



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXX Number 2



March 2020

## Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

### **President, Newsletter Editor**

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(509)465-8867 spomoaa@melges.net

### **1st Vice President**

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(208)215-5607 rota\_al@yahoo.com

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(509)443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

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AROates@roadrunner.com

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(509)443-6822 1rands@comcast.net

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shirley@melges.net

### **Director, ROTC, Homeless Veterans**

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**

Barbara Thornbrugh, Surviving Spouse  
(509)466-2108  
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net

### **Website Coordinator**

Dave 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



**LTC Phil Kowzan US Army Retired**

Our next social will be Sunday, 19 April at the Spokane Airport Ramada Inn. This will be our annual chapter meeting honoring members who have passed during the past year.

Our March social at Darcy's was interesting. Representative McMorris-Rodgers Veterans Relations Liaison Charlie Duranona, went over the current legislation being considered. He works on issues that affect the over 65,000 Veterans and active duty members in the District. See page 2 for his information. Rufus and I had the opportunity to meet with Rep McMorris-Rodgers 18 February where local Veterans Service Officers provided input to Representative McMorris-Rodgers.

## New Patient & Family Partnership Council

Greg Sassman LTC, USA (retired) has been selected as a member of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Medical Support Group at Fairchild AFB which has formed a Patient and Family Partnership Council (PFPC). The purpose of the council is to improve the quality of care for all the clinic's patients. The council is looking for feedback from all patients including retirees on how to improve services. Chapter member Greg Sassman is the retiree council representative. He can be contacted at [gsassman@centurylink.net](mailto:gsassman@centurylink.net) (preferred) or 509-276-5156.

## 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 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.



**@SpokaneMOAA**

**@MOAA**



CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS  
FIFTH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

CHARLIE DURAÑONA  
VETERANS/MILITARY LIAISON

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

(509) 680-5583-C  
(509) 353-2374-O  
CHARLES.DURANONA@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

### Taps

Louise Winn Surviving Spouse 6 Feb 2020  
(past member)

### Hats Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Marilyn Hunt	0	2
Dave Melges	0	3
Bob Imle	0	2
Mike Robinson	1 (self)	
Karen Robertson	1 (self)	
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## Chapter Scoreboard 2020

**JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 2/29/2020) \$727**

**Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 2/29/2020): 316**

2019 Total: 1307

### 2020 Raffles:

MAR: Meals on Wheels - **\$195.00**

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 \$117.00, & 2184 items** delivered, including can meat, can soup, jelly, sugar packets, travel and full size hygiene products, disposable razors.

**Spokane Veterans Home: \$0.00 & 208 items** delivered, 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, and bird seed.

Meals on Wheels **\$43.00**

Wreaths Across America **\$0.00 (0 Wreaths)**

Christ Kitchen **\$0.00**

## **Arrears of Pay**

Ever heard of this? Arrears of Pay (AOP) is the pro-rated amount of the final month's retirement pay and any other money owed to the retiree at the time of death. This is not a death benefit. There are two ways you can prepare to leave behind money from their military retirement: by designating beneficiaries for the SBP and AOP. Naming a beneficiary for SBP does not automatically entitle that person to receive AOP. A separate election must be made. failing to designate an AOP beneficiary and keep their contact information current could cause stress and financial hardship for survivors during an already difficult time because the final payment could be delayed. Unless otherwise noted, an AOP beneficiary will also be the person Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials contact for assistance in closing the account, so it is important to designate a person the retiree trusts to handle their affairs. Also, designating a sole beneficiary in a will does not automatically make that person an AOP beneficiary. When no beneficiary is named, the payment is made to the highest person in what is known as the "Order of Precedence." The Order of Precedence is the federal-mandated order of inheritance that applies to legacies without a designated beneficiary. It can take many months to locate survivors, identify who comes highest in the Order of Precedence, and then make the payment. DFAS officials also suggest limiting the number of AOP beneficiaries to avoid delays as the AOP payment is usually less than one month's pay, and this amount will be divided among all of the designated beneficiaries. For more information, visit the DFAS website <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

**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

**Wednesdays, 0800-0845 Coffee and Comradery** at the Mann-Grandstaff VA, 2nd floor Room C223. Contact Kari Tabino (509)434-7657 for more information.

**Tuesdays, 0900-1100; Wednesdays 1500-1700; Thursdays 1000-1200, Vietnam Veterans Wellness Groups** at the Spokane Vet Center, 13109 E. Mirabeau Parkway, Spokane Valley. Weekly Vietnam Veterans Wellness Group meetings focus on coping with real readjustment issues, stress, civilian life after serving in combat, functioning in society, etc. Veterans will need to complete an intake assessment to attend. Contact Andrea at (509)893-5792 or (509)444-8397 to make an intake appointment; DD-214 is required.

**24 March 1530-1730 Family & Friends CPR and Stop the Bleed Class** at the Mann-Grandstaff VA. Learn basic CPR skills, choking relief, AED operation and basic bleeding control (no CPR card will be issued). Free for veterans, their family members, caregivers, or friends (children over 12 years old please). Space is limited . Call Kari at (509)434-7657 to register.

**31 March 1000-1300 Welcome Home Vietnam Vet Event** at the Spokane Vet Center, 13109 E Mirabeau Parkway, Spokane Valley. All Veterans and their families are invited. BBQ lunch will be served starting at 1100.

### 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 or give them to her at the next chapter social.

### Homeless Veterans Donations

Canned meat, snack size chips, fruit cups or easy open cans, Spam, protein bars, full size and travel size hygiene items, XL white t-shirts, can soup, peanut butter, jelly.

### Support Renaming Highway 902 to *Gold Star Memorial Highway*

The Director of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake is joining the Eastern Washington Veterans Task Force in requesting support from community and veteran organizations in eastern Washington and north Idaho to rename Washington State Route 902 (SR902) to the Gold Star Memorial Highway.



The term Gold Star derives its origin from WWI when mothers of service members lost during the war came together to support one another in their grief. These families hung gold stars in the windows of their homes.

Several individuals interred at Washington State Veterans Cemetery lost their lives during service in the military. If approved, this proposal would honor those individual and recognize surviving families as they travel to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery on this highway.

SR 902 is 12.36 miles long and begins at exit 264 where it travels northwesterly and passes Lakeland Village, then through Medical Lake before turning east at Brooks Road and continuing northeast before intersecting I-90 at exit 272.

# 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 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.

### **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 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.

### **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 2981**

A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, 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 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.

## 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**

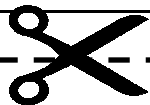
United States Senate  
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 213  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814  
(208)667-6130  
Fax (208)765-1743

#### **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

# 2020 Spokane MOAA Chapter Widows & Wives Group Calendar of Events

Date	Where	Hostess	Hostess' Phone
7 January	Darcy's 10502 E Sprague Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-891-0773	Shirley Melges	509-465-8867
4 February	Black Angus Steakhouse 14724 E Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-927-1177	Deanie Binsfield	509-466-8006
3 March	Twigs Bistro 14728 East Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-290-5636	Kay White	509-315-9684
7 April	Templin's on the River Red Lion Hotel 414 E First Ave, Post Falls, ID 208-773-1611	Pat Connell	208-772-2559
5 May	Davenport Hotel Peacock Room 10 S Post St, Spokane, WA 509-789-6848	Pat Tolley	509-953-6768
2 June	Dockside Coeur d'Alene Resort 115 S Second Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-666-5799	Pat Connell	208-772-2559
7 July	Anthony's Homeport 1926 Riverstone Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-664-4665	Ann Holmberg	208-765-1812
4 August	Brambleberry Cottage & Tea Shop 206 E Pacific Ave, Spokane, WA 509-926-3293	Pat Tolley	509-953-6768
1 September	Christ Kitchen 2410 N Monroe St, Spokane, WA 509-325-4343	Kay White	509-315-9684
6 October	Tito Macaroni 210 E Sherman Ave, Coeur D Alene, ID 208-667-2782	Pat Connell	208-772-2559
3 November	Rad Ricci Italian Bistro 8049 N Wayne Drive, Hayden, ID 208-635-5821	Maxine Mahony	208-762-3380
1 December	Clinkerdagger 621 W. Mallon Street, Spokane, WA 509-328-5965	Pat Tolley	509-953-6768



## Upcoming Events 2020 Mark Your Calendars!

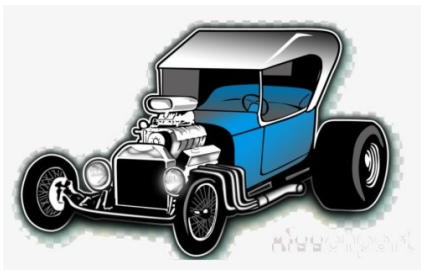


### Need a Ride to a Chapter Social?

Call Anyone Listed Below

#### WASHINGTON

Clif Collier (509)443-6490



#### IDAHO

Ralph Shrigley (208)623-2671

### UPCOMING SOCIALS

- 8 March Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 19 April Airport Ramada Inn
- 14 June Highlands Golf Course
- 13 Sept Bayview
- 25 Oct Cabela's, Post Falls
- 6 Dec Darcy's, Spokane Valley

We are always looking for interesting speakers/ presentations that are of interest to our members.

Please let Rufus, Barbara or Betty know if you have a suggestion.

# 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.*



## 19 April 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, go left. Take the next right on W. McFarlane Rd. (it is not marked), 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
- XL white T-shirts, canned meat or hygiene items for homeless veterans
- Plastic tube type hangers, postage stamps, and unused greeting cards for 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 14 April for a refund.*

## Mailing Address

Spokane Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 466

# Social Registration April 2020

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Wednesday, 15 April**  
To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefler (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 15 April 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, 19 April 2020  
12:30 Social, 1:15 Buffet

### Location

Ramada Inn  
8909 Airport Drive  
Spokane

**Cost is \$25 per person**

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 mailbox above.  
**Directions are on page 6**

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 2020**  
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 \_\_\_\_\_



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