



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXI Number 5



November 2021

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(208)869-7696

### **Director**

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

## **5 Star Chapter President's Message**



Our first social since March 2020 was held at the Highlands Golf Course 20 June. I was happy to see all of the members that were able to attend, and enjoy the variety of meals from the menu. We did not have a speaker, but we were all able to reconnect in person with old friends.

The board contemplated a social in September and October, these plans were dashed by the resurgence of Covid. So as we approach December and we are forging ahead with plans for a social at Darcy's in Spokane Valley on the 5th.

At our last board meeting we decided to extend everyone's membership by one year. We would invite you to instead make a contribution to the chapter scholarship or the MOAA scholarship by sending a check to the chapter. We also supported the Union Gospel Mission, Wreaths Across America and the Spokane Veterans home in the past, these too would be great targets for contributions.

Since December 2020, when the first vaccinations were administered, over 70% of the eligible people in the US have received their vaccinations. Recent reports show 99.9% of those who have received it and get infected do not require hospitalization. Additionally, of the 18,000 deaths in May only 150 were vaccinated. Unfortunately the latest mutations of the virus are much more transmittable and cause the majority of deaths. Starting this month people who are immune compromised, over 65 or in jobs where they come in close contact with the public are eligible for a booster vaccine. I received my booster last week and experienced the same minor symptoms as the initial shots. I would also urge you to get your annual flu vaccine, they can be administered at the same time.

The MOAA ladies are delighted to announce that they have returned 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":** <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 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 DURANA  
VETERANS/MILITARY LIAISON

(509) 680-5583-C  
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CHARLES.DURANA@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

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

**Taps**  
**Past President**  
**Major James Connell, USAF, retired**

**Hats Off To:**

A big Bravo Zulu (Navy flag hoist for well done) goes to Commander Marilyn Hunt, she compiled and submitted the data required for the 5 Star Chapter Level of Excellence award for 2020. I found out this week that we have again maintained our award winning performance .

**Chapter Scoreboard 2021**

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

**Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 1 November 2021):**

2020 Total: **592** 2021 Total: 396

**2021 Raffles:**

~~MAR:~~ Meals on Wheels

~~APR:~~ MOAA Scholarship

~~JUN:~~ Union Gospel Mission \$120

~~SEP:~~ Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America

~~OCT:~~ Spokane Veterans Home

~~DEC:~~ COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships

**Widows & Wives:**

**Homeless Vets \$157.00, & 456 items delivered,** 100 Mac & cheese cups, 20 peach cups, 40 granola bars, 20 jam, 20 peanut butter, 51 meat, 108 snack chips, 36 disp. razors, and 18 hygiene items

**Spokane Veterans Home: 1792 items delivered,** 44 unfinished wood crafts, 10 tubes glitter, 3 lg. magnifying glasses, 1 adult color book, 16 stationary, 37 CDs, 21 magazines, 4 pkg. leaf window décor, 1 wall clock, 3 back packs, 31 hygiene products, 5 DVDs, and 12 houseplants

**Meals on Wheels \$143.00**

**Wreaths Across America \$310.00**

**Christ Kitchen \$100.00**

**MOAA Ladies plan to meet on 7 December 2021. Contact Shirley at 509-465-8867 for further information.**

**Wreaths Across America**

**Medical Lake Veterans Cemetery wreath laying ceremony will be at 1200 18 December 2021**

The chapter continues to support this project through MOAA Widows and Wives. We can each sponsor wreaths for the Washington State Veteran's Cemetery at Medical Lake by using the internet (increments of \$15.00 only) via the link below #1 or a check by mail to our chapter coordinator (any amount desired) see below #2.

1. <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/social/WA0016---Widows-and-Wives-of-Spokane-MOAA?Sid=21044|0|0|1|1>
2. You may send a donation check of any amount payable to Widows and Wives, 9817 N Ute Ct, Spokane, WA 99208-9415. Please indicate "Wreaths" in the memo of your check. These funds will be combined to purchase as many wreaths as possible. If donating via Widows and Wives please see that we receive your check by 22 November to ensure the consolidated donation will be delivered to Wreaths Across America by December 2, 2021.

Whichever option you choose, we still receive one free wreath for every two that are purchased. The deadline for all donations to be received by Wreaths Across America for 2021 is 2 December. Questions: Please call Dave or Shirley Melges at 509 465-8867, please leave a message if there is no answer, we will call you back.

**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. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.*

# 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 148

A bill to provide a work opportunity tax credit for military spouses and to provide for flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for military families.

### HOUSE 239

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 344

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an analysis of the need for women-specific programs that treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency and to carry out a pilot program regarding such programs.

### HOUSE 475

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 910

A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct reviews of certain budget requests of the President for the medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### HOUSE 912

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to mental health and suicide prevention outreach to minority veterans and American Indian and Alaska Native veterans, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 914

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 1012 Senate 321

A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight."

### HOUSE 1276

A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 1282

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 1801

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 1854

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for employers of reservists.

### HOUSE 1972

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 1997

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the TRICARE program for certain members of the Retired Reserve of the reserve components.

### HOUSE 2127

A bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 2339

A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a basic needs allowance for low-income regular members of the Armed Forces.

### Senate 344

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

### Senate 437

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

### Senate 625

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the enrollment fee requirement for TRICARE Select for members of the Armed Forces who retired before January 1, 2018.

The list continues, you can see them and comment on them by going to <https://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

## 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 Ironwood Dr. Suite. 241  
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 December 2021

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Wednesday, 1 December**

To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 1 December for refund.

### What's on the Menu:

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

### Date & Times

Sunday, 5 December 2021

Cost is \$28 per person  
(includes gratuity)

Please reserve \_\_\_ places for the Sunday, 5 December social at Darcy's Spokane Valley. 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.

### Location

Darcy's, Spokane Valley  
10502 E. Sprague

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

EMAIL 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 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

## 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 or received by mail via written request to the address below:**

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/veteran-and-military-resources>

## 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.

## Fairchild Prescription Changes

The pharmacy prefers to receive new prescriptions electronically, it speeds up the process to get it filled. ***All prescriptions (new and refills)*** are to be picked up/filled/refilled at the refill pharmacy next to the BX. This will reduce the amount of foot traffic in the clinic. Minimum fill/refill time is 3 business days. ***New prescription activation is required***, to confirm your new Rx call **509-247-2513/5567**. The Refill pharmacy is open 0930 -1630 Mon-Fri. The automated dispenser inside the BX entrance is also available during BX hours for refills only. Both pharmacies are closed every third Wednesday at 1200 for training. Operating hours are subject to change, call before you go. There have been issues with the automated refill computer recently; if you call, enter your Rx number and get a reply that your refill is ready to pick up instead of a day in the near future, it is incorrect. Call **509-247-5567** and talk to a pharmacy technician.

## 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.



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SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



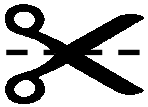
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November 2021

## 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.



## 5 December Social



### Event Reminders

**SUNDAY, 5 December, 12:30 p.m. Social, 1:15 p.m. Buffet**

**10502 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA 99206**

**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 MOAA Scholarship
- 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 birthdays & anniversaries etc., small gift items for residents to celebrate family occasions, magazines, and craft items for Veterans Home.