



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



President

Dave Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
(509) 465-8867 mail@melges.net

1st Vice President & Travel POC

Richard H. Oates, LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
208-777-2671 rhoates@roadrunner.com

2nd Vice President, Mbrship. Chair & Email Newsletter Coordinator

Clif Collier, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

Secretary

Dave Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
(509) 465-8867 mail@melges.net

Treasurer

Alan Davis, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
208-215-5607 rota_al@yahoo.com

Auxiliary Liaison, Widows & Wives

Beth Ann Daigre 509-921-9581
bethannndaigre@comcast.net

IPP & Social Chair

Rufus Hofer, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret.)
509-443-6822 1rands@comcast.net

Director, Chief Recruiter, Newsletter

Editor Marilyn Hunt, CDR, USN (Ret.)
208-773-1074 cinc@frontier.com

Director & Veterans Home Chair

Cindy Kelley, AUX
509-468-3898 missuscindy@aol.com

Director, ROTC, Support the Troops

Robert Imle, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-701-3342
robertmargaretimle@gmail.com

Director, Chaplain & Social Comm.

Betty Krafft, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
509-768-3138 bkrafft@spocom.com

Director & Social Committee

Barbara Thornbrugh, AUX
509-466-2108
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net

Director & Website Coordinator

Greg Sassman, LTC, USA (Ret.)
(509) 276-5156
gsassman@centurylink.net

Personal Affairs Chairman

Kay White 509-464-2774
kaywhite4@comcast.net



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Feb 2015

5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Dave Melges

We need a **Secretary** to serve on our Board of Directors. If you can help, please contact me or any other current board member ASAP. See page 4 for more details.

Col Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret.), MOAA Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, will attend our 22 March social. Our guest speaker will be **Rudy Lopez, Director of the Veterans Cemetery** at Medical Lake. So now you have *two* great reasons to attend!



In case you don't already know, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission reviewed the current military pay system and provided ideas on modernizing it. Some of these include:

- Reduce the defined benefit modifier from 2.5 percent of base pay per year of service to 2 percent
- Deliver retirement annuities through monthly or lump sum payments, or a combination
- Automatic enrollment of all service members in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at a contribution of 3 percent of their base pay (service members can alter their contribution)
- Services automatically contribute an amount equal to 1 percent of service member's base pay into the TSP
- Matching service contributions up to 5 percent of base pay after two years of service
- Service members become fully vested in TSP after 2 years of service
- Modify the health care for military families requiring them to purchase subsidized health insurance
- Eliminate TRICARE but keep TRICARE for Life, requiring retirees to purchase health insurance
- Most of these changes would not apply to currently serving or retirees, but could greatly affect the future of our military (especially retention) and the safety of our country. More info and the website where you can get additional details are on page 4.



**Bring Something to
the 22 MAR 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!



Taps

Harvey Binsfield, LtCol, USAF (Ret.) (12/11/14)
 Claire Cosgrove, AUX (12/20/14)
 Jean Goldsworthy, AUX (1/16/15)
 Sheila Hoefer, wife of LTC Rufus Hoefer, USA (Ret.)
 (12/5/14)
 William Kelley, CDR, USN (Ret.) (12/26/14)



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 Hoefer		1
Marilyn Hunt	4	7
Bob Imle		7
Dave Melges		4
Dick Oates		3
Terrence Walker	1 (self-recruited)	
Chuck Young	1	
Gary Young	1 (self-recruited)	
TOTALS	10	22



Elaine Anderson has retired as the Widows and Wives Club chair of our Spokane Veterans Home Program. **Cindy Kelley** has assumed that responsibility. Cindy, Elaine and I went to the veterans home to

make the change-over and take a tour of the facility. There are 100 beds and they are full. Spouses and surviving spouses (auxiliary members) can stay in one of the three Washington Veterans Nursing Homes if there is a bed available. In the Spokane Veterans Home there is one married couple and a total of seven women residents.

In Washington State, when you renew your license plate tabs this year, why not change to the military plates? They cost a bit more, but the money goes to help with expenses at the three Washington State Veterans Homes and the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America January newsletter reports, "not only did we achieve our goal of covering all sections at Arlington National Cemetery with wreaths, we heard stories from across the country, and experienced first-hand, the spirit of giving from individuals and companies stepping up to help get things done as volunteers prepared for ceremonies at more than 1,000 cemeteries. With limited time and resources available, Amazon stepped up and provided WAA with expedited shipping for more than 700 packages of wreaths."

We would love to have you join us for lunch when you can. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Check the front page of the newsletter for location or go to the chapter web site or email me for a copy of our 2015 calendar. I always have copies with me at the chapter socials.

Beth Ann 509-921-9581 bethannndaigre@comcast.net

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2015	MOAA 2015
Dave Melges		1

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2014



JROTC Scholarship Funds on hand as of 12/31/14: \$171.
Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 1693 as of 12/31/14. 84 by 2/15/15.
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 \$450 ROTC/JROTC Unit Support. **Total** \$1497.
Widows & Wives: Spokane Food Bank \$328 & 53 lbs. food. Spokane Veterans Home: 1016 items: stationery, puzzles, magazines, calendars, gloves, cards, socks, hangers, squeeze balls, yarn. Homeless Veterans: 1373 items and \$229 to purchase personal hygiene items. Donated 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: 196 wreaths (\$1956).

Now Hear This!



Rudy Lopez, Director

Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery

Guest Speaker for 22 March Social, Northern Quest Casino

If you've ever wondered what it takes to be interred at the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake and didn't know who or what to ask, now's your chance to listen to the fellow who's in charge and ask questions. His name is Rudy Lopez, and he's USAF Retired. He will bring registration forms with him for you to take home and fill out if you desire. Please note: registering to be interred at the cemetery does NOT obligate you to be buried there. It only establishes your *eligibility* and makes things much easier for your family when you pass on. If you are pre-registered, they only have to set a time and date for your ceremony. The fact that you are eligible to be buried there has already been confirmed.

As the Veterans Cemetery Director, Rudy is responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing the administration and operation of the cemetery. He oversees a \$9M operation, supporting over 140K veterans throughout the inland northwest.

Rudy is a 30-year veteran of the United States Air Force, holding various positions in the medical field including the Air Force Pharmacy Career Field Manager. His assignments included numerous bases stateside as well as overseas in Turkey and Germany. He deployed and served as the 332d Expeditionary Medical Group Superintendent, Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007, and served as the interim 15 Airlift Wing Command Chief, Hickam AFB Hawaii in 2009.

Most recently, Rudy served as the 92d Air Refueling Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant from 2010-2013, responsible for advising the wing commander on the health, morale and welfare of 2,800 assigned personnel. He oversaw the training, worldwide deployability and professional development of 2,200 enlisted Airmen supporting worldwide air refueling operations. During his tenure the installation's Airmen supported homeland defense, Operations Enduring Freedom, Unified Protector, the Horn of Africa and U.S. drug interdiction efforts in South America. The wing also responded to multiple humanitarian and disaster relief operations in Haiti, Japan and our own east coast following Hurricane Sandy, as well as providing refueling capabilities to support the safety of athletes and guests for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Additionally he was responsible for providing base operating support to over 9,000 Active Duty, Air National Guard, Army Guard and Reserve personnel and their families and to the region's 16,000 retirees.

Rudy and his wife both originate from El Paso, Texas, and have one son. The family has made Spokane their home.



Charles Theodore Buck

May 13, 1936—February 6, 2015

Chuck Buck, owner of Buck Knives in Post Falls, passed away on 6 February at 78 years of age. Chuck was well known for his support of veterans. In September 2012, he graciously allowed our chapter to hold a social at Buck Knives and have a tour of the factory. The following December, a beautiful eagle figurine was presented to him on behalf of the chapter by Bob and Maggie Imle, Rufus Hoefer and Marilyn Hunt, who are pictured here with Chuck. Among many other demonstrations of his commitment, Chuck presented Buck Knives to service members returning from Afghanistan.

His obituary can be seen at http://www.cdapress.com/obituaries/article_63b62395-3f2f-5baf-a0d9-f2980efe4c91.html.

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Now Hear This!

Continued from President's Piece, page 1

- Consolidate the commissary and exchange systems while maintaining the access and savings at these facilities
- Expand Space-A travel to the families of service members deployed for 30 days or more

MOAA is reviewing the complete report. For more info, go to http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Retired_Still_Working/Compensation/Commission_Suggests_Radical_Reforms.html#sthash.RSPwmd44.dpuf



Chapter Secretary Needed Yesterday

We sent a letter to all 339 chapter members asking that someone volunteer to be the chapter secretary. No one said Yes! With all the talent that exists among our Regular and Auxiliary members, we know there's someone who could do the job. As it stands right now, our new President (and former Secretary) Dave Melges is recording the meetings and writing the minutes. If you'd be willing to do the job, he would happily let you use his digital recorder. So, 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? Then please contact Dave at 509-465-8867 or mail@melges.net, or call / email any other board member.**

2015 Washington Legislative Session & Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC)

The 2015 Washington Legislative Session is in full swing and, as this is a long session, they will be at it for the next 120 days or so. At this juncture there are 28 bills having something to do with vet-erans. You can see them on the Spokane Chapter web site, www.spokanemoaa.org. There could be more coming, but with the pressure on both the Senate and House to figure out how to fully fund K-12 Education, too many more bills will be more than they can chew.

The Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC), of which we are dues-paying, card-carrying members, had a Legislative Reception on Friday, 16 January, and invited our legislators and their staff to visit and eat. Each VLC member buttonholed an elected official and their staff to explain the veterans bills, answer questions and gauge their interest and enthusiasm for our issues. In general it was pretty successful. In fact I did not talk to any who were opposed to our bills.

As you read the synopsis on the website, you can probably figure out that our bills this year are politically non-controversial, but funding (or rather lack thereof) could derail them. The one exception to that is HB (House Bill) 1149 authored by Rep Dick Muri (R -28th LD, Lakewood, just outside JBLM) (LtCol, USAF, Ret). Dick, who is also the Mt. Rainier Chapter President, wants the schools to get information on whether a student is a military dependent. This certainly helps school districts make sure they get the impact aid that is due them. It also helps the state and local districts see that dependent children are usually more successful and graduate at higher rates than other groupings. And this information is protected from general release.

We shall keep on advocating for these bills, but your chapters sending letters to our Washington Legislators would help.

Deryl McCarty, 1st VP (Legislative Liaison)
MOAA Washington State Council of Chapters
Colonel, USAF (Ret)



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
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 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, 22 March 2015 Northern Quest Casino
100 N. Hayford Road, Airway Heights
12:30 Social time, 1:15 p.m. Served meal begins

Speaker: Rudy Lopez, Director Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery

Mail reservation early so we receive it by **Saturday, 14 March**. No late reservations or walk-ins, as meal preferences must be ordered. MENU Choices: Smoked Salmon with (light) Spicy Tomato Chutney, rice w/mizithra brown butter, fresh seasoned vegetables OR Chicken Picatta (marinated breast of chicken topped with lemon caper butter sauce) served on a bed of linguine, fresh Portobello mushrooms, roma tomatoes, garlic fresh seasoned vegetables, rolls, butter, dessert, coffee & tea. Cash bar available.

Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday 22 March 2015 luncheon at Northern Quest Casino. Cost is \$26.50 per person (includes 20% gratuity & room charges). My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$26.50 X ____ no. of reservations). Make check to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Barbara Thornbrugh (509) 466-2108 or Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Saturday, 14 March for a refund.

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one) SALMON or CHICKEN PICATTA (please circle)

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one) SALMON or CHICKEN PICATTA (please circle)

Sunday 22 March Northern Quest Casino social starts at 12:30, served meal at 1:15 p.m. DIRECTIONS. 1-90 west, exit 277 (Fairchild AFB/Airport exit), 4 miles, right at first traffic light onto Hayford Road, 2 miles to Northern Quest on left. Recommend parking in high rise garage (left turn AFTER casino), take elevator at the EAST end of the garage to the bottom floor of the parking garage, then walk through the covered walkway (NOT the enclosed catwalk on the second floor of the garage) toward and into the Casino. The MOAA room is on the immediate right, OR you can 1) Park in the parking lot & shuttle to the north end of the Casino or 2) Valet your car at the FRONT casino entrance or the hotel entrance and then walk to the north entrance, but it's a long walk from the hotel entrance. We are NOT in the conference rooms at the hotel.

Note: Col Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret.), MOAA Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, will be in attendance.

Questions? Call Rufus Hoefer, 509-443-6822 or Barb Thornbrugh, 509-466-2108. Please bring:

- 3 stamps and 6 address labels per person for legislative letters
- Something for the raffle and for Support the Troops, or gloves and white socks for homeless veterans.

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
Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483



IDAHO

Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Two Ways to Live Longer

By Marilyn Hunt



The National Institutes of Health just released their results of a \$20 million research study completed under a grant to Johns Hopkins. The study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it. The study also found that renewing your Spokane MOAA membership will increase the lifespan of the chapter.

We have 339 members and 71 of them have not renewed their dues! This is serious!

To find out if your dues have expired, you can call our Membership Chairman, Clif Collier, at 509-443-6490 or:

- Check page 3 of your copy of the Nov 2014 newsletter OR
- Go to www.spokanemoaa.org, click on Newsletters, then Nov 2014 and scroll down to page 3 to see if your name is there.

You can pay dues in one of two ways:

1. Write a check for \$40 (3 yrs.) or \$15 (1 yr.) and send it to Spokane Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037.
2. Go online to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment>. However, you can only pay for one year online, not three. We wish you'd write a check and pay for three so we can keep our membership numbers strong beyond this year.

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!