



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXI Number 4



August 2021

## Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

### **President, Newsletter Editor**

David 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**

David Melges, Acting

### **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  
smmelges@comcast.net

### **Director**

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**

Tom Swindle, Capt, USAF (former)  
(208)437-1601  
tswindle418@gmail.com

### **Website Coordinator**

David 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**

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 plans to have another social next month were dashed by the resurgence of Covid again. The board contemplated a social in September and October but we decided to hold off until December. We will revisit this again at the next board meeting. If you would like to join us we now meet via Zoom. Future dates are 11 September, 2 October and 6 November. Please contact me by e-mail at SPOMOAA@melges.net for the meeting data.

Since December 2020, when the first vaccinations were administered, over 70% of the eligible people in the US have received their shots. 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 next month people who are immune compromised will be eligible for a booster shot and shortly after those over 65 will then be in line for their booster eight months after their last shot. It is not too late to get vaccinated for Covid and Flu as that season is rapidly approaching. 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 DURANONA  
VETERANS/MILITARY LIAISON

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

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

## Taps

**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 August 2021)**  
\$1392.00

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

2020 Total: **1307** 2021 Total: 187

**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 \$121.00, & 413 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: 1604 items delivered,** July delivery included: 230 hangers, 40 lbs. bird seed, 16 novels, 18 reading glasses, 40 retractable pens, 12 posters to color, 8 disp. razors, 18 misc.

Meals on Wheels \$103.00  
Wreaths Across America \$100.00  
Christ Kitchen \$0.00

**MOAA Ladies plan to meet on 6 September 2021.**  
**Contact Shirley at 509-465-8867 for further information.**

## **Changes to Military Retired Pay and Social Security**

Most of you know that every year retired pay and social security payments are adjusted for inflation. It appears that the COLA for this year will approach 6%. This will be the largest adjustment since 1982, in 2008 it was 5.8%. There is a discussion in Congress to change the way COLA is calculated, it appears some think recipients of these monies do not deserve to maintain the equivalent pay they have been entitled to by their service or contributions to the Social Security Trust fund as required by law. Please let your House Representative and Senators know how you feel concerning these "adjustments" that could greatly effect your bottom line in the near future. The contact information for your congressional legislators is located on the following page of the newsletter.

**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

# 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**

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 2021**  
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 \_\_\_\_\_



**Marilyn, Bob, Bruce and Dave at the Coeur d'Alene 4th of July parade.  
Happy Birthday United States of America**



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXXI Number 4



August 2021

## 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.

## 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.

## 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, cook-

## 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.