



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXII Number 7



November 2022

Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

President, Newsletter Editor

David Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
(509)465-8867 spomoaa@gmail.com

1st Vice President

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

2nd Vice President, Membership Chair & E-mail Newsletter Coordinator

Clif Collier, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
(509)443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

Secretary

David Melges, Acting

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

Veterans Home Chair

Shirley Melges, (509)465-8867
smmelges@comcast.net

Director

Robert Imle, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
(509)701-3342 rmikcj718@gmail.com

Director, Chaplain & Social Comm.

Betty Krafft, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
(509)768-3138 ggpugmom@gmail.com

Director & Social Committee

Tom Swindle, Capt, USAF (former)
(208)437-1601
tswindle418@gmail.com

Website Coordinator

David Melges, LCDR USN (Ret.)
(509)218-0735
spomoaa@melges.net

Personal Affairs Chairman

Shirley Melges (509)465-8867
smmelges@comcast.net

Director, ROTC

Ryan Morrison, Capt. USA (Ret.)
(208)869-7696

Director

Robert Mead, Col. USAF (Ret.)
(203)314-4908



5 Star Chapter President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the two weeks of fall here in the Inland Northwest as it appears winter has made an early arrival.

Once again our gathering at the Airport Ramada was excellent, the menu of Italian cuisine was outstanding. Unfortunately Rufus and I were unable to get a speaker so attending members resorted to standup comedy. There were jokes and sea stories and an Army funny story.

Can you answer the following question correctly: **Do VA**

benefits cover nursing home care? Check out the answer on page 2.

On 11 November Idaho state dedicated the new Veterans Home in Post Falls. When completed it will have 64 individual apartments arranged in groups of eight. Each has a private bath and the eight share a common area. Information on the Veterans Home can be found at <https://veterans.idaho.gov/veterans-homes/post-falls-veterans-home/>

Our final 2022 social will be at Darcy's Restaurant and Spirits in Spokane Valley 4 December. The raffle will support our chapter's JROTC scholarships. I hope to see you there.

MOAA Websites & Membership:



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

MOAA "Take Action": <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

MOAA Legislative: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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



Doug Roach Talent Solutions Specialist
Local Veteran Employment Representative
douglas.roach@esd.wa.gov • 509.370.9444
130 S. Arthur Street • Spokane, WA • 99202

worksourcespokane.com/employers

Taps

Capt Ann Peck, USAF, (ret)
22 July 2022
Former member
LTC Dean Ladd, USMC, (ret)
17 August 2022

Welcome aboard:

None to report

Chapter Scoreboard 2022

JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 1 November 2022) \$2292.00

Legislative Letters, Postcards, & E-mails (as of 19 September 2022):

2021 Total: **647** 2022 Total: **562**

2022 Raffles:

APR: MOAA Scholarship \$160
JUN: Union Gospel Mission \$180
JUL: Meals on Wheels \$135
SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America \$190
OCT: Spokane Veterans Home \$142
DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships

Widows & Wives:

Homeless Veterans YTD \$335.00 YTD Items delivered 856
351 Items delivered in August.

***Items requested** – Canned meat (Spam, chicken), canned spaghetti & ravioli, protein bars, fruit cups, small serve shelf stable milk, and single serve potato chips and hygiene items

Spokane Veteran's Home YTD \$100.00 YTD items delivered 2504
Items delivered in Sept. included – 30 postage stamps, 148 new greeting cards, 18 novels, 9 calendars, 40 activity/games, 68 hangers, 109 magazines, 4 backpacks, 5 clothing/linen, 5 pencil boxes, 30 pens/note pads, 24 wall hooks, 23 craft paint/glitter, 67 unfinished wood crafts, 37 Hygiene items.

***Items requested** – postage stamps, new hair brushes, CDs, plastic tube hangers, unused greeting cards, craft items, magazines, new military hats, DVD or Blue Ray movies, Command hooks all sizes, baking mixes brownies, cookies, etc., new travel type neck pillows, body spray, wall clocks with large numbers

Meals on Wheels YTD - \$122.00

Wreaths Across America YTD - \$874.00 96 wreaths
(includes \$190 Sept. Chapter Social raffle. This equals 87 wreaths + 9 on line orders)

Christ Kitchen YTD - \$100.00

Do VA benefits cover nursing home care?

VA benefits provide for a range of long-term services including nursing home care, domiciliary care, adult day health care, geriatric evaluations and respite care.

Nursing home benefits may be provided if specific qualifications are met. Those are:

- A veteran must need such care and seeking nursing home care for a service-connected (SC) disability, OR is rated 60% SC and unemployable, OR is rated 60% Service Connected and permanently and totally disabled (Permanent and Total. P & T) OR for any condition if the veteran has a combined Service Connected disability rating of 70% or more.
- The care will be provided in a VA nursing home or contract nursing home.
- Not service-connected and non-compensable 0% service connected veterans can apply for long term care in the VA but could be subject to long term care co-payments. Veterans with a compensable service-connected disability are exempt from long term care co-payments.
- Not service-connected veterans applying for extended care or the nursing home care unit may be required to complete VA Form 1010EC to determine the family's current income and assets.
- Veterans may be discharged from a VA Nursing Home Care Unit without consent when VA nursing home care is no longer needed. For example, if the veteran's needs can be met at home or in a private nursing home close to the family.
- Veterans requiring nursing home care for a service-connected condition or a veteran rated 70% or more have mandatory eligibility for admission to extended care services; and, those veterans are eligible to have indefinite care provided to them in the VA or in a VA contracted nursing home.

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.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

Key Bills being considered by Congress

Show your support for these bills by going to <https://moaa.quorum.us/bills/>
Our chapter designation is **WA07**, which will be useful when using the MOAA website.

H.R. 6458: To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of a transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent.

H.R. 1836: Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021

S. 3388: Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2021

H.R. 6124: VA Home Loan GRACE Act of 2021

S. 3293: Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2021

S. 3147: Reservists Opportunity Act of 2021

H.R. 5758: COMFORT Act

S. 3016: Military FATIGUES Act of 2021

S. 3021: COMFORT Act of 2021

S. 3017: Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act

S. 3003: Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops of War Act of 2021

H.R. 5607: Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2021

S. 2786: Unlawful Turn-Aways Act of 2021

H.R. 5321: Unlawful Turn-Aways Act of 2021

H.R. 4880: Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act

H.R. 4824: Stop Copay Overpay Act

S. 2508: Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act

S. 2513: Brian Neuman Department of Veterans Affairs Clothing Allowance Improvement Act of 2021

H.R. 4772: Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act

H.R. 4769: Onward to Opportunity Act

S. 89: Ensuring Survivor Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021

H.R. 4633: To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary.

S. 2405: Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act

S.J.Res. 15: Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders.

H.R. 239: Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act

H.R. 3967: Honoring our PACT Act of 2021

H.R. 3793: Supporting Families of the Fallen Act

H.R. 3646: Reducing Barriers for Military Voters Act

H.R. 3486: Recognizing Military Service in PSLF Act

H.R. 3512: Healthcare for Our Troops Act

S. 1670: Credit for Caring Act of 2021

H.R. 3402: Caring for Survivors Act of 2021

S. 3025: Service members and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021

S. 4742: Military Housing Readiness Council Act

H.R. 8385: To require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to conduct a study on the benefits of licensure reform for the hiring of military spouses.

H.R. 8321: Military Consumer Protection Task Force Act of 2022

The list continues, you can see them and comment on them by going to <https://moaa.quorum.us/bills/>

Legislative Contacts

President Joe Biden

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, Suite 625
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 W Ironwood Dr. Suite 200
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
(208)667-0127
Fax: (208)667-0310



Mailing Address

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

Social Registration 4 December 2022

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Tuesday 29 November 2022**

To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 30 November.

What's on the Menu:

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

Date & Times

Sunday, 4 December 2022

Cost is \$30 per person

(includes gratuity)

Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday, 4 December social at Darcy's, Spokane Valley. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$30 x ____ number of reservations). Make check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

Location

Darcy's

10502 E. Sprague

Spokane Valley

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one) **Remember to bring: 3 postage stamps & 6 return address labels per person and something for the raffle which will benefit JROTC Scholarships.**

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one)

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one)

Update My Communication Preferences

E-MAIL REQUEST, CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE, or TEMPORARILY AWAY:

Clip and complete this form and send it to the address on the left

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

(Please print clearly)

☐ I would like to be added to the chapter e-mail list. I specifically request to (check all that apply):

☐ Receive the chapter newsletter by e-mail

☐ Receive important information in a timely manner.

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

☐ My e-mail address is: _____

(Please print clearly)

☐ My mailing address, e-mail address, and/or phone number has changed to:

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 2022
Regular Member: \$15/yr. or \$40 for 3 yrs.
Surviving Spouse: \$9/year or \$25 for 3 years

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

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 <http://www.atg.wa.gov/veteran-and-military-resources> or received by mail via written request to the address below: Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Military & Veteran Assistance, 800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000 Seattle, WA 98104

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

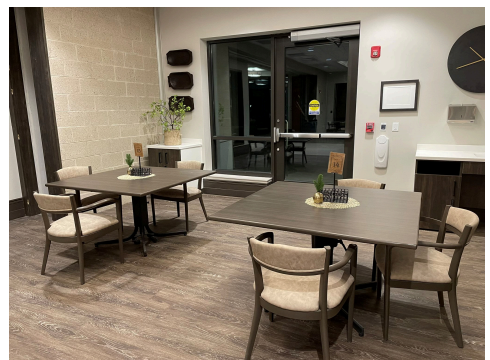
Legal Assistance: Tuesday & Thursday 0830-0930
Notary & Power of Attorney: Mon—Fri 0830-1600
Call to find out if they can help with your legal needs.

We are participating with Wreaths Across America in support for the Veteran's Cemetery at Medical Lake, WA. The wreath laying will begin with a ceremony at **12 noon on 17 December 2022**. The wreaths cost **\$15.00 each** and when we purchase two we receive one free. You may order wreaths online in \$15.00 increments through November 27, 2022 by going to this direct link to our MOAA Widows & Wives web page:

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/WA0016

If you have questions please call Shirley at 509-465-8867 this is not a texting number! Thank you for your support.

The new Idaho Veterans Home in Post Falls





NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXII Number 7



November 2022

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.

Widows and Wives

MOAA Widows & Wives will meet for their luncheon on December 6, 2022 at the Max restaurant Mirabeau Park, 1100 N Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley. We will **gather at 1 PM as usual**. You are welcome to join us. Please call Shirley at 509-465-8867 to reserve your place at the table.

Operation Green Light , Spokane County

Spokane County Commissioners have declared October through Veterans Day, 11 November 2022 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service. They encourage citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a **green light** in a window of their place of business or residence.



4 December Social Event Reminder



SUNDAY, 4 December, 12:30 p.m. Social, 1:15 p.m. Lunch

Darcy's Restaurant and Spirits Spokane Valley

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 the Chapter JROTC Scholarships
- **Veterans Home** would appreciate postage stamps, and unused greeting cards for birthdays and anniversaries etc., small gift items for residents to celebrate family occasions, magazines, craft items, Music CDs, DVDs and Blue Ray discs (**NO VIDEO CASSETTES**).
- **Homeless Veterans** Canned meat (Spam, chicken), canned spaghetti & ravioli, protein bars, fruit

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 no later than Wednesday, 30 November for a refund.