



Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

Portland, Oregon
Chapter

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P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268

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www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2009

The President's Forum

by LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret)

While your Chapter is gearing up for a full 2009-2010 meeting schedule, success will be measured by the attendance of the membership. It is the goal of the Board to not only continue to increase the membership, but, even more importantly, to provide the membership with timely information about topics that we as military consider important. Our choice of topics is intended to reach out to Active, Reserve, and National Guard components--regardless of whether they are currently serving, discharged, or retired. As a result, your Board of Directors has endorsed an effort to amend our Chapter Bylaws to bring them more in line with the direction that the Chapter is heading. Your Chapter has become more active in support of the Troops--with other local Military Associations, with local High School and College ROTC programs, and with the Chapter's new MOAA Scholarship. While we have made tremendous strides, **YOUR** involvement is essential for the Chapter to continue to meet your expectations. This involvement begins with **regular attendance at our monthly meetings**. The more members who attend, the bigger the venue your Chapter can provide. This also lowers your costs. Your attendance and feedback on the speakers, facilities, and agenda are vital to meeting the membership's needs. If asked to join one of our planning groups or to serve as a Board Member, consider it as a compliment. With this in mind, I will say that one of the biggest mistakes associations make is the leaders don't ask. So, if you are interested in becoming more

(continued on page 2)

*Would you like a
2008-2009 Chapter Directory?*

*Copies will be available at our chapter meetings!
Or contact CDR Ben Tabler at
503-698-2974 or betabler@comcast.net*

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 6 October 2009

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon

PROGRAM:

Guest Speakers: Bill and Diane Savage who will speak on “**Water Africa.**” (See page 2)

MENU:

Chicken Champignon with White Wine

Mushroom Sauce and Rice Pilaf **or**

London Broil finished with Demi-Glace with

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Seasonal Vegetables

Green Salad

Rolls and Butter

Dessert

Coffee, Tea, or Iced Tea

COST:

\$20.50 (Chicken) or \$22.75 (London broil)

(includes 20% gratuity)

*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

RESERVATIONS:

To make your reservations, please contact **LTC Gary Brink** or **Jan Brink** at **503-659-3347** or **jgbrink@comcast.net** **NLT 1200 on 25 Sep 2009**. **No late reservations**, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-205S, take Sunnyside Exit, right on Sunnyside, left on 93rd Avenue (1st traffic light), and left at Monarch Hotel.

From I-205N, take Sunnyside Exit, left on Sunnyside, left on 93rd Avenue (2nd traffic signal), and left at Monarch Hotel.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

involved, I am asking YOU to step up and say, "I WANT TO HELP"!!

Finally, I strongly recommend all of you to read **Larry Roberts** comments on the progress of our Scholarship fundraising.

Again, *I encourage all of you who have email to please sign up for receipt of your monthly Brass Bulletin Newsletter via email. With the skyrocketing postal costs, please consider using the email version as much as possible. For those who don't have email, we will continue to mail you a newsletter.*

It is not too late to attend the **MOAA State Convention on 25-26 September 2009** in **Medford, Oregon**. The registration form is attached to last month's newsletter. If you can't find it, *give me a call* or click on the chapter website for the September newsletter and convention registration form at: http://www.moaaportland.org/graphics/moaa_nl_9.09.pdf

See you in October,

Gary

***ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS
FOR THE OCTOBER 2009
DINNER MEETING***

Our guest speakers in October are **Bill** and **Diane Savage**, the founders of a non-profit organization dedicated to drilling water wells for African natives who must carry all water (drinking and washing) for long distances. They have collected over \$500,000 since 2005 in providing water systems in Zambia. They were recommended as speakers by LCDR Arnold Case, USN (Ret). A bio will be available before the meeting date.

NOTICE ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER BBQ AND PICNIC by Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Due to the less than required number of reservations made for this event (to break even), the 12 September 2009 BBQ and Picnic meeting had to be cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Contact Your Legislators:

MOAA points out, as if we were not excruciatingly aware, that Congress returns from a month long recess on Tuesday, 8 September to take up major legislation.

Already, Committee staff members from both the House and the Senate are in negotiations to resolve major differences between the two FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bills. These discussions and the inputs of Representatives and Senators will accelerate significantly once the recess is ended. There are many personnel and benefit issues (including upgrades on concurrent receipt, survivor benefits, health care, and the like) which are of direct impact on most of us. The reconciliation panel hopes to wrap up the bill by the end of September, but more likely it will spill over into October or November. Therefore, inputs to our legislators are important on a timely basis. We are urged to visit the MOAA web site and send to our legislators either an individually composed message or one suggested by MOAA. This is an easy process and one with great leverage. As we can see from the health care debate, individual input is important and is listened to or aggregated by staffs and our representatives.

The Defense Authorization Bill is only one of several areas in which we can make our voices heard. Let's do it!!!

Widows Defeat Pentagon:

The US Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of a group of widows that sued the government, asserting that otherwise-qualifying widows who remarry after age 57 are entitled to both SBP and VA survivor benefits, without any offset. The suit followed a Pentagon refusal to follow a 2004 law that the Pentagon held not to apply to what they interpreted as a "DOD benefit," not a veterans' benefit. The US Court of Federal

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (cont)

Claims found for the widows, but the government then appealed. The Appeals Court also ruled for the widows, but the saga may not be over. The Government may appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, which may or may not agree to hear the appeal. MOAA will continue the crusade to repeal the SBP/DIC offset with a variety of initiatives.

COLA at Risk for 2011 As Well as 2010:

The vagaries of the laws covering cost of living allowance increases suggest that there may well be NO COLA increase in 2011. The issue has two components: (1) The basis from which the 2011 calculation is made is the average figure for the September 2009 quarter, which likely will be a negative 2% or so. (2) The 2010 September quarter will have to be larger than the negative hole in which we started the year. That means that, if 2% negative is the starting figure, there needs to be over 2% inflation in the 2010 just to get to ANY increase. Say, if the 2010 inflation is 2.5%, COLA would then be 0.5%.

There are no negative CPLA adjustments allowed. We will keep you informed as the inflation front plays out. The Obama administration is forecasting no COLA for two years, but that assumes a benign inflation environment that may not be as quiescent as they like for as long as they like.

Health Care Legislation:

Fact, fiction, misrepresentation, interpretation and the like seem to be the rule of the day when it comes to the various bills, or non-bills, being created to address our health care system. MOAA is very actively in the discussion and lobbying--and just hired a new Deputy Director, Government Relations for

Military Health Care to replace a more junior individual who left for another job.

MOAA maintains two active blogs on the subject that are quite useful, Battle of the Bilge and healthcare. I commend to you moaablogs.org/battleofthebilge/ and moaablogs.org/healthcare/. MOAA also recommends Politifact.com and its Truth-O-Meter.

Let's all do our homework and not let politicians and talking heads lead us astray.

IN MEMORIAM: May They Rest in Peace!

LTC Eugene G. Harvey, USAR (Ret)

Lt Col Joseph Herrmann, USAF (Ret)
(Former Chapter Member)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

The Portland Chapter wants to welcome the following new member:

LTC Lester D. Cochenour, USA (Ret)

We are in the process of updating our 2009-2010 *Chapter Directory*. Please review your information and let us know of any changes.

Approximately 40 members received the *Oregon State Honorable Service Medal* last February. If you would be interested in receiving this medal, please let us know at the October dinner meeting. Applications will be available.

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS REMINDER:
THE DD FORM 214**

This reminder for members-spouses-survivors: your DD Form 214—Report of Separation—is one of the most important documents that your next-of-kin will need on your demise. Do not keep it in your safe deposit box! *Always ensure that your survivors know where this form is at all times!* If you have a prepaid Funeral Plan, provide a copy of it to your carrier.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MARINE CORPS VETERAN TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Governor Ted Kulongoski has appointed retired United States Marine Corps Reserve **LtCol Nancy L. Visser** to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Visser replaces Evelyn Anderson whose term expired July 31.

Visser was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1979 and served on active duty until 1988. She served a second active duty tour from 1996 to 1999. From 1988-1995, Visser served in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Since retiring, Visser has been on the Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), served on the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Oregon and Washington, was the public relations officer for the Women Marines Association, is a charter member of the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial Foundation, is a member of the Marine Corps League, and is the 2nd Vice President for the Oregon State Council of MOAA.

"We are very excited about Nancy joining the Advisory Committee," ODVA Director Jim Willis said. "She already has been serving veterans in many capacities and we look forward to tapping into her experience as an Advisory Committee member," he said.

The Advisory Committee was formed by statute in 1945 to provide input to the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. It is a nine-person committee that plays an active advisory role in the effective administration of the Department.

Visser is married to Col Eric Visser, USMC (Ret), and they have one daughter. "I feel I am highly qualified to serve based on my 21 years of service in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve (and) my 39 years as a Marine wife navigating the military medical system," she wrote in her application for the appointment. She also noted her seven years on the Board of Directors of MOAA, her continued involvement with several veterans groups in Oregon, her awareness of veterans' needs and benefits, and her knowledge of current/pending legislation to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

"We are committed to ensuring diversity on our Advisory Committee," Willis said. "Ensuring that we have the women veterans' perspective is vital to our mission, and I know we can count on Nancy to be a strong advisor on those and other issues," he said. Visser's term began on August 20, 2009 and will run through 2013.

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

by CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Throughout the summer, the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund increased in size each month. At the end of August, there was **\$1200** credited to our account, with more in the pipeline. This is an encouraging start, and we hope to accelerate growth over the fall months.

Making contributions to the fund is quick, easy and painless. Let me walk you through the steps:

- Got to moaa.org/contribute
- Enter your email address
- Enter your password (Last name with first letter capitalized)
- Select "General Scholarship"
- Enter amount of contribution
- Enter credit card and address information
- Click on "Donate"
- Print confirmation and retain for tax purposes

Straightforward and efficient--and your contribution will be acknowledged by return email.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the MOAA Scholarship program provided interest free loans and grants to over 1200 students, including 62 who had lost

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP (continued)

a parent while on active duty. Total funds to be distributed were \$8.7 million, including the loan to our first recipient, **Heather Chase** of Southeast Portland.

The Portland Chapter Scholarship Program is going to be an excellent way for us to give back to the local community and to benefit the children of military families. The Board is fully supportive of this initiative and encourages wide participation among our members.

AUXILIARY CORNER by Mrs. Edie Rieken, Liaison to the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Ladies, autumn is suddenly here, which means it's time for another lunch! Mark your calendar for **October 20th**, the **1:00 p.m.** seating at **Albertina's**. Please call me (**Edie**) by the 16th if you plan to attend: (503) **254-5029**. And, chapter wives, please note: *You are most welcome to join us.*

Our chapter secretary, **Colonel Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, brings news of another way we can help our Armed Forces by contributing to the *Cell Phones for Soldiers Program*. (See the article on this page.)

Just turn over your unused cell phones (and chargers) to Mary, and she will see that the phones are sent to the proper place. Each donated used cell phone provides one hour of talk time to soldiers abroad. So, alert your family, friends, and neighbors. This is an easy way to give our support to deployed service members. ***Please bring any used cell phones you can collect to the luncheon or the next Chapter meeting.***

Some of you will remember **Mrs. Carolyn Epling**, co-chair of the national Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee, who had lunch with us about two years ago. She is now retiring from that position, but has taken on another important job for her Chapter in Albuquerque, N.M. She's a legislative liaison to her local Representative and Senators. This is an important way to contribute to the MOAA legislative agenda, as well as the military community at large. WE could use a volunteer right here in Portland, as there's much more to be done in the legislative arena in areas which affect us all. Will you consider this?

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR THE CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS PROGRAM

The **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program** hopes to turn old cell phones into more than 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas this year. To do so, Cell Phones for Soldiers expects to collect 50,000 cell phones each month through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country.

The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers **Robbie** and **Brittany Bergquist** from Norwell, Massachusetts, with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization has raised almost \$2 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

Through increased fundraising efforts, the Bergquist family hopes to raise more than \$9 million in the next five years to fund new programs, such as providing video phones with prepaid service to allow soldiers abroad to see their families on a regular basis.

If you have any used cell phones (and chargers), please bring them with you to the next Chapter meeting! Our secretary, **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, will ensure the phones are sent through the proper channels so our deployed service men and women receive these prepaid calling cards. What a wonderful gift we can give to these warriors—helping them keep in touch with their families!

INVITATION TO CHAPTER MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE GLOBAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR!

The Air Force Association (AFA) Columbia Gorge Chapter #216, in conjunction with the Association of the U. S. Army (AUSA), is presenting a day-long seminar on “**The Road Ahead: The Threats We Face as a Nation**” on **Saturday, October 10, 2009** at the Buckley Center, University of Portland. Moderated by **Victoria Taft** of **KPAM**, the seminar will include presentations and discussions by five outstanding individuals:

(1) **Colonel Dan Hokanson**, Commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, Oregon National Guard, is presently deployed to Iraq and will be making a presentation via teleconferencing. (2) **Colonel David T. Buckwalter, USAF (Ret)**, a former instructor at the Naval War College, is presently Executive Vice President of the Air Force Association. (3) **Master Sergeant Patrick McDonald, USAR**, returned in August from his second deployment to the Multi-National Force–Iraq Command Liaison to the Independent Election Commission of Iraq. His civilian position is Assistant Secretary of State for Washington. (4) **Dr. Mark Eifler** is Professor of History and Military History at the University of Portland. (5) **Mr. Boyd Miller** is the recently retired Special Agent in Charge for the FBI in Portland, Oregon.

The registration form for this seminar is found on page 7 of this newsletter. Registration will begin at 8:15 AM; the seminar will begin at 9:00 AM sharp and conclude by 3:30 PM. Many of the members of the AFA and the AUSA are also members of MOAA. Cost for this all-day event is \$25.00, which includes lunch. Come out, support your colleagues, and be informed. **See you on October 10 at Buckley Center!**

Any questions may be directed to Brig Gen Art Cornelius, USAFR (Ret) at (503) 579-3082 or abcornelius@comcast.net

Portland Chapter Officers

President

LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

First Vice President

MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret): 503-632-5265

Second Vice President

Capt Jimmy L. Patrick, USMC (Ret): 503-654-1511

Secretary

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): 1-310-897-1902

Treasurer

CDR Ben Tabler, USN (Ret): 503-698-2974

Immediate Past President

COL John Hill, USA (Ret): 503-653-9524

Portland Chapter Board of Directors

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC David E. Hill: 503-579-9684

Navy Rep

CAPT James H. Main: 503-793-8499

Air Force Reps

Col Geoffrey W. McCarthy: 503-241-8468

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Reps

Maj James F. Simpson: 503-233-9341

LtCol Nanci L. Visser: 503-614-8463

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

Women in Service Rep

CDR Jami Mason, USN: 503-285-4566 x510

Liaison, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Mrs. Edie Rieken: 503-254-5029

Portland Chapter Standing Committee Chairs

Programs: Capt Jimmy L. Patrick, USMC (Ret)
Col Richard A. Gano, USAF (Ret)

Membership: MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

Legislative: CAPT Lawrence Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Personal Affairs: CWO4 Al Drenkhahn, USAF (Ret)

Newsletter: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Public Affairs/Website: LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)

GLOBAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR

“The Road Ahead: The Threats We Face As a Nation”

Presented By:

Air Force Association
Association of the United States Army

Sponsored by:

FLIR Corporation

SATURDAY, October 10, 2009

University of Portland (Buckley Center)

9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Registration starts at 8:15 A.M.

COST: \$25.00 Adults, \$15.00 Students

(Price includes lunch)

Speakers

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COL Dan Hokanson, ORNG | Commander, 41 st Brigade Combat Team
(Deployed to Iraq & participating by teleconference) |
| Col David Buckwalter, USAF (Ret) | Former Naval War College Instructor and EVP, AFA |
| MSgt Patrick McDonald, USAR | Recently returned from assignment in Iraq |
| Dr. Mark Eifler | Professor of Military History at University of Portland |
| Mr. Boyd Miller | Former Special Agent in Charge for the FBI in Portland |

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Global Affairs Seminar** c/o Barbara Brooks-Lacy
18141 NW St. Helens Road
Portland, OR 97231
Or call: (503) 621-3520

I would like to make _____ reservations to the Global Affairs Seminar on October 10, 2009 at the Buckley Center, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon. Cost is \$25.00 per person, including lunch. Cost for students is \$15.00, including lunch. Tickets will be waiting for me at the door. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ made out to “AFA.”

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

October 6, 2009	Dinner Meeting w/ Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch)
November 3, 2009	Dinner Meeting w/ Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch)
<i>November 13, 2009</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
December 1, 2009	Dinner Meeting w/Entertainment (Location: Gray Gables Estate)
<i>January 2010</i>	<i>No Dinner Meeting Scheduled</i>
February 6, 2010	Brunch Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: TBD)
<i>February 12, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
March 2, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch)
April 6, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Gray Gables Estate)
May 4, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Election of Chapter Officers (Location: Monarch)
<i>May 7, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
June 1, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Installation of Chapter Officers (Location: Gray Gables)
<i>July & August 2010</i>	<i>No Dinner Meetings Scheduled</i>
<i>August 6, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>

NOTE 1: All monthly chapter meetings are held at the location indicated.

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at 0930 at the **Colwood Bar & Grill** at the **Colwood National Golf Course** and ***are open to all members!***

NOTE 3: All articles for the **November 2009 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **10 October 2009**.