NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume XXVIII Number 2 ★★★★★ March 2018

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5 Star Chapter President's Message
By Dave Melges

We'll celebrate our 44th chapter anniversary on 15 April at a place we've never been before: **Olive & Vine in the Village at Riverstone in Coeur d'Alene**. It's on the street that's directly in front of the Regal Riverstone movie theater. We'll have corsages for all Surviving Spouses who attend and a yummy chocolate cake for everyone to enjoy. FREE parking garage or park on street in front of Olive & Vine. Please send the reservation coupon on page 5 so we receive it by Friday, 13 April.

So, have you received your bill from Express Scripts for your medications sent after 1 February? I got mine, $7 for each generic prescription filled. The reason for the new charge is thanks to members of Congress who take such good care of us. Why did they do this? The answer lies in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, in a section that makes permanent a protection for military survivors against a measure known as the "widows tax."

That measure required that any money received from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by a new widow or widower whose spouse died from a service-related cause be offset dollar-for-dollar by the money he or she could receive from the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program. The fix, which had been set to expire this year, reduced the amount of that offset. Some members of Congress wanted to make that fix permanent. How? Find a way to pay for it, about $1 billion a year, by raising taxes? No. Where does that DIC/SPB offset solution come from then? By charging all Tricare users except active duty personnel increased pharmacy fees.
It's great they decided to finally take action on the issue, but robbing Peter to pay Paul was not the way to go about it.

Bring Something to the 15 April Social for the Raffle

2018 Chapter Social Dates
Mark Your Calendar!

18 Mar	Darcy's, Spokane Valley
15 Apr	Vine & Olive, Coeur d'Alene
17 Jun	Highlands, Post Falls
16 Sep	Darcy's, Spokane Valley
21 Oct	To be announced
2 Dec	Mukogawa Ft. Wright

2018 Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates

2 Jan	Ripples on the River
6 Feb	Black Angus Steakhouse
6 Mar	Dockside CdA Resort
3 Apr	Thai Bamboo
1 May	Bistro on Spruce
5 Jun	Christ Kitchen
3 Jul	Anthony's Homeport, CdA
7 Aug	Luna Restaurant
4 Sep	The Kroc Center, CdA
2 Oct	Daanen's Delicatessen, Hayden
6 Nov	Twig's Bistro
4 Dec	Bramble Berry Cottage Tea Shop

Welcome New Members

COL Barry Johnson, U. S. Army (Ret.) & wife Gina, Potlatch ID
Catherine Semple Surviving Spouse, Spokane
Charlotte Yocum, Surviving Spouse, Spokane

Taps

MAJ R. L. Nelson, USMC (Ret.) (12/14/17)
LTjg Dean Thie, USN (3/07/18)
LtCol Peter Yocum, USAF (Ret.) (2/26/18)

Our Hat Is Off To:

2018

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
John Hall	1 (self)	0
Marilyn Hunt	2	2
Bob Imle	0	2
Dave Melges	0	2
Shirley Melges	1	0
Total	4	6

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2018

JROTC Scholarship Funds 3/03/18 $2217

Legislative Letters, Postcards, Emails as of 3/18/18: 274

2018 Raffle Donations: MAR: $230 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. **Total to date: $230.**

Widows & Wives: Homeless Vets $34.00. Spokane Veterans Home 129 items, including 31 unfinished wood items, 22 AA batteries, 18 bottles acrylic paint, 23 magazines, 1 peg game, 7 disposable razors, 22 pounds bird seed & 5 wall clocks.. Meals on Wheels $18.00.

MOAA Website and Membership:

MOAA website: www.moaa.org
MOAA "Take Action": www.moaa.org/takeaction/
MOAA Legislative: http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#Legislative-Action-Center
Spokane Chapter website: 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.

SPOKANE CHAPTER IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!
LIKE US AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPOKANEMOAA
SIGN UP TODAY!

Widows & Wives Club Upcoming Events

DATE	LOCATION	CALL
3 APR	Thai Bamboo 5406 N. Division St. Spokane WA (509) 777-8424	Pat Burns (509) 951-5070
1 MAY	Bistro on Spruce 1710 N. 4th St. Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 664-1774	Pat Connell (208) 772-2559
5 JUN	Christ Kitchen 2410 N. Monroe Spokane (509) 325-4343	Kay White (509) 315-9684
3 JULY	Anthony's Homeport 1926 Riverstone Dr. Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 762-3380	Maxine Mahoney (208) 762-3380

We are a 5 Star Chapter proudly serving northeast Washington and north Idaho since 1974

Pat Burns - Personal Affairs Chairman

By Marilyn Hunt

Pat Burns relieved Kay White as Personal Affairs Chainman, effective 24 March. As you'll see below, she has a very interesting background and has had some life experiences that will make her especially empathetic toward those who survive the loss of a loved one.

Pat says: My life began in Peoria Illinois. I met my husband Chuck on a blind date (my first ever) arranged by his cousin. He was persistent and captured my heart. We married a year after his Bradley University graduation where he received his shiny new 2LT bars.

Our first assignment was Travis AFB, California. I worked for the 14th Air Division Operations Commander and loved it. We enjoyed our stay there and accomplished a lot of sightseeing and volunteer work. While there, we started our family with a sweet baby boy. My husband followed B-47's and next we went to Orlando, FL to McCoy AFB. During this assignment we received another bouncy boy! It seemed we were destined to close SAC bases and were sent to Lincoln AFB, Nebraska. It was there we were gifted with a darling baby girl. One might say we covered the United States.

With almost two years to retirement, Chuck requested the Pacific Northwest. Apparently someone didn't study enough geography as we were sent to Minot AFB, North Dakota. After two Vietnam assignments it was time to retire and raise our young family. Chuck followed his dream and went into real estate here in Spokane. Naturally, I followed. He was very successful and took credit for teaching me everything he knew in real estate because I almost caught up with him. I completed 34 years in the business and held positions as one of the directors of the Spokane Real Estate Board, and also was Public Relations Chair.

When both my husband and second son became seriously ill, my priorities turned to their care until both were lost to God. My life now is being Grandma to our late son's twin boys, and our daughter's twin boys - all born within three weeks of each other.

I hope to give back in some way to honor my husband's service to his country.

Tom Sawyer & New Chapter Secretary –31 DEC Deadline

Remember Tom Sawyer? Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. A little while later, Ben Rogers, another boy Tom's age, walks by. Tom convinces Ben that whitewashing a fence is great pleasure and, after some bargaining, Ben agrees to give Tom his apple in exchange for the privilege of working on the fence.

Writing minutes and coordinating the chapter website/Facebook info is great fun, but Greg Sassman plans to let go of it on 31 DEC.

So stop sitting on the fence and call him for details: (509) 276-5156. Chapter members and spouses are eligible to serve in this position. If you give Greg a brownie, he'll let you have the job.

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: Marilyn Hunt cinc@frontier.com 208-773-1074. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

Washington State Veterans Home - Spokane

Bonita Powers, the new Director at the Spokane Veterans Home, gave a very informative presentation at our 18 March social.

Opened in 2002, the **Spokane Veterans Home** has 100 beds for residents needing skilled nursing care. It is located in the heart of Spokane's medical centers and offers skilled Medicare Rehabilitative Services following a qualifying hospital stay. They also coordinate frequent outings to keep veterans connected with annual activities, such as the Spokane Lilac Festival.

LOCATION: 222 E. 5th Ave., Spokane.

CONTACT: Tracey Smith, Veterans Benefit Specialist & Admissions Coordinator. (509) 309-5729. For a tour or more information call (509) 344-5770.

FINANCIAL: Their financial office will be glad to discuss coverage provided through your individual health insurance plan, or discuss the daily rate for private pay residents.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for admission, veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Served in the United States Armed Forces, including National Guard.
- Received an honorable discharge
- Reside in Washington State
- Be the spouse of a resident or widow of an eligible veteran
- Or be a Gold Star Parent.

MEDICAL:

For veterans needing care following a qualifying hospital stay, the Spokane Veterans Home offers Medicare rehabilitative care. Their admissions team works closely with hospital discharge planners to quickly process applications. They also accept Medicaid and allow qualified veterans to receive a higher Personal Needs Allowance than what is allowed in other nursing facilities.

Their medical staff provides most of the medical services for their residents.

Primary care is provided by staff physicians and nurse practitioners. Services include:

- Routine visits every 60 days
- Sick call
- Referrals for specialty care
- Medications from the WDVA Pharmacy
- Blood draws & x-rays

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 Raul Labrador, United States House of Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr.
Suite 241
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-0127
Fax 208-667-0310

Now Hear This!

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

Sunday, 15 April Olive & Vine Restaurant
Village at Riverstone
2037 N. Main Street, Coeur d'Alene ID
12:30 Social, 1:15 Meal served

Anniversary Social—Corsages for Surviving Spouses who attend

Mail early as reservations must be received in the chapter mailbox NLT Friday, 13 April 2018

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Friday, 13 April for refund.

MENU: Choice of fish tacos or cheeseburger, plus green salad, french fries & chocolate anniversary cake. Drinks include ice tea, lemonade or soda. Pay as you go for wine or beer. Cost is $20.00 per person. Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday, 15 April 2018 social at Olive & Vine. My check in the amount of $_____ is enclosed ($20.00 x ___ number of reservations). Make check to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA"** and mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: _____member/guest (circle one). Fish Tacos or Cheeseburger (circle one)

Name: _____member/guest (circle one). Fish Tacos or Cheeseburger (circle one)

Directions: SUNDAY 15 April Olive & Vine, 2037 N. Main St., Coeur d'Alene ID. Social starts at 12:30, served meal begins at 1:15 pm. Directions: East on I-90 take Exit 11 NW Boulevard toward Coeur d'Alene City Center. Right at second stoplight (Lakewood Dr. - there is a turn lane in far right lane of NW Boulevard). Right at stop light onto Riverstone Dr. Continue straight about ½ mile, turn right on N. Beebe. **Then do one of the following**: a) In about 500 ft. turn right on N. Main and park in any of the somewhat limited parking places. The restaurant is on your left. **OR** b) Continue past N. Main to large 2-story **FREE** parking garage. Entrance to garage is on right. There is plenty of parking including handicap parking. You will be behind the restaurant, so park in the middle of the garage, walk across the crosswalk, veer to the right and walk under the "walkthrough." Olive & Vine has a door on the left inside the walkthrough. **Questions?** Call Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822.
We will sign **legislative letters** and have a **raffle** in support of MOAA Scholarship. Please bring:

- 3 stamps and 6 address labels per person
- Something for the raffle which will benefit MOAA Scholarship
- Something for homeless veterans: white tube socks, canned meat, hygiene items or cash to purchase items

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

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.

NOTE: We do not send junk email or spam. Also, we do not give away, sell or trade your email address.

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.

[ ] 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: _____

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SPOKANEMOAA.ORG

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

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

WASHINGTON

Clif Collier 509-443-6490

IDAHO

Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Please see article on page 4 which has facts and contact information pertaining to the

Spokane Veterans Home.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, they will call you back.

FAFB 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.