



# NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXX Number 6



NOVEMBER 2020

## Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

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### **Director, Chaplain & Social Comm.**

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### **Director & Social Committee**

Barbara Thornbrugh, Surviving Spouse  
(509)466-2108  
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net

### **Website Coordinator**

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Ryan Morrison, Capt. USA (Ret.)  
(208)869-7696

### **Director**

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

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

Hasn't this been a strange year, the Covid-19 pandemic, the presidential election, the extremely smoky August, summer extending into the first two weeks of October and we haven't had a social since March. I am

hoping for a more benign 2021 as you are. Now we are experiencing a sharp rise in infections to the point medical experts are saying not to celebrate the holidays with anyone not in your immediate household. Please stay safe, get your flu vaccination.



**We are in search of a chapter secretary to join the board, are you interested?** Please contact any board member to get acquainted with our monthly meetings, we have a great time and Marilyn or Dave usually brings a treat for all. We normally meet at the Valley Hospital but are now using Zoom, so we are all missing out on the treats. We invite every chapter member to join us electronically and in person (when possible), to receive the Zoom connection information please e-mail me (spomoaa@melges.net) at least a couple days in advance of the board meeting on 5 December.

## **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 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.



**@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

LTC Donald Haden USA (retired) 16 May 2020  
Col Curtis L. Baskin USA (retired) 6 October 2020

## Hats Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Marilyn Hunt	0	2
Dave Melges	0	3
Bob Imle	0	2
Mike Robinson	1 (self)	
Karen Robertson	1 (self)	
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

## Chapter Scoreboard 2020

**JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 2/29/2020) \$727.00**

**Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 10/5/2020): 492**

2019 Total: 1307

### 2020 Raffles:

MAR: Meals on Wheels - **\$195.00**

APR: MOAA Scholarship

JUN: Union Gospel Mission

SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America

OCT: Spokane Veterans Home

DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships

### Widows & Wives:

**Homeless Vets \$151.00, & 2376 items** delivered, including can meat, can soup, jelly, sugar packets, travel and full size hygiene products, disposable razors, T-shirts, peanut butter.

**Spokane Veterans Home: 1469 items** delivered, thank you for service greetings, reading glasses, unfinished wood items, magazines/books, acrylic craft paint, back packs, baking mixes, calendars, drawings to paint, unused greeting cards, stationary items, wall clock, toiletry bag, body spray, bird seed, command hooks, and hangers .

Meals on Wheels **\$43.00**

Wreaths Across America **20 Wreaths**

Christ Kitchen **\$100.00**

## Wreaths Across America

Washington State Veterans Cemetery at Medical Lake laying ceremony will be at 1200 on 19 December

The chapter continues to support this project through MOAA Widows and Wives. Normally, the chapter would have donated the raffle proceeds from the September social to purchase wreaths. As you know, we did not have a raffle since we did not have a social. We can each sponsor wreaths for the by using the internet or by mail. *Note: options 1 & 2 are in \$15.00 increments.*

1. <https://wreathsasscrossamerica.org/social/WA0016---Widows-and-Wives-of-Spokane-MOAA?Sid=21044|0|0|1|>
2. Using the direct mail form located within this newsletter.
3. You may send a donation check of any amount payable to Widows and Wives, 9817 N Ute Ct, Spokane, WA 99208-9415. 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 20 November to ensure the consolidated donation will be delivered by 3 December.

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 2020 is 3 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](mailto:spomoaa@melges.net), (509)218-0735. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

## Need to Update/Replace an ID Card?

We are in a unique situation with the COVID-19 pandemic causing cancelations, postponements and isolation. Life goes on with the virus calling the shots, but if you have lost your ID, need to get your dependents ID card replaced or renewed (they are only valid for four years, better check it while you read this). You can make a reservation for the Fairchild ID office on line by going to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>, (IDs expiring before 30 June 2021 have been extended to 30 June 2021 for medical benefits and for **base access through 31 March 2021**) **The direct number to the office is (509)247-9240.** You need to bring two forms of ID if yours is expired (valid photo ID, drivers license, passport, etc. At age 75 you are eligible for a permanent ID.

1. Select the **CONTINUE** button in the **Site Locator & Appointments** box.
2. In **Show Locations Near** Enter your Zip Code, change the **Radius** to an applicable distance
3. Click on **SEARCH**
4. Under Fairchild AFB click on **MORE INFO**
5. At the bottom of the page you will see the office hours and address click on **SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**
6. A calendar will be displayed for the current month, if there are no appointments available for the current month select the next month (located above the calendar).
7. When you find a month with available appointments select the date you desire.
8. Click on the number of **Available Appointments** this should show the times open for that date.
9. You may encounter times when the server displays the dates showing **Available Appointments** but goes no further, this means you will need to try again the next day. Call the office if you continue to experience problems with the web site.
10. An example of the calendar is displayed below.
11. Below the calendar will be a list of dates and times followed by a **BOOK THIS APPOINTMENT** box. Click on the box for the desired date and time.

November		2020		Available Dates			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	12 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	14 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	12 Available Appointments		7
8	14 Available Appointments	14 Available Appointments		13 Available Appointments	9 Available Appointments		14
15	15 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	14 Available Appointments		21
22	13 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments	15 Available Appointments				28
29	14 Available Appointments						

## Award Winning Spokane Chapter

Once again our chapter won awards from MOAA National. We achieved our fifteenth consecutive **5 Star** Chapter award. Additionally we won communications awards for the web page <https://www.spokanemoaa.org>, if you haven't visited it lately it was completely redesigned last year. We also won a communications award for the newsletter



# 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 5995

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 413

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 847

A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

### SENATE 3393

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

### SENATE 21

A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).

### SENATE 1047

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

### SENATE 2216

A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 2406

A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes.

### SENATE 2629

A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

### SENATE 2297

A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

### HOUSE 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt of chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

## 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, 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 2020**

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

### **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 or give them to her at the next chapter social.

### **Fairchild Prescription Changes**

Effective immediately 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 by calling 509-247-2513/5567 before going in to confirm your new Rx. The Refill pharmacy is open only 1330-1630 Mon-Fri. The automated dispenser inside the BX entrance is also available during BX hours for refills. Operating hours are subject to change, call before you go.

### **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.



# **NOW HEAR THIS!**

SPOKANE CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org). If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Wreaths Across America**

**PO Box 249**

**Columbia Falls, ME 04623**

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.

*Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!*

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

**\*GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM\***

### In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

### In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note, **ALL** sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and **NO** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: WAWSVC Fundraising Group ID: WA0016

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN: \_\_\_\_\_

