



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXII Number 6



February 2022

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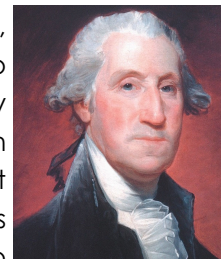
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Director

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

5 Star Chapter President's Message

Our first President was born 289 years ago in 1732, famous for his leadership as the thirteen colonies fought to break away from the British empire. Not known by many he also fought an epidemic, much like we are involved in against the Covid pandemic, his fight was against smallpox. He successfully built immunity amongst his troops at Valley Forge by variolation against the virus to maintain a viable fighting force. In our effort to help stem the current Covid spread the board of directors has decided to move our usual March social to July. We are working to find an outdoor location in Idaho where we can enjoy each others company and have a catered meal. We will also have our April social so we can have our annual meeting and honor the members who transferred to their final assignment. The current plan is to have this social at the Airport Ramada Inn. The registration form will be included in the March issue too.



Our December social was held at Darcy's, as usual the food was excellent and we all enjoyed an update from VA audiologist Dr. Crista Copis. An election was held with the members present and all members of the Board of Directors will be remaining in their positions for another year.

The board voted to extend everyone's membership by one year and invited members to instead make a contribution to the chapter scholarship or the MOAA scholarship by sending a check to the chapter. By now those who contributed \$75 or more should have received a letter acknowledging your contribution for tax purposes.

The MOAA ladies are delighted to announce that they will return to their monthly luncheons on the first Tuesday at 1300. You are welcome to attend. Please call Shirley Melges (509)465-8867 for more information or to reserve your seat at the table.

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



CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
FIFTH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

CHARLIE DURANONA
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

Francis Percy LTC USA (retired)
Leila L. Larson Surviving Spouse

Welcome aboard:

Jennifer Coles, COL, USAFR, (retired) & Craig,
they reside in Colbert, Washington

Richard Baldwin, LCDR USN (retired) & Eleonore,
they reside in Nine Mile Falls, Washington

Chapter Scoreboard 2021

JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 1 November 2021) \$1392.00

Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 1 February 2022):

2021 Total: **647** 2022 Total: **83**

2022 Raffles:

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

Widows & Wives:

Homeless Vets \$199.00, & 627 items delivered.

December delivery included: 108 cans of tuna, 12 almond butter, 12 peanut butter, 12 jelly, 24 Chef Boyardee & 3 men's slacks.

Spokane Veterans Home: \$100, & 3181 items delivered.

December delivery included: 56 unfinished wood crafts, 727 new greeting cards, 10 tubes glitter, 37 CDs, 10 paint brushes, 8 glitter glue, 36 acrylic paint, 6 misc craft, 46 hair clips, 5 body products, 20 nail implements, and 2 shower caps & 15 US Navy ball caps.

Meals on Wheels \$159.00

Wreaths Across America 114 wreaths

Christ Kitchen \$100.00

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.

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.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

Key Bills being considered by Congress

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

- S. 3541: Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act
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. 189: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment 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

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

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
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(208)667-0127
Fax: (208)667-0310

Mailing Address

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

Social Registration April 2022

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Tuesday, 19 April 2022**
To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 21 April for a refund.

What's on the 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, 24 April 2022
Cost is \$28 per person

Location

Ramada Inn
8909 Airport Drive
Spokane

Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday, 24 April social at Ramada Inn Spokane. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$28 x ____ number of reservations). Make check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

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)

Update My Communication Preferences

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

EMAIL REQUEST, CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE, or TEMPORARILY AWAY:

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

(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:

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

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.

Expanded Commissary Shopping Privileges

The Department of Defense expanded commissary shopping privileges in the U.S. effective 1 January 2020 as part of the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Access was expanded to include:

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Purple Heart recipients
- Former Prisoners of war, and Individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Are you eligible for your Veterans Health ID Card?

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility>

You can apply through one of the following methods if you meet eligibility requirements:

1. **Phone:** 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET to get help with your application.
2. **Mail:** Fill out the Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ) and send to address in the instructions.
3. **In Person:** Fill out the Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

With help of a trained professional: You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for health care benefits.





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Volume XXXI Number 5



February 2022

Chapter Donations

In past years we donate the raffle proceeds to support various charities in the area. We have received support for the JROTC scholarship via generous donations from chapter members. I would encourage you to continue this support by sending a donation to the chapter. Please indicate on your check which charity you would like the donation to go to. The charities and groups we selected for our donations can be seen on page 2 of the newsletter.

2022 Socials

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 24 April – Ramada Inn Airport * | 11 September |
| 19 June (Fathers Day) | 23 October |
| 24 July (out doors in Post Falls) | 4 December |



24 April Social Event Reminders



SUNDAY 24 April, 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 and take a left onto Flint Road. Take the next right on W. McFarlane Rd., proceed about 1/10 mile and take a left toward the Ramada Inn. The easiest entry points are on the east and the north sides of the lobby. Plenty of handicapped parking near the east side entrance 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 MOAA Scholarship
- Hand warmers, canned meat, individual servings of mac & cheese (or similar items) 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 the Veterans Home.