$22 per person

Location

Darcy's, Spokane Valley
10502 E. Sprague
(in the old University Mall)

Please reserve ___ places for the Sunday, 28 April social at Darcy's Spokane Valley. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$22 x ___ number of reservations). Make check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one) **Name:** _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one)
Name: _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one) **Name:** _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one)
Name: _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one) **Name:** _____ **Member/Guest** (circle one)

Membership Chair/Committee
Spokane Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 466,
Veradale WA 99037

Update My Communication Preferences

EMAIL REQUEST, CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE, or TEMPORARILY AWAY:

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

Member Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

I would like to be added to the chapter email list. I specifically request to (check all that apply):

- Receive the chapter newsletter by email
- Receive important information in a timely manner.

NOTE: We do not send junk email or spam. Also, we do not give away, sell or trade anyone's email addresses.

My email address is: _____
(Please print clearly)

My mailing address, email 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: _____ Date: _____

Fill out and Mail to: Spokane Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037

Join Today!

FREE Chapter Membership for NEW members thru 31 DEC 2019
Regular Member: \$15/yr. or \$40 for 3 yrs.

Please Print or Type: NAME _____

RANK _____ SERVICE _____ STATUS (Circle one): Active, Retired, Former, Surviving Spouse

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ NAME OF SPOUSE _____ MOAA NAT'L NO. _____

E-MAIL _____ I do / do not (circle one) wish to receive my chapter newsletter by E-Mail.

DATE OF RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION (If Applicable) _____ CIVILIAN OCCUPATION _____

To join Spokane Chapter, MOAA, membership is required in MOAA national. I am / am not (circle one) a current member of MOAA national. Membership in the Spokane Chapter and MOAA national is open to present and former commissioned officers and warrant officers (including retirees) with honorable service in any of the United States seven uniformed services (including National Guard and Reserves) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ RECRUITER _____



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXIX Number 2



March 2019