



# NOW HEAR THIS!

## SPOKANE CHAPTER

### MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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Vacant

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#### 5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Dave Melges

**Vicki Carter, Director of the Spokane Conservation District, will speak about Vets on the Farm at our 17 September social.** Rufus Hoefer heard her at a veterans meeting in Wenatchee and was so impressed that he took the initiative to invite her. Read more about Vicki on page 3, then send your reservation so we get it by Monday, 11 September.

There's a very important piece of legislation in the House of Representatives: "**The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act**" (HR 3011). This legislation is needed because current regulations require survivors of deceased military retirees to return any retirement payment received in the month the retiree passes away or any subsequent month thereafter. Upon the demise of a retired service member in receipt of military retired pay, the surviving spouse is to notify DoD of the death. The DoD's financial arm (DFAS) then stops payment on the retirement account, recalculates the final payment to cover only the days in the month the retiree was alive, forwards a check for those days to the surviving spouse (beneficiary) and, if not reported in a timely manner, recoups any over payment(s) made for periods subsequent to the retiree's death. The recouping is made without consideration of the survivor's financial status. HR 3011 is related to a similar pay policy enacted by the VA. Congress passed a law in 1996 that allows a surviving spouse to retain the veteran's disability and VA pension payments issued for the month of the veteran's death. I believe military retired pay should be no different. Unfortunately there is no link to this proposed legislation on the MOAA website, but the Fleet Reserve website does have a similar action page where you can contact your representative very easily.

Go to <http://action.fra.org/action-center/>



**Bring Something to  
the 17 SEP Social  
for the Raffle**

#### 2017 Chapter Social Dates

19 Mar	Ramada Inn Spokane Airport
23 Apr	Red Lion Ripples on the River
25 Jun	Highlands Golf Course Grill & Tap House, Post Falls
17 Sep	Northern Quest Casino
22 Oct	Coeur d'Alene Resort
3 Dec	Mukogawa Ft. Wright Inst.

#### 2017 Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates



3 Jan	Darcy's
7 Feb	Luigi's Italian Restaurant
7 Mar	White House Grill, Post Falls
4 Apr	Ripples on the River—Red Lion
2 May	Anthony's Homeport, CdA
6 Jun	Olive Garden
11 Jul	Luna
1 Aug	Hunters Steakhouse, Post Falls
5 Sep	Christ Kitchen
3 Oct	Wine Grotto Café Corner Store
7 Nov	Black Angus Steakhouse
5 Dec	Northern Quest Casino

## Now Hear This!



### Welcome New Members

Capt Spencer Buchert, USAF & wife Rachel, Spokane  
MAJ Cody Gravitt, USAF, Fairchild AFB  
MAJ Lori Haas, USAF (Ret.), Fairchild AFB  
(wife of MAJ Gravitt)



### Taps

Col Robert Bublitz, USAF (Ret.) (7/12/17)  
(former chapter member & Bridge Club leader)

### Our Hat Is Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Marilyn Hunt	4	6
Bob Imle	1	3
Betty Krafft	1	1
Dave Melges	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

### CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2017

**JROTC Scholarship Funds 4/8/17:** \$1992

**JROTC Support Funds 4/8/17:** \$218

**Legislative Letters, Postcards, Emails as of 8/2017:**  
**1854**

**2017 Raffle Donations:** MAR: \$205 Shriners Hospital;  
APR: \$165 MOAA Scholarship; JUN: \$245 K-2 Equine,  
Hayden ID SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across Amer-  
ica; OCT: Spokane Veterans Home; DEC: COL  
Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships. **Total to**  
**date: \$615.**



**Widows & Wives:** Second Harvest Food Bank \$121, Christ Kitchen  
\$100, Homeless Vets \$148.95 & 465 items, including 146 hand warm-  
ers, 91 travel size/10 large hygiene items for men & women, 8 cans  
peanuts, 20 cans meat, 153 Tide pods, 11 pairs of gloves, 15 razors, 5  
pump soap, 6 rolls toilet paper, set of dishes for 12, unfinished wood  
items, acrylic craft paint, adult coloring books, markers, hangers, razors,  
magazines. Spokane Veterans Home \$20 & 234 items, including 100  
"Thank you for your service" cards, small unfinished wood items, adults  
coloring books, & supplies, puzzle, disposable razors, & women's maga-  
zines.



### MOAA Website and Membership:



**MOAA website:** [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**MOAA "Take Action":** [www.moaa.org/takeaction/](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/)

**MOAA Legislative:** [http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#Legislative-Action  
-Center](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#Legislative-Action-Center)

**Spokane Chapter website:** [www.spokanemoaa.org](http://www.spokanemoaa.org)

Membership in Spokane Chapter and MOAA national is open to present and  
former commissioned officers and warrant officers (including retirees) with hon-  
orable 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 Atmos-  
pheric Administration. MOAA and Spokane Chapter MOAA are nonpartisan.

### SPOKANE CHAPTER IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

LIKE US AT

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPOKANEMOAA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPOKANEMOAA)

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

### Widows & Wives Club Upcoming Events



DATE	LOCATION	CALL
5 Sep	Christ Kitchen 2410 N. Monroe St., Spokane (509) 325-4343	Pat Tolley (509) 953-6768
3 Oct	Wine Grotto Café Corner Store 702 E. Prairie Hayden ID (208) 762-3123	Pat Connell (208) 772-2559
7 Nov	Black Angus Steakhouse 14724 E. Indiana Ave. Spokane Valley WA (509) 927-1177	Shirley Melges (509) 465-8867
5 Dec	River's Edge Buffet Northern Quest Casino 100 N. Hayford Rd. Airway Heights WA (509) 242-7000	Deanie Binsfield (509) 466-8006

## Now Hear This!



### Vicki Carter - Vets on the Farm—Speaker 17 SEP - Northern Quest Casino

Vicki Carter, Director of the Spokane Conservation District, helped to found Vets on the Farm in 2015. This program is designed for Veterans seeking a new mission and a way to transition back into civilian life through careers in agriculture, farming, ranching or other conservation based industries. Vets on the Farm has gained statewide and national attention by emphasizing the growing need to fill a gap in our agricultural production with post 9/11 Veterans ready for a new mission. Vets on the Farm provides training and employment opportunities in seven Eastern Washington counties.

Vicki is active in the veteran community of Spokane through her work not only as Director of Vets on the Farm, but also in her work with Operation Spokane Heroes, RIDE for RED, and Veterans Task Force.

Her management experience includes over 25 years in human resource management, accounting and financial management, project and program development and governmental insurance programs. She serves on the board of directors in an agriculturally based county and provides input to policy and legislative matters at local and state levels.

As mentioned in the President's Piece, board member Rufus Hoefer was so taken by what Vicki said in Wenatchee that he wanted to give us the opportunity to hear her, so please send in your reservation coupon and join us for a very inviting served meal at Northern Quest Casino on 17 September.



### Free Chapter Membership thru 12/31/17 for New Regular Members & Surviving Spouses

Please recruit one new chapter member in 2017. Persuade them with these facts:

- We have six socials per year and go to a different place each time.
- They'll meet old friends and make new ones, and there's no pressure to attend.
- Socials are exactly that—SOCIAL. They won't be "doing meetings." Need help? Contact Marilyn Hunt.



Spokane Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 466  
Veradale WA 99037

**Regular Member** free till 12/31/17 or \$15/yr. or \$40 for 3 years  
**Surviving Spouse** free till 12/31/17 or \$9/yr. or \$25 for 3 yrs.

[www.spokanemoaa.org](http://www.spokanemoaa.org)

**Please Print or Type:** NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**RANK** \_\_\_\_\_ **SERVICE** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATUS (Circle one):** Active, Retired, Former, Auxiliary

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Chapter dues. 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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## Now Hear This!



### Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability for Disabled Veterans over 62

You may have noticed in the chart on page 2 that we've sent an unusual number of legislative letters, postcards and emails this year. That's because Bob and Marilyn Hunt took the initiative to provide a large number of pre-stamped post-cards on an item in the Administration's budget which would reduce VA disability benefits for Totally Disabled Individually Unemployable Disabled Veterans over 62 years of age from 100% to 70%. This legislation is commonly referred to as "IU."

Bob and Marilyn asked people to sign these cards at the many venues with which they're involved (including our June social at the Highlands Golf Course in Post Falls and the chapter board meeting in July). Because there has been so much resistance to this legislation, VA Secretary Shulkin has stated that he will not push for it but it is apparently still in the budget and is *still an action item on the MOAA website*: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=77640626>.

Here's the critical point about IU: IU is awarded to certain disabled veterans who have a total of 70% disability, including at least one rating of 40%, AND who are considered to be unemployable.

- They receive VA disability benefits at the 100% level.
- However, they are not allowed to work. If they do, their benefits are taken away.
- This means they have not been able to earn any more money for retirement. Putting it bluntly, they have not been allowed to increase their Social Security by working. Nor could they contribute to an IRA, 401K or profit sharing.
- In return, the VA pays them at the 100% level until they die.

Bob and Marilyn are personally acquainted with IU disabled veterans whose lives would be devastated if they were to lose this income. Many of them would lose their homes. On top of that, IU designation comes with other benefits which would cease:

- Spousal medical care & survivor benefits
- Burial benefits & dependents' education benefits
- Dental coverage & Commissary/PX shopping privileges
- State property tax exemptions in some states



**BOTTOM LINE:** The IU system is based on TRUST - the VA will provide benefits and the veteran will not work. The VA must uphold their end of the bargain.

Otherwise, these veterans will be devastated and there will be new problems:  
Homelessness and Suicide.

**U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance**  
**Fairchild AFB Wing Headquarters (509) 247-2838**  
**Legal Assistance Tuesday and Thursday 0830-0930**  
**Notary and Power of Attorney hours Monday—Friday 0830-1600**  
**Call to find out if they can help with your legal needs.**

### 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 Raul

**Labrador**, United States  
House of Representatives  
1250 Ironwood Dr.  
Suite 241

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



Sunday, 17 September 2017 Northern Quest Casino  
100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights  
12:30 social time, 1:15 served meal begins

#### Vicki Carter, Speaker—"Vets on the Farm"

Mail reservation early so we receive it no later than Monday, 11 September

*If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer, (509) 443-6822 NLT Monday, 11 SEP for a refund.*

**MENU:** Oven Roasted Pork Loin with caramelized Washington apple compote – OR - Mushroom Chicken breast with wild mushroom ragout. Both meals come with fresh seasonal vegetable, roasted mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, rolls, butter, coffee & tea. Dessert will be Huckleberry Chiffon dessert. **Cash bar available.** Cost \$30 per person. Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places for the Sunday, 17 Sep 2017 social at Northern Quest Casino. My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (\$30 x \_\_\_\_ number of reservations). Make check to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest (circle one) PORK LOIN or MUSHROOM CHICKEN (please circle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ member/guest (circle one) PORK LOIN or MUSHROOM CHICKEN (please circle)

**Sunday 17 September 2017 Northern Quest Casino social starts at 12:30, served meal at 1:15 p.m.**

**We will be in the Kalispell Ballroom.**

**DIRECTIONS:** 1-90west, exit 277 (Fairchild AFB/Airport exit), 4 miles, right at traffic light onto Hayford Road, 2 miles to Northern Quest on left. Recommend parking in high rise garage (left turn AFTER casino) on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. If on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, take elevator to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Take exit on south side in the middle of the garage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & follow it to hotel lobby. Take hallway on right to Kalispell ballroom.

#### Please bring:

- 6 return address labels per person for legislative letters
- Something for the raffle which will benefit Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America
- Homeless Veterans: Canned protein; full size shampoo, deodorant or soap; or cash donations to purchase items



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



**IDAHO**

Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671



**Heads Up! Stand By!**



Information about the next social is always published in a chapter newsletter. You can get it either by email or U.S. mail. This system will continue, but our chapter's board of directors recently decided to try something new in addition to the newsletter.

**For the OCTOBER social**, we will use a telephonic system known as Robo Calls. Other chapters have used this system with successful results so we thought we'd try it. It is provided by a company called "Call-Em-All." It will remind our members of the October social and will hopefully increase attendance. If the person being called does not pick up, a voice mail will be left by the system.

**Here's a sample message:**

"Hello. This is a MOAA luncheon reminder. The October luncheon will be held at 12:30 Sunday, the 22nd at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The guest speaker is **Joe Blow**. Menu and reservation form are in the September newsletter available at spokanemoaa.org. The luncheon fee is \$XX.00 per person, guests are welcome. Contact Rufus Hoefer at 509-443-6822 for assistance. See you there."

**Casualty Assistance Officer:** Claudette Becker is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area. She's in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, she will call you back.

**FAFB Retiree Activities Office (RAO)**  
**SGM Jim R. Smith, USA (Ret.), Director**  
**Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., Ste. 109, 509-247-5359**  
**Hours: 1000—1400.**

**They need volunteers to work four hours per month.**