



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXV Number 2



Mar 2015

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
 bethanndaigre@comcast.net

IPP & Social Chair

Rufus Hoefler, 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



5 Star Chapter President's Message
By Dave Melges

On 26 April we're going to the Mirabeau Park Hotel instead of Mukogawa. Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Seth Maier**, who is the **Veterans Representative for the Washington State Employment Security Department**. He will be telling us about a new program called "POS REP," or Position Report. POS REP is a cell phone app that enables veterans to connect with other veterans who live in their area. One of its purposes is to prevent future suicides. It's easy to see why it would be such a help to this generation of veterans who are accustomed to doing nearly everything on their phones. We probably all know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who could benefit from this app, so please come and learn about it. You might tell someone who really needs it!

Health care is the one benefit that affects all retired and active duty military members and their families. It consistently ranks as the most valued benefit of military service. As health care costs skyrocket, there is mounting pressure to increase premiums, restrict access, and erode the value of this earned benefit for service members, retirees, and veterans.

The Military Coalition, of which MOAA is member, works to ensure all military and veteran beneficiaries have access to quality health care services, and it advocates for adequate funding, streamlined administrative systems, timely and accurate claims processing, and broad pharmaceutical formularies. Additionally, the Military Coalition wants Defense excluded from sequestration, as budget cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act (BCA - known as sequestration) pose a threat to national security.

We MOAA members need to press our Senators and Representatives to remove the burden of budget cuts from the backs of current and former military members and their families, as assured when they entered service. Their sacrifices have earned the benefits promised, and the armed forces provide our nation the protection its citizens expect.

Fancy weapons do not operate and maintain themselves. Please write or e-mail your Congressional legislators with this message! (Addresses are on page 4).



**Bring Something to
 the 26 APR Social for
 SUPPORT THE
 TROOPS**

- 2015 Chapter Social Dates**
- 22 Mar Northern Quest Casino
 - 26 Apr Mirabeau Park Hotel
 - 14 Jun Eagle's & Pappy Boyington Museum — Hayden ID
 - 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

LtCol Michael Shannon, USAF (Ret.) & wife Jackie-Joan, Spokane

Our Hat Is Off To:



Spokane Chapter, MOAA

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

| Member Recruiters | Chapter 2015 | MOAA 2015 |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Marilyn Hunt | | 1 |
| Bob Imle | | 1 |
| Dave Melges | | 2 |
| TOTALS | | 4 |

Pappy Boyington Museum and Cook-out at the Eagles in Hayden, Idaho, 14 June!



Mark Your calendar for Sunday, 14 June, and look forward to a real treat! We've changed our plans and won't be going to the Longhorn BBQ.

Instead, we're going to have a cook-out at the Eagle's in Hayden, Idaho, and go next door to visit the new Pappy Boyington Field Museum. You'll be able to enjoy freshly grilled hamburgers and see artifacts in the museum.

The Pappy Boyington Field Museum is dedicated to preserving local aviation history and the efforts of local veterans, with special focus on Marine Corps ace Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. As you probably know, he was the Commanding Officer of VMF-214 and leader of the legendary Black Sheep squadron in WWII. He was born in Coeur d'Alene and raised in St. Maries, Idaho.



This social will only be about 5 miles north of I-90 Exit 12 in Idaho. More details about it in the next newsletter!

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2015

JROTC Scholarship Funds on hand as of 3/25/15: \$1371

Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 421 as of 3/26/15

2015 Raffle Donations: MAR: \$185 COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships; APR: Widows & Wives (for Wreaths Across America); JUN: Newby-ginnings; SEP: MOAA Scholarship Fund; OCT: Spokane Veterans Home; DEC: ROTC/JROTC Unit Support. **Total to date: \$185**



WIDOWS & WIVES CLUB

By Beth Ann Daire

Widows and Wives and Husbands



Later this year, MOAA will launch a new publication titled *The Survivor's Guide*. The purpose of *The Survivor's Guide* is to assist surviving spouses as they accomplish the actions needed following a loved one's death. It will be available in print and as a download from the MOAA website.

The Survivor's Guide is similar to a worksheet. It includes a place to record burial or cremation arrangements, such as the name of a funeral home and a cemetery. There is a place to list names and phone numbers of attorneys, certified public accountants, insurance agencies, and other service providers. The guide includes phone numbers for agencies such as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), the Social Security Administration, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and others.

It would help if both spouses worked together to fill in the guide before it's needed. But if you're already alone, you know how important it is to have this information written down. AMAC LAO suggests you keep a log of who you call at what number and with whom you speak. Some agencies do not respond as promised, so a written record can be valuable.

Last week I updated my living revocable trust and have been making notes for years so my children will know whom to contact (trustees other than myself who will know where to find this information). But I am now looking forward to receiving a copy of this new survivor's guide.

For several years now, MOAA has published a booklet entitled *Survivor's Checklist* and I send it to new Auxiliary members in our chapter when we learn of their sponsor's passing. If you would like to have this publication now so that both you and your spouse know what should be documented, you can order it on the MOAA web site. Just go to www.moaa.org, then click on Publications, then Books and Guides, then scroll down to *Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On*.



EXTRA NOTE: folks at the Spokane Veterans Home would like to have large print playing or pinochle cards, wired head phones, and ANY military command ball cap—service does not matter. Please call Cindy Kelley (509) 468-3898 if you can donate something.

Now Hear This!



Mr. Seth Maier – Veterans Representative
Washington State Employment Security Department
26 April Guest Speaker at Mirabeau Park Hotel

Mr. Seth Maier is the Veterans Representative for the Washington State Employment Security Department. He will be speaking on a program called "POS-REP," short for Position Report. **POS REP** is a mobile, proximity-based social network made expressly for the military veteran community. POS REP connects veterans who served together, but more importantly allows veterans to discover local peers and resources in the palm of their hand. People applying on this social network are screened to ensure they are truly veterans, so it is a safer place to communicate.

The inspiration for POS REP is **Sgt Clay Hunt, USMC** (1982-2011). Clay Hunt served in the Marine Corps with **POS REP Co-Founder, Jake Wood**, and deployed in the same section to both Iraq and Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Clay returned to civilian life deeply scarred with the mental and emotional wounds of war and, as a result, served as a leading national advocate for veterans with PTSD.

Clay moved back to Houston in late 2010 finding himself isolated, misunderstood and depressed. Tragically, Clay took his own life in March 2011. **At the memorial service Wood discovered that within 15 miles of Clay's apartment had lived three Marines with whom they had both served – Clay had, in fact, not been alone.**

POS REP was developed to prevent the loss of another veteran to suicide.

This is an exciting program that could save a life! Veterans cannot use POS REP unless someone tells them about it. YOU might be that very person. **So PLEASE come to the 26 April social and learn all you can so you can pass it on.**

Proposed Change to Chapter Bylaws

Our chapter's Board of Directors consists of the elected officers (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), Immediate Past President, Auxiliary Liaison, and at least five (5) and not more than six (6) elective Directors. As reported in the Nov 2014 and Feb 2015 newsletters, the chapter has been seeking a Secretary. Since no one has volunteered, this has caused the Board to consider allowing spouses of members to serve in this position and a few others, since there may be a need for them sometime in the future.



Consequently, the Board voted to amend Article 4 paragraph 1 of the chapter bylaws. At the April social, our members will vote on this amendment, which is indicated by the bold, italicized text below:

"The Board of Directors consists of the elected officers, the immediate past president, the Auxiliary Liaison, and at least five (5) and not more than six (6) elective Directors, ***limited to one Board voting member per household. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Elective Directors may be members or spouses of members.*** The Board is empowered to act for the membership in directing the affairs of the chapter, although certain important issues will be put before the entire membership for decision. All members of the Board of Directors shall serve without compensation."

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: Marilyn Hunt cinc@frontier.com 208-773-1074. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

Now Hear This!



SBP/DIC Offset—Enough Is Enough!

By Beth Ann Daigre

Last month our chapter signed letters to our senators and representatives in Washington and Idaho, asking them to repeal the SBP/DIC offset. I received a reply from my 5th District Congressional Representative, Cathy McMorris Rodgers. She is the wife a Navy officer who retired before they wed. Here is her reply, paragraphs 3 & 4:

"First and foremost, I want to thank the selfless men and women who serve our country each and every day. When a service member joins the military, it is not just a job; it is a family commitment to our country. Currently, the Department of Defense's SBP is offset, dollar-for-dollar, by the Department of Veterans Affairs DIC plan, which is not what Congress intended. The last thing our service members should be concerned about while in harm's way is whether their family will be cared for in the event of tragedy.

"As the co-founder of the Congressional Military Family Caucus, promoting and protecting our military families is one of our top priorities. As devastating casualties occur, it is of the utmost importance to keep the faith with our service members by taking proper care of their families in the event of death. Be assured that as we begin the 114th Congress, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House to ensure that our service members and their families have our full support and resources they deserve."

If the offset is not what Congress intended, why haven't they fixed it? MOAA has been addressing this SBP/DIC issue on an annual basis for about a decade now.

Putting it succinctly, SBP is like insurance on your retired pay, and DIC is a tax-free payment that the VA pays to surviving spouses of certain service members who died of their service-connected disabilities. The two moneys are totally unrelated. Military retirees who elect to enroll in SBP have premiums deducted from their monthly retired pay. Otherwise, military retired pay stops on a retiree's day of the death. SBP also is authorized for survivors of service members who die on active duty. On the other hand, the VA awards DIC to a surviving spouse if the deceased meets certain criteria established by the VA. If the survivor receives DIC, the SBP annuity is reduced dollar for dollar up to the DIC amount — an unfair penalty commonly known as the SBP/DIC offset.

To offset one type of funding against the other is totally illogical. DIC is like workers compensation, paid for by the employer. Here in Washington State we call it L&I. SBP and DIC are bought and paid for out of veterans' pockets, either with premiums or taxes.

A little known exception to the rule: Congress changed the law in 2004, allowing SBP annuitants who remarry after turning age 57 to retain both SBP and DIC. After DoD denied payment of SBP to remarried survivors, three of them sued and won. Remarried spouses over the age of 57 now receive both SBP and DIC concurrently, leaving unremarried survivors with the offset.

I receive neither SBP nor DIC, but I am part of the military family and I plan to purchase post cards, then print a message on Avery 2"x4" labels and affix them to the message side of the post cards. I will then bring preaddressed labels for our Washington and Idaho legislators to the Widows and Wives Club for them to attach to the cards and sign each month, then I will mail them. Enough is enough!



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, 26 April 2015
Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd.
12:30 Social time, 1:00 Meeting, 1:15 p.m. served meal begins

Guest Speaker: Seth Maier, Veterans Representative w/ Employment Security Dept, WA State

He will give a presentation on a very inspiring new program called "POS-REP." The purpose of POS REP is to allow veterans in the same geographical area to connect with one other for mutual support, and hopefully prevent future suicides.

Mail reservation early so we receive it by Saturday, 18 April. No late reservations or walk-ins, as meal preferences must be ordered. MENU CHOICES: Tuscan chicken, grilled herb marinated chicken breast on fettuccini w/ sautéed mushrooms, bell peppers, fire-roasted tomato sauce & caramelized red onions OR Teriyaki beef sirloin on steamed jasmine rice w/ginger teriyaki & grilled mushrooms, peppers and onions, fresh pineapple; both w/starter salad, roll & butter, seasonal vegetables, a plate of fresh baked cookies and brownies on your table, fresh ground roast coffee & assorted premium black & herbal teas. Cash bar available. Please reserve _____ places for the Sunday 26 April 2015 luncheon at Mirabeau Park Hotel. Cost is \$25.00 per person (includes 19% gratuity & room charges). My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$25.00 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 NLT Sunday, 19 April for a refund.

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

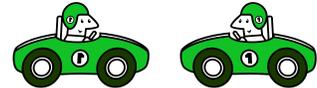
Name: _____ member/guest (circle one) CHICKEN or BEEF (please circle)

Sunday 26 April Mirabeau Park Hotel social starts at 12:30, meeting 1:00, served meal at 1:15 p.m. DIRECTIONS. I-90 to Exit 291B/Sullivan. South on Sullivan. Mirabeau is on the immediate left, so get into the left lane on Sullivan. If you miss the turn, U-turn at light and come back. Leaving: East—Sullivan right lane, and West –Sullivan middle lane.

Questions? Call Barb Thornbrugh, 509-466-2108.

Please bring:

- 3 stamps and 6 address labels per person for legislative letters
- Something for the raffle and Support the Troops, or gloves & 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: _____



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1221
Spokane WA

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

DONATE

Donations Needed Now for Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships



Spokane Chapter, MOAA is preparing to award COL Spady Koyoma Scholarships for the fourth consecutive year. They are given to Junior ROTC students in the high schools of Rogers, Medical Lake, Wellpinit, and Kellogg. **Our goal in 2015 is to award four \$500 scholarships. We currently have \$1371 in donations, so we need another \$629 by 30 April** because scholarships are given out in May and June.

If you would like to help a deserving student go to college, please write a check to **Spokane Chapter MOAA and send it to PO Box 466 Veradale, WA. 99037 with a designation on the check for Scholarship Fund.** If you desire more information, please contact Bob Imle at (509) 701-3342. Students applying for these scholarships are required to submit a short essay in their application. Once the award is made, the student is given a letter which he or she must present to the school finance office, instructing the finance office to contact our chapter to receive the grant money directly.

In 2012 we gave four scholarships of \$300 each, and in 2013 and 2014 they were \$500 each. The awards are made during a student assembly by a representative from our chapter. These scholarships have been made possible solely because of donations from individual members of our chapter. Contributions have ranged from \$25 dollars to \$500.

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!