



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXIX Number 5



October 2019

## Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

### President, Newsletter Editor

Dave Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
(509)465-8867 spomoaa@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

Vacant

### 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  
shirley@melges.net

### 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 ggpugmom@gmail.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  
spomoaa@melges.net

### Personal Affairs Chairman

Pat Burns (509)466-2874  
burnspc9@comcast.net

### Director

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

## 5 Star Chapter President's Message



Our next social will be Sunday, 27 October at Ramada Inn at the airport. The last social at Anthony's in Spokane was very informative. Tim Fitzgerald (Spokane County Clerk) provided information on the Spokane County Veterans Court. The most interesting highlight was how successful it has been with only 14% recidivism. We were joined by Dave Casteel, Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCoC) and his wife.

We also had several new chapter members attend.

The upcoming social is important as we need to vote on the board of directors. There is a list of current members on page 2.

Our October speaker represents **Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington** (ALTCEW) serving northern Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman counties, providing in-home care and community based services in Washington State. Idaho has a very similar program for northern Idaho based in Coeur d'Alene. **The Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho** serves Benewah, Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai counties. Both serve seniors and vulnerable adults with chronic illnesses or disabilities and support their caregivers. Home delivered meals and transportation are just a few of the senior services that enhance the quality of an individual's life. Services allow people the opportunity to live in the least restrictive environment possible. Washington residents use <https://www.altcew.org/> in Idaho use <https://www.aani.org/>.

## MOAA Websites & Membership:

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

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

**MOAA Legislative:** <http://takeaction.moaa.org/home?1>

**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



## Welcome

Please join me in welcoming new chapter member: Major **Dale Wilson**

## Taps

Helen Swisher (Surviving Spouse)  
24 Aug 2019

## Hats Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Jon Hall	0	2
Marilyn Hunt	1	8
Dave Melges	0	8
Hugh Smith	1 (self)	1 (self)
Dale Wilson	1 (self)	1 (self)
Bob Imle	0	1
<b>2019 Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>

## Chapter Scoreboard 2019

**JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 5/02/19) \$1457**

**Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 9/15/19): 770**

2018 Total: 1131

### 2019 Raffles:

MAR: Meals on Wheels-**\$150**

APR: MOAA Scholarship-**\$180**

JUN: Union Gospel Mission-**\$205**

SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America **\$128**

OCT: Spokane Veterans Home

DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships.

### Widows & Wives:

Homeless Vets **\$401.00, & 5277 items** delivered, including canned meat, peanut butter, canned fruit, cookies, personal hygiene products and white T-shirts.

Spokane Veterans Home: **\$100.00 & 2120 items** delivered, including new golf balls, puzzles, postage stamps, new greeting cards, sticker sheets, calendars, magazines, adult coloring books, twist up crayons, colored pencils, unfinished wood bird houses, acrylic paint, and disposable razors.

Meals on Wheels **\$241.00**

Wreaths Across America **\$340.00**

Christ Kitchen **\$100.00**

**Board Member Elections:** Our chapter needs to nominate and vote for the following positions on the Board of Directors indicated by the \*.

Position	Term Ends	Currently Serving
President	31 Dec 2019	David Melges *
1st Vice	31 Dec 2019	Alan Davis *
2nd Vice	31 Dec 2019	Clif Collier *
Secretary	31 Dec 2019	vacant (David Melges * acting)
Treasurer	31 Dec 2019	Alan Davis *
Sur. Spouse	31 Dec 2019	Audrey Oates *
Director 1	31 Dec 2019	Marilyn Hunt
Director 2	31 Dec 2019	Ryan Morrison
Director 3	31 Dec 2019	Robert Imle *
Director 4	31 Dec 2020	Betty Krafft *
Director 5	31 Dec 2020	Barbara Thornbrugh *
Personal Affairs	31 Dec 2019	Pat Burns ( <i>desires replacement</i> )

\* willing to serve another term

Director terms are two years, all others are one year. All of the current members of the board have served in their positions for at least two terms with some many more. All of us have been honored to serve the chapter in the positions we hold. I encourage anyone interested in joining the board to attend one of the board meetings at the Valley Hospital on the first Saturday of the month

### Audiology at Spokane VA

All Enrolled Veterans are eligible for Audiology services and may contact the Audiology clinic at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC directly to schedule an appointment. No referral from your primary care physician is needed for routine Audiology services such as hearing tests or hearing aid related appointments.

### Schedule your appointment

Veterans may call or report in person to the Audiology clinic to schedule an appointment for a hearing evaluation and/or hearing aid consultation.

**Located in building 41**

**509-434-7000 Ext. 6259  
509-434-7008**

**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](mailto:spomoaa@melges.net), (509)218-0735. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

**23 October 2019** CPR training at Mann-Grandstaff VA medical center Call Karl (509)434-7657 to register

**9 November 2019** Whitworth University Military/Veteran appreciation game at the Whitworth University Pine Bowl. The Pirates take on the Linfield Wildcats, there will be a special program honoring members of the Armed Forces. **Admission is free for Military/Veterans and their families**

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### Update on what illnesses are covered by the VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that certain illnesses and health concerns have been associated with military service.

Some injuries are common to all wars, such as amputation, traumatic mental health disorders such as TBI (traumatic brain injury), PTS (post traumatic stress including Military Sexual Trauma), vision loss and hearing issues. The VA can make monthly monetary payments, or “service-connected disability compensation” for these and other illnesses and diseases that relate directly to the unique circumstances of military service.

Many veterans suffer from chronic diseases later in life as the result of exposure to toxic chemicals and biologics used during their wartime service. Vietnam veterans (28 February 1961-7 May 1975) may have been exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides and pesticides. Veterans diagnosed with various cancers and other maladies, such as Type II diabetes, ischemic heart disease, and Parkinson’s disease, can file for compensation benefits and health care with the VA. Children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange born with birth defects may also be eligible for certain VA benefits and healthcare.

The same is true for Persian Gulf veterans (2 August 1990 to present) Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (11 September 2001 to present) exposed to depleted uranium munitions or the toxic fumes and chemical smoke released from oil well fires and “burn pits” who are diagnosed with illness such as Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS), fibromyalgia, and other neurological disorders.

The amount of compensation depends on the severity of a veteran’s service-connected disability and in some cases qualifying family members.

You can file a claim by contacting a Veterans Service Officer at the VA hospital in Spokane and Vet Center in Spokane Valley. All counties in north Idaho all have Veteran Services which provide filing for benefits, compensation and treatment. Service groups like American Legion and VFW also have Veterans service officers. The easiest way to find the closest VSO is by searching online for “Veterans Services (your city and state)” for example *veterans services Coeur d’Alene Idaho*. You will need a copy of your DD-214 and your medical record when you see the Veterans Service Officer.

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### Can’t find your DD-214

Replacement copies of your DD-214s are free. Official copies can be ordered with the assistance of a VSO. You can also go on line to get a copy. Go to <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/> for step-by-step instructions. It works, I got copies of all my DD-214s, it took a few weeks but it was well worth the wait.

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

## Key Bills being considered by Congress

### Federal - 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.

### Federal - House 553

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

### Federal - Senate 622

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

Show your support for these bills by going to <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

## Next Generation USID card

WASHINGTON --The Department of Defense is updating its current paper-based uniformed services identification card issued to retired service members, family members and other eligible populations. The "Next Generation" USID card will incorporate an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and will be printed on a plastic cardstock. DOD is transforming the way service members and their families are supported through modernized ID cards and improved mechanisms to protect cardholder privacy and personal information. The Next Generation USID card will incorporate a modified barcode which supports the last phase of the department's elimination of the Social Security number from all DOD identification cards. Additional information and updates regarding the Next Generation USID card will be available in the coming months on DOD's website. Frequently asked questions:1. What is changing on the USID card, and why? The Next Generation ID card transitions the current USID card to plastic cardstock with enhanced security features and update topology. These enhanced features enable DOD to reduce the number of card types issued to eligible individuals from 10 to three. The Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card.2. When can I get the Next Generation USID card? Beginning early fall 2019, individuals with expiring ID cards will begin to receive the Next Generation USID card at card issuing facilities as they are equipped with the equipment and supplies necessary to issue the Next Generation USID card. In an effort to conserve resources and limit the impact on ID card issuance facilities, cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of obtaining the Next Generation USID card.

## 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 (509)927-1177 14724 E Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA	Pat Tolley (509)953-6768
5 February	Darcy's Restaurant & Sprints (509)891-0773 10502 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA 99206	Shirley Melges (509)465-8867
5 March	Beverly's Coeur d'Alene Resort (800)688-5253 112 S Second Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Pat Connell (208)772-2559
2 April	Anthony's Homeport (208)664-4665 1926 Riverstone Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Maxine Mahoney (208)762-3380
7 May	Rad Ricci Italian Bistro (208)635-5821 8049 N Wayne Drive, Hayden, ID	Shirley Melges (509)465-8867
4 June	Tea at Audrey Oates home Post Falls, ID	Shirley Melges (509)465-8867
2 July	Thai Bamboo (509)777-8424 5204 N Division St, Spokane, WA	Deanie Binsfield (509)466-8006
6 August	Tito Macaroni (208)667-2782 210 E Sherman Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Pat Connell (208)772-2559
3 September	Christ Kitchen (509)325-4343 2410 N Monroe St, Spokane, WA	Kay White (509)315-9684
1 October	Templin's on the River, Red Lion Hotel (877)737-9275 414 East 1st Street, Post Falls, ID	Pat Connell (208)772-2559
5 November	Twigs Bistro (509)290-5636 14728 East Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA	Barbara Thornbrugh (509)466-2108
3 December	Clinkerdagger (509)328-5965 621 W. Mallon Street, Spokane, WA	Pat Tolley (509)953-6768



## Upcoming Events 2019 Mark Your Calendars!



### Spokane Chapter Social Dates

27 Oct Ramada Inn @ Spokane Airport  
8 Dec Mukogawa Ft. Wright, Spokane, WA

### 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 Rad Ricci Italian Bistro  
4 Jun Tea at Audrey's  
2 Jul Thai Bamboo  
6 Aug Tito Macaroni, CdA  
3 Sep Christ Kitchen  
1 Oct Templin's on the River, Post Falls  
5 Nov Twig's Bistro



# 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)

TSgt Michael D. Knapp, USAF (Ret.), Director

Bldg. 2040, 7 W. Arnold St., Ste. C2A,

(509)247-5359

Hours: M-F 1000—1400

*They need volunteers to work four hours per month.*

## 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

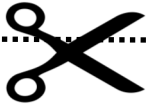
Fairchild AFB Wing Headquarters

(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.*



## 27 October Social Event Reminders



**12:30 p.m. Ramada Inn, 8909 Airport Drive, Spokane**

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-90 east or west to exit 277 (Hwy. 2 for Spokane Airport / Davenport). Take Airport exit shortly after that and then follow Airport Drive to Flint Road. Take next right on W. McFarlane Rd., then take the second left to Ramada Inn. Plenty of handicapped parking and an entrance on the east side of the motel. Ramp available to elevator.

### Please bring:

- 3 postage stamps & 6 return address labels per person
- Something for the raffle which will benefit the Spokane Veterans Home
- 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 Christmas, birthdays & anniversaries etc., small gift items for residents to celebrate family occasions, magazines, and craft items for Veterans Home.

*Need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509)443-6822 No later than noon Thursday, 24 October for refund.*



### Mailing Address

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

# Social Registration September 2019

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Tuesday, 22 October**

To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509)443-6822 NLT Noon Thursday, 24 October for refund.

### What's on the Buffet Menu:

- Chef carved NY Strip
- Chicken Picatta
- Fresh fruit & cheese platter
- Signature Salad
- Au gratin potatoes
- Green beans
- Tea or Coffee
- Cash bar

### Date & Times

Sunday, 27 Oct 2019  
12:30 Social, 1:15 Buffet

### Location

Ramada Inn  
8909 Airport Drive  
Spokane

### Directions are on page 6

Please reserve \_\_\_ places for the **Buffet @ \$25.00** ea  
My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (Make check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**") and mail to chapter

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 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 2019**  
Regular Member: \$15/yr. or \$40 for 3 yrs.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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