

NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXI Number 1



FEBRUARY 2021

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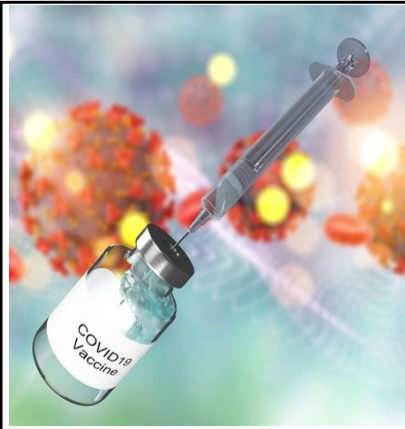
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5 Star Chapter President's Message

Here we are in a new year, let's hope it is better than last year! Please take a moment to thank the front line workers in this war against Covid. All of the Doctors, nurses, attendants, grocery workers and delivery people all deserve our thanks for what they do for us. If it was not for them I am sure there would be many more casualties from the pandemic.

Speaking of the pandemic, have you received your vaccination yet? How about your flu shot? Shirley and I got our first Covid shot in late January and it was painless, we did however have a little discomfort in the area the next day. I urge those of you that venture out for the necessities to get both vaccines. Fairchild Air Force Base will be offering the Covid-19 vaccine, go to <https://fairchild.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Preventive-Care> for information. Veterans Affairs Covid information is found at <https://www.spokane.va.gov/>. Idaho state vaccine information can be found at <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/covid-19-vaccination>. Washington State vaccine information can be found at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/VaccineLocations>.

I would like to thank Barbara Thornbrugh for her service on the board of directors and for assisting Rufus with all of the social arrangements. We welcome Thomas Swindle to the board as another representative from Idaho. Tom and his wife reside in Blanchard, he is also active in the Disabled American Veterans.

MOAA Websites & Membership:



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

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

MOAA Legislative: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/>


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

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



@SpokaneMOAA

@MOAA



CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
FIFTH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

CHARLIE DURANA
VETERANS/MILITARY LIAISON

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CHARLES.DURANA@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

10 N. POST STREET, SUITE 625
SPOKANE, WA 99201

Chapter Scoreboard 2020

JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 12/31/2020) \$1392.00

Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 12/31/2020):

2020 Total: **1307** 2021 Total: **39**

2021 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 \$151.00, & 2376 items delivered, including can meat, can soup, jelly, sugar packets, travel and full size hygiene products, disposable razors, T-shirts, peanut butter.

Spokane Veterans Home: 2027 items delivered, thank you for service greetings, reading glasses, unfinished wood items, magazines/books, acrylic craft paint, back packs, baking mixes, calendars, drawings to paint, unused greeting cards, stationary items, wall clock, toiletry bag, body spray, bird seed, command hooks, and hangers .

Meals on Wheels **\$43.00**
Wreaths Across America **45 Wreaths**

Taps

Col Curtis L. Baskin USA (retired) 6 October 2020
 Col Merl Gorton USA (retired) 4 November 2020
 LtCol Frank Hager USAF (retired)
 22 January 2021 at age 100

Hats Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
2020 Total	2	7

State Route 902 designated Gold Star Memorial Highway

By Rudy Lopez

Eastern Washington veterans secured a permanent tribute to honor state and regional service members who have died in service to their county, while recognizing surviving family members, now Gold Star Families, thrust into a difficult journey as a result of their loss.

On 16 September 2020, the Washington State Transportation Commission adopted a resolution to designate State Route 902 the "Gold Star Memorial Highway."

Members of the Eastern Washington Veterans Task Force, the state's oldest veteran support coalition, took up this initiative as a means of honoring the fallen and their families along the 12 mile stretch of SR 902. The significance of SR 902 is that it serves as the primary route traveled to reach the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake. This site is the final resting place for over 6,300 veterans and family members.

The concept of dedicating this section of roadway came about as a means of commemorating the cemetery's tenth year of service. And doing so in a manner of solemnity that would forever reflect on the service and sacrifice of countless soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen that have served their nation with honor and distinction, and made the ultimate sacrifice. They answered the nation's call and gave their life in its defense. They are among the very best of America, putting their own personal lives on hold to ensure the freedom of every American is preserved. Not only securing our domestic tranquility but ensuring America remains a shining city on a hill for the world to see as a beacon of hope.

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.*

Need to Update/Replace an ID Card?

We are in a unique situation with the COVID-19 pandemic causing cancelations, postponements and isolation. Life goes on with the virus calling the shots, but if you have lost your ID, need to get your dependents ID card replaced or renewed (they are only valid for four years, better check it while you read this). You can make a reservation for the Fairchild ID office on line by going to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>, (IDs expiring before 30 June 2021 have been extended to 30 June 2021 for medical benefits and for **base access through 31 March 2021**) **The direct number to the office is (509)247-9240.** You need to bring two forms of ID if yours is expired (valid photo ID, drivers license, passport, etc. At age 75 you are eligible for a permanent ID.

1. In the **ID Card Office Locator & Appointments** box click on CONTINUE
2. In **Search for Site by Address** Enter your location, pick the **Radius** to an applicable distance
3. Click on **SEARCH**
4. Under Fairchild AFB click on **SELECT**
5. At the bottom of the page you will see the office hours and address click on **SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**
6. A calendar will be displayed for the current month, if there are no appointments available for the current month select the next month (located above the calendar).
7. When you find a month with available appointments select the date you desire.
8. Click on the number of **Available Appointments** this should show the times open for that date.
9. You may encounter times when the server displays the dates showing **Available Appointments** but goes no further, this means you will need to try again the next day. Call the office if you continue to experience problems with the web site.
10. An example of the calendar is displayed below.
11. Below the calendar will be a list of dates and times followed by a **BOOK THIS APPOINTMENT** box. Click on the box for the desired date and time.

2/1/2021

February 2021 Available Dates ← →

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Fully Booked	2 12 Available Appointments	3 10 Available Appointments	4 12 Available Appointments	5 9 Available Appointments	6
7	8 12 Available Appointments	9 14 Available Appointments	10 12 Available Appointments	11 14 Available Appointments	12 15 Available Appointments	13
14	15	16 Fully Booked	17 14 Available Appointments	18 14 Available Appointments	19 12 Available Appointments	20
21	22 14 Available Appointments	23 13 Available Appointments	24 14 Available Appointments	25 15 Available Appointments	26 13 Available Appointments	27

Award Winning Spokane Chapter

Once again our chapter won awards from MOAA National. We achieved our fifteenth consecutive *5 Star* Chapter award. Additionally we won communications awards for the web page <https://www.spokanemoaa.org>, if you haven't visited it lately it was completely redesigned last year. We also won a communications award for the newsletter

LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

Key Bills being considered by Congress

Show your support for these bills by going to <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>
Our chapter designation is **WA07**, which will be useful when using the MOAA website.

HOUSE 5995

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.

HOUSE 413

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.

HOUSE 847

A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

SENATE 3393

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

SENATE 21

A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).

SENATE 1047

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SENATE 2216

A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

HOUSE 2406

A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes.

SENATE 2629

A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

SENATE 2297

A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

HOUSE 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Legislative Contacts

President Donald Trump

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20500

Washington

Senator Patty Murray

United States Senate
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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
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Spokane WA 99201
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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. Suite. 241
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
(208)667-0127
Fax: (208)667-0310

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.

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>

Casualty Assistance Officer

Erica Kerin is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area.

Bldg. 2040 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

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 mail it to the address to 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
Please Print or Type: NAME _____

Join Today!

FREE Chapter Membership for NEW members thru 31 DEC 2021
Regular Member: \$15/year or \$40 for 3 years
Surviving Spouse: \$9/year or \$25 for 3 years

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 _____

Stamps, Cards, Gifts for Spokane Veterans Home

Residents at the Washington State Spokane Veterans Home would appreciate used iPods, postage stamps, hair brushes, reading glasses, CDs, wall clocks with large numbers, plastic tube type hangers, unused greeting cards for birthdays, anniversary, sympathy etc., craft items, magazines, and new military hats of Army, DVD or Blue Ray movies, 3M Command hooks all sizes, baking mixes brownies, cookies, etc., travel type neck pillows, body wash. If you could donate any of these items, please call Shirley Melges at 509-465-8867.

Fairchild Prescription Changes

Effective immediately all prescriptions (new and refills) are to be picked up/filled/refilled at the refill pharmacy next to the BX. This will reduce the amount of foot traffic in the clinic. Minimum fill/refill time is 3 business days. New prescription activation is required, to confirm your new Rx call 509-247-2513/5567. The Refill pharmacy is open 0930 -1600 Mon-Fri. The automated dispenser inside the BX entrance is also available during BX hours for refills only. Both pharmacies are closed every third Wednesday at 1200 for training. Operating hours are subject to change, call before you go.

Chapter Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarship

In past years we donate the December Social raffle proceeds to support the local high school JROTC graduates who will be continuing their education with a \$500.00 scholarship sent to the school they attend. I would encourage you to send a donation to the chapter. This scholarship enables us to further assist these deserving individuals further their education.



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