



# NOW HEAR THIS!

## SPOKANE CHAPTER

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May 2013



### 5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Rufus Hoefer

It was with shock and sadness that I learned of the loss of one of our Fairchild AFB air crew on Saturday, 4 May. It had only been six days since we'd been treated to a fabulous briefing on Team Fairchild and the 92nd Air Refueling Wing by Wing Commander, **COL Brian Newberry, USAF**. Thus it was deeply saddening when I heard that **Tech. Sgt. Mackey III, Capt. Victoria Pinckney and Capt. Mark Voss** were killed in an explosion of their KC-135 tanker in Kyrgyzstan. As COL Newberry aptly stated in the Spokesmen Review, "They were answering the call so that others may prevail, and they gave the ultimate sacrifice." On behalf of all Spokane MOAA members, I sent COL Newberry a note of condolence, and I know each of you will continue to keep these brave airmen and women in your prayers.

On 10 May, I had the privilege of attending the Gonzaga University/Whitworth University Army ROTC Commissioning ceremony at St. Aloysius Church on the Gonzaga campus. A total of 18 new Army 2d Lieutenants received their MOAA provided Gold Bars. A special thanks to our great JROTC/ROTC program director, **LTC Bob Imle, USAF (Ret.)**. Also a tip of the hat to **LTC David Bingham, U.S. Army**, Gonzaga Professor of Military Science, his staff, and the men and women of the "Bulldog Battalion" for a first class ceremony. I also had the pleasure of awarding The MOAA Outstanding Leadership medal to cadet **Gabriel Conlon, now a 2d Lt** in the US Army's Ordinance Corps.

**Travis Pendell, Loss Prevention Specialist, Spokane County Sheriff's Office, will be our speaker at the social on 23 June.** He will address home, auto & personal security, and certain types of locks for securing your home. Travis has served as a Patrolman, DARE Officer, Firearms Instructor, Marine Patrolman, and Crime Prevention Officer.

Lastly, I just returned from the **Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) spring meeting** held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration by the Columbia River Chapter in Vancouver, Washington. The keynote speaker at the evening banquet was **Vice Admiral Norbert Ryan, USN (Ret.)**, CEO of MOAA national. (Continued on p. 3).



### Bring Something to the 23 June Social for SUPPORT THE TROOPS

#### 2013 Chapter Social dates

|        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 17 Mar | Northern Quest Casino |
| 28 Apr | Mukogawa Ft. Wright   |
| 23 Jun | Twigs North           |
| 22 Sep | Bob & Maggie Imle's   |
| 27 Oct | Coeur d'Alene Resort  |
| 8 Dec  | Mukogawa Ft. Wright   |

### 2013 Chapter Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates



|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 8 Jan | Downriver Grill                 |
| 5 Feb | Rusty Moose (Prospectors)       |
| 5 Mar | The Onion                       |
| 2 Apr | Bonsai Bistro                   |
| 7 May | Black Angus Steakhouse          |
| 4 Jun | Anthony's at Spokane Falls      |
| 2 Jul | PF Chang's China Bistro         |
| 6 Aug | The Boathouse Seafood           |
| 3 Sep | Central Foods                   |
| 1 Oct | MAX Restaurant at Mirabeau Pk.  |
| 5 Nov | Clinkerdaggers Restaurant       |
| 3 Dec | Beverly's, Coeur d'Alene Resort |

## Now Hear This!



### Welcome New Members



Helen Black, Auxiliary  
Jean Koch, Auxiliary  
LT Cindy Shepherd, USN, Spokane



### TAPS

Kenneth Black, LTC, USAF (Ret.) (4/27/13)  
John Koch, LTC, USMC (Ret.) (4/8/13)  
Libbie Meier, wife of MAJ Fred Meier, USAF (Ret.) (4/1/13)  
Arlette Nelson, Auxiliary (4/2/13)

### Our Hat Is Off To:



### Spokane Chapter, MOAA

**2012 First Prize Winner  
Best Legislative Coverage for  
Website  
Fifth Consecutive Year!**

**Website: 1st Runner UP**

### WIVES & WIDOWS CLUB

By Pat Connell



Can you believe the beauty of our various areas as Spring unfolds? Trees are leafing and flowers are beginning to bud, and some have even burst forth in full and early bloom. How neat and how special to have such great reminders that there is beauty everywhere. The only drawback is the outside work to be accomplished to create and maintain all the beauty we want in our own yards.

We have received a very nice thank you note from Lisa Bridston of the Cowgirls and Women Warriors Group for our contribution to their organization. You will remember that we voted to send the female veterans a remembrance and then collected additional funds at our May luncheon. They very much appreciated our help.

Our projects continue to be the Homeless Vets program, whereby they receive items to furnish their homes when they are no longer homeless, and those still living in shelters or on the street. Please check out the wants and needs lists on our chapter website ([www.spokanemoaa.org](http://www.spokanemoaa.org)) for additional info. Food for the Food Bank is also much appreciated. All items can be brought to our luncheon and will be distributed accordingly.

### LUNCHEON...

To be held **Tuesday, 4 June at 1 p.m. at ANTHONY'S at SPOKANE FALLS, 510 N. LINCOLN Street**. This is a beautifully situated restaurant with so much to offer, starting with our awesome Spokane Falls and a menu to please all variety of tastes, and ending with the fun and joy of being together. Please call **Barb Thornbrugh at (509) 466-2108 to make reservations**.

Please note that you do not need to be a dues paying member of the Wives and Widows Club to come to our luncheons. We are a group of ladies who may have been active duty wives or ones who married our veteran after his service years. We are part of the military family and that is what counts, and what is so special to all of us.

I look forward to seeing you on 4 June at Anthony's.  
Pat Connell (208) 772-2589

| Member Recruiters  | Chapter 2013 | MOAA 2013 |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Marilyn Hunt       | 2            | 5         |
| Bob Imle           |              | 4         |
| Betty Krafft       | 1            |           |
| Candace Small-foot | 2            |           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>5</b>     | <b>9</b>  |

### CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2013

**JROTC Scholarship Funds on hand:** \$361.00

**Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails:** 743 as of 24 May 2013

**Raffle Donations:** MAR \$180 JROTC Scholarships. APR \$175 Ladies & Gent. of the WA State Cemetery; JUN Fisher House; SEP MOAA Scholarship Fund; OCT Spokane Veterans Home, DEC ROTC/JROTC Unit Support. Total 2013 donations: \$355.

**Support the Troops (STT):** FEB: 2 boxes 10M, 5W Djibouti (USMC); 4 boxes 170M, 40W Afghanistan (USMC); 2 boxes 15M, 5W Afghanistan (Army), 2 boxes 20M, 6W Afghanistan (USN)

**2013 STT Total:** 10 boxes, 112# to 215M, 56W in Djibouti & Afghan.

**Widows & Wives:** \$87 & 46 lbs. food to Spokane Food Bank. Yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, hygiene & cosmetic items, fleece throws, socks & writing materials to Spokane Veterans Home. \$150 to Cowgirls & Women Warriors Group.

**Spokane Homeless Veterans 701 W. 2nd Ave.  
Donate Household Items. Open 8-12, 1:00-4:30 M-F**

Clients live in transitional houses. When they get a place of their own, they need kitchen ware, towels, shower curtains w/rings, sheets, pillows, blankets, small appliances, furniture and more.

**We are a 5 Star Chapter proudly serving northeast Washington and north Idaho for 39 years!**

## Now Hear This!

### President's Piece (cont'd. from p. 1)

Admiral Ryan praised all MOAA Chapters and Councils for their invaluable assistance in opening doors of national Congressional leaders through their letter writing campaigns. This, he explained, allowed MOAA staffers to explain the facts to legislators where they had not been previously heard. He singled out for praise our WSCOC President, **COL David Slotwinski**, U.S. Army (Ret.), who is a member of the Olympia Area Chapter, and **MG Buck Marr**, USAF (Ret.), an MOAA Regional Vice-President, for their outstanding and extremely effective "Storming the Hill" efforts. Lastly, Admiral Ryan commented on a recent very positive meeting he and heads of other military and veteran service organizations had had with the new **Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel**. Another tip of the hat to **COL David Casteel**, USAF (Ret.) and his Chapter staff for the great meeting. Super hosts!

I will not see you at our next social at Twigs North on June 23, as Sheila and I, our three children and their spouses and 10 grandchildren will be celebrating our 51st anniversary. Have a good time at Twigs!



### AUXILIARY CORNER

By Beth Ann Daigre, Auxiliary Liaison



Certain surviving spouses of service members who die from a service-connected injury or illness are entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a monthly tax-free payment from the VA. DIC is currently \$1,215 a month and is intended to replace lost future income. Surviving military spouses also might be eligible to receive Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefits. Military retirees who enroll in SBP elect to have premiums deducted from their monthly retired pay to provide their survivors a monthly annuity after their death. Otherwise, military retired pay stops the day of the death of a retiree. SBP also is authorized for survivors of service members who die on active duty. Currently, about 57,000 surviving spouses receive both SBP and DIC. Of these, 94 percent of the service members had purchased SBP and 6 percent are active duty deaths.

If the survivor receives DIC, the SBP annuity is reduced dollar for dollar up to the DIC amount — an unfair penalty commonly known as the SBP-DIC offset. Some 33,000 survivors presently have their SBP entirely offset by DIC. Congress changed the law in 2004 allowing SBP annuitants who remarry after turning age 57 to retain both SBP and DIC. After DoD denied payment of SBP to remarried survivors, three of them sued and won. Remarried spouses over the age of 57 now receive both SBP and DIC concurrently, leaving un-remarried survivors with the offset. It is grossly unfair to penalize military survivors if a retiree dies from a service related illness or injury or on active duty. Their lives were cut short because of service to our country.

MOAA will sponsor "AMAC Storms the Hill Event 2013" on 16 - 17 July in Washington, D.C., to facilitate educating the 113th Congress and their staffs on the SBP/DIC issue. Following a congressional breakfast, we will storm the Hill to gain support and co-sponsors for H.R. 32, which would repeal the offset for all survivors of military personnel. We welcome those surviving spouses from across the country who would like to participate. This is our opportunity to make an impact on Capitol Hill about the SBP/DIC offset issue. Please plan to join us! Find agenda and registration information at [www.moaa.org/amacstorming](http://www.moaa.org/amacstorming).

Contact your representatives, and ask them to support and cosponsor this bill to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset. You may call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and ask to be connected to your congressional representatives, or you may use the phone numbers that are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

**Editor's Note:** SBP is like having insurance on your retired pay, and DIC is an allowance that the VA pays to surviving spouses of certain service members who died of their service-connected disabilities. The two moneys are totally unrelated. Upon retirement, service members voluntarily decide whether to purchase SBP. On the other hand, the VA awards DIC to a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran if the deceased meets certain criteria established by the VA. To offset DIC against SBP is patently unfair.

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## Now Hear This!

### Colonel Spady Koyama Scholarship Program

By Bob Imle, ROTC/JROTC Coordinator

Your Spokane Chapter "**COLONEL SPADY KOYAMA JROTC SCHOLARSHIP**" program which was begun in 2012 is alive and well! Because of your generous donations, we were able to award four \$500 scholarships to JROTC cadets at Kellogg, Medical Lake, Rogers, and Wellpinit High Schools (compared with \$300 in 2012). The funds will be dispersed to the cadets as needed for education. All four are headed for universities and they are:

- Cooper Coyle - Kellogg,
- Korina Urquidez - Medical Lake
- Kayelee Schmidt - Rogers
- Honey Brown - Wellpinit

MOAA ROTC Leadership Awards and medals were awarded to:

- Alexandra Smith - EWU
- Gabriel Conlon - Gonzaga
- Ian MacArthur - NIC

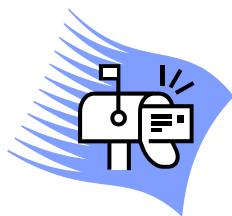
MOAA JROTC Leadership Awards and Medals were presented to

- Austin Kahn - Kellogg
- Evan Vanmeter - Medical Lake
- James Welty - Rogers
- Honey Brown - Wellpinit

We also helped commission 18 ROTC cadets at Gonzaga and seven (7) cadets at EWU who have joined MOAA National and received certificates and Gold Bars in recognition of their becoming Second Lieutenants.



### Thank You for Support the Troops Package



We received the following note from one of the units to which we sent some items that were donated by our members at a social for our Support the Troops project. Notes like this make our efforts worthwhile.

"Dear Sir/Ma'am, Thank you so much for the snacks and personal hygiene items. They went a long way with helping my troops while we are still waiting on a PX (mini store) to open. And of course everyone loved the snacks!"

"Thank you for the cards from the students of Prairie View Elementary School. We loved reading the notes from the children and hearing about the Christmas trees they were putting up and the holiday traditions they had. We made a card Christmas tree on our door with the cards. Unfortunately we are unable to print pictures out here, but we do have some posted on our Facebook page if you get the chance to look. We took pictures of the soldiers with the packages and a picture of our Christmas tree. :) Our Facebook page is Charlie Company 3BSB, IHBCT.

"Thank you again for your support and kindness! It makes my job so much easier knowing that we are so supported. Have a wonderful Holiday!"

Thank you,  
Leona Brooks, 1SG

### Legislative Contacts

#### President Barack Obama

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 243  
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

23 June 2013 Twigs North - Wandermere  
401 E. Farwell Rd., North Spokane  
12:30 Social time, Meeting 1:00, 1:15 Buffet begins  
No-host bar with adult beverages

**Guest Speaker: Travis Pendell, Loss Prevention Specialist, Spokane County Sheriff's Office**

He will address home, auto & personal security, and certain types of locks for securing your home.

Mail your reservation early; we must receive it by Saturday, 15 June. No late reservations or walk-ins. If you need to cancel a reservation, contact either Ralph Shrigley (208) 623-2671 or Barbara Thornbrugh (509) 466-2108 NLT

16 June. No refunds after food is ordered. Buffet cost is \$22.50 per person (includes 18% gratuity).

**2 Buffets, choose one. Italian Pasta Bar: linguini, Bolognese or Alfredo sauce, garlic bread, & Caesar salad.**

**–OR– Teriyaki Bar: teriyaki, steamed rice, stir fried vegetables, Asian slaw, & wonton crisps.**

**Dessert with both bars: lemon bars, smores, donuts.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Sunday 23 June luncheon at Twigs Wandermere. My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (\$22.50 x \_\_\_\_). The check is payable to "Spokane Chapter MOAA." Mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest Italian Pasta Buffet or Teriyaki Buffet—Please circle one

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest Italian Pasta Buffet or Teriyaki Buffet—Please circle one

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**Sunday 23 June 2013 Twigs North social 12:30 p.m. at 401 E. Farwell Road, Spokane.**

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-90, take "Division – 395 North" exit; Division angles into Ruby, angles back to Division. Continue north on Division all the way to the Wandermere Mall (on the right); need to be in left lane continuing on north to the stop light at Farwell Road. Turn left. Stay in the right-hand lane, turning right before the Wandermere Prof Bldg sign; Twigs is behind Numerica Credit Union. Questions? Call Barb Thornbrugh, 509-466-2108.

**Please bring:**

- 3 stamps and 6 return address labels per person for legislative letters
  - Something for the raffle which will support FISCHER HOUSE
  - Something for our troops serving in harm's way and/or for Homeless Veterans program.
- (Cash donations help pay for additional items and postage).



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  
Clinton Piper 509-747-9305

Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483



Richard Oates 208-777-2671  
Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

**IDAHO**

**Washington State Veterans Cemetery Pre-Registration**



The Washington State Veterans Cemetery near Medical Lake opened in May 2010. All U.S. veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for interment.

Veterans may establish their eligibility by completing a Pre-Registration Application. To do this, go to the cemetery website ([www.dva.wa.gov/eastern\\_wa\\_vet\\_cemetery.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/eastern_wa_vet_cemetery.html)), download the form, fill it out and mail it in along with a copy of your DD-214. When you do this, you are NOT obligated to be interred there. You are only establishing that you are ELIGIBLE. This will be a big help to your family if you pass away because they will only need to schedule your service, should they choose to use this cemetery. They will not have to establish your eligibility.

Interment fees are paid by the VA, but other funeral expenses, such as preparation, are paid by the family or estate.  
Call (800) 562-2308 for more information or visit the website at [www.dva.wa.gov/eastern\\_wa\\_vet\\_cemetery.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/eastern_wa_vet_cemetery.html).

**Casualty Assistance Officer:** Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area. He is in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, he will call you back.

**FAFB Retiree Activities Office**

**Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4029**

The Retired Affairs Office needs volunteers. Serving at the RAO is a perfect excuse to travel out to the base and visit the exchange/commissary at the same time. Call them!