



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXIV Number 6



Nov 2014

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5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Rufus Hoefler

Our Christmas social will be on Pearl Harbor Day! For those of you who attended our last one at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, you know that CSGM, USA (Ret.) Alfie Alvarado, Director of Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, did a truly outstanding job. We veterans here in Washington are in good hands.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to fill chapter positions next year, and **now we need a Secretary** because **Dave Melges** has volunteered to be President! Our bylaws allow Regular *and* Auxiliary members to serve on the board, so if any of you would like to take chapter minutes on the first Saturday morning of each month, please contact me ASAP! (More about that on p. 4). **Dick Oates** has offered to be 1st Vice President, **William Kelley** is willing to serve as a Director, and **Greg Sassman** has already assumed the duties of Website Coordinator.

I sincerely hope you all VOTED! Now, as I write these notes, I realize we just have to wait. That is something I am still not good at. One thing is for sure; our support of sequestration relief for 2015/16 will be a top priority.

I hope as many of you as possible can attend our annual Christmas get-together at Mukogawa on 7 December (see social details on p. 5). I am sending a special invitation to the officers and spouses of the Command Group at Fairchild Air Force Base and hope some or all can join us. I am also in hopes that **Col Brian Newberry**, USAF (Ret), new Executive Director of Leadership Spokane, and his wife, Jill, will be able to attend.

Since this is my last "President's Message," I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Chapter Officers, Directors and volunteers who made my job most pleasurable. To all our members, spouses and Auxiliary members, I have been honored to serve as your President and will continue to serve on the Board for the near future. I leave this office with a wish for all of you for happiness, peace and health for 2015 and beyond.



**Bring Something to
 the 7 DEC Social for
 SUPPORT THE
 TROOPS**

2015 Chapter Social Dates

- 22 Mar Northern Quest Casino
- 26 Apr Mukogawa Ft. Wright
- 14 Jun Longhorn BBQ
- 13 Sep Highlands Golf Course Grill & Tap, Post Falls
- 25 Oct Coeur d'Alene Resort
- 6 Dec Mukogawa Ft. Wright

**2015 Wives & Widows
 Club Meeting Dates**



- 6 Jan Darcy's
- 3 Feb Thai Bamboo
- 3 Mar Twigs Bistro & Martini Bar
- 7 Apr Beverly's—CDA Resort
- 5 May Anthony's Restaurant
- 2 Jun Ripples on the River—Red Lion
- 7 Jul Red Lion Templin's—Post Falls
- 4 Aug Rusty Moose
- 1 Sep Corbin Park picnic
- 6 Oct Bistro on Spruce
- 3 Nov Max Restaurant Mirabeau Park
- 1 Dec Peacock Room, Davenport Hotel

Now Hear This!



Welcome New Members

1
1LT Richard Coffland, ARNG (Ret.),
Grand Coulee
LtCol Terrence Walker, USMC (Ret.) and
wife Denise, Liberty Lake

Taps



LtCol Duane Johnson, USAF (Ret.) (10/4/14)
Mary Anne Memminger, AUX (10/22/14)



Spokane Chapter, MOAA

**2013 First Prize Winner
Best Legislative Coverage for
Website
Sixth Consecutive Year!
&
2013 Website 1st Runner-Up!**

Our Hat Is Off To:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2014	MOAA 2014
Richard Coffland	1 (self-recruited)	
Clif Collier	1	
Beth Ann Daigre	1	
Rufus Hoefler		1
Marilyn Hunt	4	7
Bob Imle		7
Dave Melges		3
Dick Oates		3
Terrence Walker	1 (self-recruited)	
Chuck Young	1	
Gary Young	1 (self-recruited)	
TOTALS	10	21

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2014

JROTC Scholarship Funds on hand as of 11/1/14: \$171.
Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 1500 as of 1 NOV 2014.
2014 Raffle Donations: MAR \$180 COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships; APR \$352 Widows & Wives (for Wreaths Across America); JUN \$145 Fisher House; SEP \$155 MOAA Scholarship Fund; OCT \$215 Spokane Veterans Home, DEC ROTC/JROTC Unit Support.
Total 2014 raffle donations: \$1047
Widows & Wives: Spokane Food Bank \$328 & 58 lbs. food. Spokane Veterans Home: 697 items total: stationery, puzzles, magazines, calendars, gloves, cards, socks, hangers, squeeze balls, yarn, Homeless Veterans: 1024 items total: socks, jackets, jeans, shirts, towels, dishes, coffee pot, hand warmers, shower curtains, soap bars, razors, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste/brushes/floss, toilet paper, Kleenex, pens. Christ Clinic: \$50. Wreaths Across America: 174 wreaths (\$1736).



WIDOWS & WIVES CLUB

By Beth Ann Daigre

Our 2 Dec luncheon will be at Anthony's Restaurant. Call Kay White at (509) 315-9684 to make your reservation.



To date we have purchased **174 wreaths** for the **Washington State Veterans Cemetery** because, at the last two luncheons, we collected another \$1163! Special thanks must go to two of our newest members: **Denise Walker**, who gathered over \$510 from family, friends and business associates; and **Jan Munson**, who collected over \$230 from family, friends and other volunteers at the Salvation Army. Three couples ordered nine wreaths at the social in September and nine more wreaths have been ordered by others. **Orders must be received by 27 Nov.** Use the form you were given at the last two socials or go to our chapter website (www.spokanemoaa.org) and click on Wreaths Across America in the Links box. Print off the form, fill it in, attach a check and mail. **If you use this form and buy two wreaths for \$15 each, they will send a third one for free.** Thanks much!

Pat Tolley and **Elaine Anderson** were delighted with all the items donated for the **Homeless Veterans** and the **Spokane Veterans Home** by those who attended the social at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. **Pat Tolley** and I had to get a bellman with a luggage cart to help us get all the goodies out to my vehicle. Now that they've returned from their autumn colors trip, **Bob and Maggie Imle** will get the items given for **Support The Troops**.

Wives and widows, **please join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM for lunch** at various restaurants in north Idaho and eastern Washington. Our 2015 calendar is on p. 1 of this newsletter. The Committee Chairs have devised a new method of running our luncheons. We will hand out our agenda, which also serves as a record of our activities, and not hold a formal meeting. It will once again be a social event to meet each other to build friendships within our community. If business matters need to be discussed, it will happen after the luncheon is over.

Now Hear This!

IF WE MAINTAIN OUR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP AT 95% of OUR 2014 NUMBERS, MOAA WILL SEND US \$250.

Chapter dues for Regular and Auxiliary members listed below expire 31 December. We need you to renew your dues soon so we can qualify. They are separate from national dues Only MOAA national has Life memberships. **Please mail your check by 10 Dec to Spokane Chapter MOAA, Attn: Membership, PO Box 466, Veradale WA 99037.** Otherwise, we'll have to send a notice by mail.

Regular members - dues \$40 for 3 years, or \$15 for 1 year:

Aguirre, Vincent	Gerlach, Gerald	McCoy, Charles	Smallfoot, Candace
Albright, Paul	Gillespie, David	McDevitt, James	Spohn, Gary
Allen, R. L.	Given, Robert	McDonnell, Joseph	Spores, Kathleen
Allinger, Richard	Gorton, Merl	Means, Paul	Spradley, Van
Atkins, Gary	Grangnelli, Joseph	Meinert, Gary	Stein Jr., Henry
Auvil, Robert	Gresham, Cliff	Melges, David	Stierwalt, John
Baker, Jeffrey	Griffin, Randy	Millard, Val	Stone Jr., Wm. Eugene
Bellar, Aaron	Gronberg, Robert	Mogensen, Nannette	Stratton, Charles
Bender, Walter	Guillotte, Dolphus	Moore, William	Sullivan, John
Benscheidt, Carl/Lisa	Haden, Donald	Morisset, Carlyn	Sundholm, Larry
Blackwell, Pete	Hand, Charles	Moss, Stephen	Swain, Lee
Bombel, George	Hargitt, Gerald	Nesbitt, William	Tassie, Lawrence
Brooke, Robert	Harris, Marmaduke	Neuberger, Jeffrey	Tate, Harlan
Bublitz, Robert	Hepburn Jr., George	Nystrom, Edward	Taylor, Steven
Cappello, Cynthia	Hire, Claude	Oates, Richard	Templin, Robert
Cappello, James	Hitter, James	Oliver, Almon	Thie, Dean
Chorvat, Michael	Hough, Ann	Ostrom, Lester	Tolman, Scott
Coffland, Richard	Humphreys, Kenneth	Parker Jr, Edward	Trapp, Vincent
Colliton, Jeffry	Imle, Robert	Patrick, Paul	Tuttle, Donald
Conn, George	Jewel, Richard	Peck, Ann	Vogel, Howard
Connally, Hope	Jones, C. Dave	Percy, Francis	Walker, Terrence
Connell, James	Jordan, James	Phillips, Jim	Wallick, Marie
Craighead, Robert	Kersting, William	Phillips, Kenneth	Warn, John
Cresswell, Douglas	Kloehn, Rev. Gordon	Povich, Michael	Weaver, Bruce
Daniels, Austin	Kolashinski, Jason	Preston, Bill	Wetherholt, Thomas
Davis, Alan	Kratt Jr, Jacob	Preston, Leonard	Wheatley, William
Davis, Chester	Lacy, Thomas	Regan, Michael	Wilcox, Brent
Davis, Theodore	Larribeau, John	Romanick, Charles	Williams, Fred
Day, Richard	Leibert, Gregg	Sachse, Billy	Wilson, Harold
Denniston, Clyde	Lind, Carl	Scharff, Ronald	Woltersdorf, Leonard
Dion, Joseph	Mabeus, Dr. Duane	Schatz, Otto	Wood, Orval
Dixon, Fred	Makar, Stephen	Schwartz, Robert	Woolard, J. D.
Duncan, Kenneth	Martin, Paul	Sealock II, Gratton	Wordinger, David
Eminger, Paul	Mastantuono, Karen	Seamster, Denney	Wunderlich, Barbara
Ferrez, Chris	Matthews, John	Shrigley, Vincent	Yocum, Peter
Fliger, Manley	McCabe, Gaylord	Simmons, Daniel	Young, Charles
Ford, James	McCauley, Bertram	Skarka, Harry	Young, Gary
Gaynos, Nick	McCollim, Lawrence	Slaton, Clifford	Zemler, Edwin
Gentry, Thomas			

Auxiliary members - dues \$25 for 3 years, or \$9 for 1 year:

Arnold, Nancy	Conant, Lyn	Grashio, Devonia	Sertich, Ethel
Barrett, Jean	Crouter, Mary Lou	Hagelin, Sharon	Spitzbarth, Marcella
Beaman, Ann	Daigre, Beth Ann	Hogue, Bettilu	Swisher, Helen
Bowmer, Beberly Ann	Dingle, Margaret	Martin, Jacqueline	Thorstenson, Irene
Burke, Gerda	Donaldson, Ann	Munson, Jan	Williams, Irene
Canfield, Marjorie	Finnegan, Miriam	Savidge, Betty	Wilson, Alice
Champion, Metra	Goldsworthy, Jean	Selberg, Bernice	Winn, Louise



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Now Hear This!



Chapter Secretary Needed ASAP—Starting in January!



If you're a Regular or Auxiliary member who can take notes, type them into a computer, and send them by email, we could really use your help. The Board meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at Valley Hospital. Meetings are normally less than two hours and we have a good time *Can you serve? Yes?* Contact Rufus at 509-443-6822(Home), (509) 999-3841(Cell) or 1rands@comcast.net.



What Does It Mean to Be Gold?

By Gail Joyce, MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

My son, 24-year-old Sgt. James Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger, was killed in action in Somalia on Oct. 3, 1993, in the Battle of Mogadishu, better known as Blackhawk Down. Sometime after his death, I received — from whom, I can't remember — a pretty gold pin with a purple background and a gold star in the middle. But I came to learn the pin was given to me to wear as a symbol of my son's service and sacrifice.

Fast forward to when I wore my Gold Star pin to a conference. Most of the people there knew about my loss. As I was talking with a group, an acquaintance walked up, pointed to my pin, and said, "What a pretty pin!" "Thank you," I replied. "This is my Gold Star pin. I am a Gold Star mom." Then she said, "Oh, how wonderful! What in the world did you do to earn that?" What do you say in this situation? What do you do? I quickly figured out she did not know anything about the Gold Star and what it signified. So I explained about the Gold Star pin and what I did to earn it.

There are many stories like mine. But even some people in the military are unaware of the Gold Star and its significance. Imagine having to explain repeatedly what the Gold Star represents — the death of your child or spouse who fought and died for our country — on a service flag, a sticker in a car window, a license plate, or a pin on your lapel.

During World War II, families flew flags in their windows denoting that someone in their family was serving in the military. These flags — bordered in red, with a center of white and a star for each member of the family serving — still are being flown today. A blue star represents someone serving in a current conflict, a silver star means someone has been wounded in combat, and a gold star represents a fallen family member.

In 1947, an act of Congress standardized the service banners and established the Gold Star pins to issue to immediate family members of service members killed in combat. The pin is a gold star on a field of purple surrounded by laurel leaves. A pin for next of kin was approved in 1973. It is a gold star on a gold background surrounded by four oak sprigs.

Congress and the military are making an effort to recognize and honor survivors. Congress has designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day. **December 18th has been designated as Gold Star Wives Day.**

The Army has developed three public service announcements to inform America of the significance of the Gold Star. Raising awareness about the Gold Star is also our responsibility as survivors as we continue to honor our loved ones. A Gold Star is something no parent or spouse ever wants to receive. It forever changes who you are. And I, for one, don't want anyone to ever forget this sacrifice.

Legislative Contacts

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20500

Washington

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United States Senate
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Spokane WA 99201
509-624-9515
Fax 509-624-9561

Senator Maria Cantwell

United States Senate
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Spokane WA 99201
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Fax 509-353-2547

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers

United States House of Representatives
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Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2374
Fax 509-352-2412

Idaho

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United States Senate
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Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
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Fax 208-664-0889

Senator Jim Risch

United States Senate
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 213
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Fax 208-765-1743

Representative Raul Labrador

United States House of Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr.
Suite 243
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, 7 December 2014, Chapter Christmas Social
Mukogawa Ft. Wright Institute Commons Building
12:30 Social, 1:00 Meeting, 1:15 Buffet begins

You're invited to wear your Class A, Service Dress or Mess Dress uniform, or just wear your ribbons on your civilian clothing.
Entertainment by Eastern Washington University Choral Group, directed by Dr. Randy Wagner

Mail reservation early so we receive it by **Saturday, 29 November**. Please, no late reservations or walk-ins.
If you need to cancel a reservation, contact **Barbara Thornbrugh, (509) 466-2108** or **Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822**
NLT Saturday, 29 Nov. for a refund.

MENU: Roast Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans almondine, green salad, cranberry sauce, fruit medley, rolls & butter, cheese cake/cherry topping. Free beer & wine. Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday 7 December 2014 luncheon at Mukogawa Fort Wright. Cost is \$26.00 per person (includes 18% gratuity). My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$26 X ____ no. of reservations). Make check 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)

Directions: SUNDAY 7 December 2014 – 12:30 p.m. Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute, 4000 West Randolph Rd, Spokane. From I-90, Maple St. exit North, turn left on 4th Ave, then left on Sunset Blvd. Stay in the right-hand lane. After the bridge, turn right onto Government Way, and right onto Fort George Wright Drive, go only .1 mile, turn left onto Randolph Road and continue to the roundabout at the end. Mukogawa is wheel chair friendly.

Wear your uniform if it hasn't shrunk! **Questions? Call Barbara Thornbrugh (509) 466-2108.**

We will sign **legislative letters** and have a **raffle** in support of our ROTC/JROTC Units. Please bring:



- 3 stamps and 6 address labels per person
- Something for the raffle which will benefit the seven ROTC/JROTC units we support.
- Something for Support the Troops, or socks and gloves for homeless veterans. The troops especially like hand & foot warmers, small bottles of shampoo/ conditioner/ lotion, shaving cream, beef jerky, cookies, peanuts, crackers w/small cans of tuna & chicken. Cash donations help pay for additional items and postage.

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: _____



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

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Change Service Requested

Need a Ride to a Chapter Social? Call Anyone Listed Below

WASHINGTON

Clif Collier 509-443-6490
 Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483



IDAHO

Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

**MOAA Angel
 By Merl Gorton**



I'm wondering if there is more that we can do for chapter members and their spouses who are ill or too old to attend meetings. This idea has come about because of what my wife, Diane, has been doing for another couple whom I'll refer to as John and Jane.

In May, Diane and I had just completed my dental appointment in north Spokane. We were opposite Northpointe, a retirement community. I remembered that John and Jane were living there, so we decided to visit them. We found that Jane now lived there alone and that John, because of physical illness, had been in another facility since January, and Jane had been unable to visit him. So Diane arranged for Jane to visit John. Later, at Diane's insistence, Jane was moved to the same facility and lived there until John died. Diane continues to visit Jane. She takes her to doctor appointments, brings her personal items, takes her out to lunch, visits with her, and helps interface with the staff of the facility where she lives.

I thought maybe we could organize a group of chapter members who would be willing to do things like Diane is doing. Maybe we could call it "MOAA Angel." We would need someone to serve as a coordinator between volunteers and our members who need help to make their life more pleasant. If anyone is interested in organizing such a thing, please contact me (Merl) at (509) 467-6138.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area. He is in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, he will call you back.

FAFB Retiree Activities Office
Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4029
 The Retired Affairs Office needs volunteers. Serving at the RAO is a perfect excuse to travel out to the base and visit the exchange/commissary at the same time. Call them!