



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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October 2013



5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Rufus Hoefer

A special thanks to all who participated in our annual picnic on 22 September. Mother Nature didn't quite cooperate, as cool temps and wind caused a run on coffee and hot chocolate. However, we had a great speaker, Deputy Johnston, a crime prevention specialist from the Spokane County Sheriff's office, who gave an excellent and very informative talk on keeping your home safe and preventing some of the current scams.

Please join me in thanking Marilyn Hunt for her tireless work in writing the chapter's 28-page application which resulted in our eighth consecutive 5-Star award for Chapter excellence. It will be presented in mid-November in Colorado Springs by VADM Ryan at MOAA's annual meeting. I plan to attend and will accept the award on behalf of all members.

Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), had an interesting article in MOAA's weekly "Take Action Now" email. He reiterated how Congress must act soon or the Pentagon will be faced with another installment of \$52 billion in cuts for FY 2014 as a result of Sequestration. When Congress recently returned, they were faced with a hefty workload --combat operations in Syria, no FY 2014 budget, no continuing resolution, and the debt ceiling about to bust.

Col Hayden talked about the three options that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel had DOD planners consider:

1. Palatable (but definitely leaves a bad taste): the President's FY 2014 budget submission of \$150 billion in cuts over 10 years
2. Breaking (as in breaking readiness): sequestration-level cuts of \$500 billion over 10 years
3. Bending: an "in-between" scenario with cuts of \$250 billion over 10 years.



Please go to the MOAA website and familiarize yourself with these draconian cuts to hardware and people to a level none of us would even recognize. We need to keep the pressure on our legislators.



Bring Something
to the

27 October Social for

SUPPORT THE TROOPS

2013 Chapter Social dates

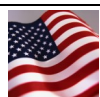
17 Mar Northern Quest Casino
28 Apr Mukogawa Ft. Wright
23 Jun Twigs North (cancelled)
22 Sep Greenacres Pavilion
27 Oct Coeur d'Alene Resort
8 Dec Mukogawa Ft. Wright

2013 Chapter Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates



8 Jan Downriver Grill
5 Feb Rusty Moose (Prospectors)
5 Mar The Onion
2 Apr Bonsai Bistro
7 May Black Angus Steakhouse
4 Jun Anthony's at Spokane Falls
2 Jul PF Chang's China Bistro
6 Aug The Boathouse Seafood
3 Sep Darcy's Restaurant
1 Oct MAX Restaurant at Mirabeau Pk.
5 Nov Clinkerdaggers Restaurant
3 Dec Beverly's, Coeur d'Alene Resort

Now Hear This!



Welcome New Members



LTC Gregory Peterson, U.S. Army (Ret.), Spokane



TAPS

Clinton "Pete" Piper, COL, U.S. Army (Ret.) (9/13/13)



Spokane Chapter, MOAA

**2012 First Prize Winner
Best Legislative Coverage for
Website**

Fifth Consecutive Year!

Website: 1st Runner UP

Our Hat Is Off To:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2013	MOAA 2013
Marilyn Hunt	2	7
Bob Imle		9
Betty Krafft	2	
Dick Oates		1
Ralph Shrigley		1
Candace Smallfoot	2	
Barbara Thornbrugh	3	
TOTALS	9	18

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2013

JROTC Scholarship Funds on hand: \$511.00

Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 971 as of 27 Sep 2013

Raffle Donations: MAR \$180 JROTC Scholarships. APR \$175 Ladies & Gent. of the WA State Cemetery; SEP \$146 MOAA Scholarship Fund; OCT Spokane Veterans Home, DEC ROTC/JROTC Unit Support. Total 2013 donations: \$501.



Support the Troops (STT): FEB: 2 boxes 10M, 5W Djibouti (USMC); 4 boxes 170M, 40W Afghanistan (USMC); 2 boxes 15M, 5W Afghanistan (Army); 2 boxes 20M, 6W Afghanistan (USN). MAY-all Afghanistan: 2 boxes 5M (Army); 3 boxes 30M, 5W (USAF); 2 boxes 10M, 5W (USMC); 6 boxes 75M (USMC), 2 boxes 24M (USMC).

2013 STT Total: 25 boxes, 242# to 359M, 66W in Djibouti & Afghan.

Widows & Wives: \$92 & 55 lbs. food to Spokane Food Bank. \$121 for 19 pr. wheelchair gloves. Sewing supplies, hygiene/cosmetic items, socks, bird houses, board games, puzzles, Xmas decorations, painting supplies, towels, blankets, kitchen items, & writing/coloring materials to Spokane Veterans Home. \$150 to Cowgirls & Women Warriors Group.

WIDOWS & WIVES CLUB

By Beth Ann Daire

Much to our delight, two of our newest members, **Ann Holmberg** and **Jan Munson**, attended our luncheon on 3 September at Darcy's, where we had abundant food, very reasonable prices and good service.

Pat Tolley advises that it's time to start purchasing thermal gloves and white thick tube socks for the homeless veterans.



Purchase forms for **Wreaths Across America** will be available at the next social so that members can order a wreath for the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, or you can print forms from our chapter website at www.spokanemoaa.org. Because the Ladies and Gentlemen are the organization that represents Wreaths Across America, we get a free wreath for every two that are ordered. Last year we received enough for every headstone, every marker at the scattering garden, and plenty to hang on the columbarium walls. Your help is needed for 2013.

Just a reminder: The Widows and Wives Club was created as a support group for the widows as well as a social group, and for wives who are not yet widows but will likely be left alone. Come and join us! **Our leadership team is as follows:**

Auxiliary Liaison – Beth Ann Daire; *Treasurer* – Shirley Melges
Food Bank – Edie Wilson; *Homeless Veterans* – Pat Tolley
Luncheon Planning – Pat Connell; *Personal Affairs* – Kay White
Spokane Veterans Home – Elaine Anderson; *Sunshine* – Barbara Thornbrugh; *Wreaths Across America* – Jan Munson.

Place your upcoming reservations:

- Tues. 5 Nov, 1 p.m.—Clinkerdagger's, 621 W. Mallon, Spokane. **Call Pat Tolley (509) 953-6768.**
- Tues. 3 Dec, 1 p.m. Beverly's, Coeur d'Alene Resort, 115 South 2nd St. **Call Pat Connell (208) 772-2559.**

The Luncheon Planning Committee has met and developed the 2014 locations. As soon as **Pat Connell** gets the final approval from the committee, she will get that information out to all of us. Hope to see you soon!

Now Hear This!

AUXILIARY CORNER

By Beth Ann Daigre

As many of you may know, MOAA has been lobbying for ten years to get the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset repealed from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). It never seems to make it to the congressional floor. The offset has been removed from the veterans, but not the widows.



MOAA has made it a major cause this year. The new bills are: House No. 32 by Rep Joe Wilson and Senate No. 734 by Sen. Bill Nelson. All of you who attend the chapter socials sign letters regarding this unfair practice. Both of these items have been paid for either by the veteran via payroll deduction or by the VA for services rendered (death caused by military service). We have several widows in our chapter whose pockets are being picked by lack of action on the part of Congress.

For the last two weeks, members of the Widows and Wives Club have met with representatives of Senator Patty Murray and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Some of the staffers in Spokane had no idea what the SBP/DIC offset was. It was not a surprise to me because for the three years that I stormed the hill in Washington DC, there were always new military legislative aides who had to be brought up to speed.

As a chapter, we need to make better use of our time and go to the congressional offices and legislative offices here in town, be it Idaho or Washington, and make sure they know what we need them to do to help those currently serving, have served and those who have retired. One of the chapter board members, **Alan Davis**, went to Senator Murray's office with us and he contributed some great questions and ideas.

New MilSpouseSurvey - Share the Challenges You Face Seeking Employment!



On 16 September, MOAA and Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) launched a survey entitled *The Military Spouse Employment Survey*. You can access it at <http://www.moaa.org/milspousesurvey> (and please share it with other military spouses). This survey provides a platform for all military spouses to share their challenges of employment while trying to navigate the military lifestyle during active duty or afterwards. The survey is completely anonymous, for research purposes, and therefore completely voluntary. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and will be available for 30 days. We encourage all active duty, National Guard, reserve, veteran, and surviving spouses who are 18 years and older to participate by sharing their experiences and lessons learned.

By adding your voice, we can build a stronger foundation for military spouses' professional needs, identify any barriers to career development and share your stories with government officials, and state/federal policy makers in order to overcome obstacles and improve the quality of life for our service members and families.



Editor's note - Here's another way to explain SBP to legislative staffers: SBP and DIC are different kinds of money. Upon retirement, service members voluntarily choose to purchase SBP if they want to ensure that their spouse will continue to receive some of their retired pay if they predecease them. It's like buying insurance on your retired pay. On the other hand, the VA awards DIC to a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran if the deceased meets certain criteria established by the VA. To offset DIC against SBP is irrational and unfair. It also markedly reduces a surviving spouse's nest egg.

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Now Hear This!



LTC David Bingham, U.S. Army

Professor of Military Science, Gonzaga University

Guest Speaker for 27 October Social

We are very honored and pleased to announce that LTC David Bingham, U.S. Army, Professor of Military Science at Gonzaga University, has agreed to be our guest speaker at the 27 October social at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

He was commissioned in the Aviation Branch of the United States Army in May 1990 after graduating from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a BA in History. He also has a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle University.

His combat tours have included Executive Officer, 1-10 Attack Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Mosul, Iraq and Operations Officer, 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Al Udeid Air Force Base, Qatar. Prior to Gonzaga, he was the Operations Officer and Deputy Commander, 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

He met his wife, Crystal, while attending flight school and married her on October 17, 1992. They have two sons, Ryan and Jack.

LOCAL MOAA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

By Marilyn Hunt

The chapter recently received a list of 13 students in northeast Washington and north Idaho who have been awarded MOAA interest-free loans of either \$5000 or \$5500, and seven of them also received a \$500 Designated Scholarship. It was very rewarding to see that chapter and individual contributions to that fund are being well used.



However, there is even better news than that! We know for sure that one of these students, **Gayle Melges**, who received both a loan and scholarship, is the granddaughter of Chapter member **LCDR David Melges and his wife Shirley!**

As we would say in the Navy, **BRAVO ZULU** (Well Done!) to all!



Christmas Is Coming and It's Time to Send Things to the Troops—Bring Something to the 10/27 Social

The troops like hand & foot warmers, wool socks, playing cards, small cans of ham/tuna/chicken with crackers, popcorn, Slim Jims, candy, raisins, peanuts, cookies, gum, hot chocolate, soup, books, deodorant, cleansing wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, hygiene items, *small* containers of shampoo, conditioner, lotion and shaving cream, body wash and lotion, hand cream and hair conditioner.

When we send these things, we often receive very touching thank-you notes from grateful service members at distant stations who tell us that our packages make their lives much more bearable. Here's a sample: **"Thank you so much for the goodies. They are greatly appreciated, especially the hand warmers. It's getting down into the 30's at night. Have a wonderful holiday."**

Legislative Contacts

President Barack Obama

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
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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 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, 27 October, Coeur d'Alene Resort
115 S. 2nd Street, Coeur d'Alene
1230 Social time, Meeting 1315, Meal Service 1330
*This will be a **SERVED MEAL**, not a buffet*

Guest Speaker: LTC David Bingham, U.S. Army, Professor of Military Science, Gonzaga University

Mail early as we **MUST** receive reservations in the chapter mailbox NLT Monday, 21 October 2013; no late reservations or walk-ins as each meal must be ordered in advance. Please reserve _____ places for Sunday, 27 October 2013. My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed (\$30 X ____ no. of reservations) **MENU: SERVED MEAL** consisting of Iceberg-Romaine Salad w/Ranch Dressing, Hot Buttered Bread Sticks, Dessert & choice of **1) Oven Roasted BEEF** Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes & Rich Pan Gravy, Horseradish Sauce on the side, Fresh Sautéed Vegetables or **2) Pan Roasted CHICKEN** Supreme atop Chef's Pasta w/Marsala Mushroom Sauce, Fresh Sautéed Vegetables, plus Salad, Breadsticks, & Dessert as listed above.

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one) (**BEEF or CHICKEN**) (circle one)

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one) (**BEEF or CHICKEN**) (circle one)

Directions to Coeur d'Alene Resort social Sunday, 27 Oct 2013, 12:30 p.m., 115 S. 2nd Street: From I-90—Exit 11, turn right on Northwest Blvd. toward City Center. This will take you to the lake and the Coeur d'Alene Resort. You may park in the parking garage unless you have a tall vehicle. There is no longer a parking attendant in the garage, so get your parking ticket from the machine and bring your it with you to the luncheon. When you leave, have it validated at the bell desk on the first floor, just inside the main entrance (near the elevators) Insert it in the machine as you leave the parking garage and pay no fee. Questions? Call Barb Thornbrugh, 509-466-2108.

Please bring:

- **3 stamps and 6 return address labels per person for legislative letters**
- **Something for the raffle which will support the Spokane Veterans Home**
- **Something for our troops serving in harm's way and/or for Homeless Veterans.** See article on page 4 for what to get the troops. Homeless vets need thermal gloves and thick white tube socks.
- **NOTE: 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: _____

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SPOKANEMOAA.ORG



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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
Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483



IDAHO

Richard Oates 208-777-2671
Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Possible Trust for Scholarship Program

In 2012 your Board instituted the Colonel Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarship Program which provides a scholarship for a cadet at each of the four junior ROTC's that our chapter supports. In its first year, we were able to give out four scholarships of \$300 each. In the second year, they were increased to \$500. Nearly 20 chapter members have made individual contributions to this program.



Most recently the Board has been investigating the establishment of a Trust that would assure the continuation of our scholarship program. Contact has been made with the Inland Northwest Community Foundation which manages 374 charitable funds. They have awarded more than \$42 million in grants and scholarships since 1974. By using their expertise and experience, all regulations and laws would be complied with. Funds invested with them are earning excellent returns.

Other MOAA chapters in the state of Washington are utilizing a similar system to manage funds donated to them. One chapter was bequeathed over \$25,000 from one member. We can continue to support our present scholarship program with individual gifts. However, it is possible that some members may be willing to bequeath some amounts to a trust program to insure the continuation of this very worthy program. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Merl Gorton at (509) 467-6138 or Ralph Shrigley at (208) 623-2671.

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!