



Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

Portland, Oregon
Chapter

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Portland, OR 97268

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June 2011

The President's Forum

by Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

It is hard to believe that the 2010-2011 program year is coming to a close and that my first year as president of this amazing chapter is coming to a close! It has truly been a labor of love, and I have been greatly bolstered by a first-class cadre of officers and board members! Our team has made a lot of progress: we have obtained more funding for our MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship, presented a MOAA Award and \$500 check to an AFROTC and an AROTC cadet at University of Portland, presented a MOAA Award to the JROTC at Oregon City, established an ESGR Committee, upgraded our award-winning website and newsletter, provided first class guest speakers, contributed to major charities, participated in the “Massing of the Colors” event, awarded several Veterans of Oregon Honorary Service Medals, and recruited 18 new members! **My sincerest thanks to my sterling officers and board members—and to you unfailingly supportive chapter members!**

I encourage all of you to come to the 7 June 2011 meeting! This year is the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and our guest speaker, **Mike Irwin**, brings a unique perspective as he was the Director of Operations in the White House Military Office on that fateful day in American history. **BG Norm Hoffman, AUS (Ret)**, MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters president, will be installing the 2011-2012 chapter officers. Finally, we have invited our fellow officers from the local **MOAA Columbia River Chapter** in Vancouver, WA and our scholarship recipient, **Ms. Heather Chase**, to join us.

Reminder:

Please bring your Items or Financial Contributions for Residents of the Oregon Veterans' Home to the 7 June 2011 Dinner Meeting!

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 7 June 2011

Social: 1700. Dinner: 1830

Gray Gables Estate

3009 SE Chestnut Street

Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

Phone: 503-654-0470

PROGRAM:

Colonel Michael T. Irwin, USAF (Ret), Federal Security Director, Portland International Airport, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will speak on “White House Communications on 9/11.”

MENU:

Wine Poached Salmon

Roasted New Potatoes

Steamed Vegetable Medley

Cascading Fresh Fruit Display

Assorted Desserts

Rolls and Butter

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST:

\$26.00 per person (includes 20% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS:

To make your reservations, please contact **Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret)** at **503-650-9506** or **b.yaden@comcast.net** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1200 on Thursday, 26 May 2011**. **No late reservations**, and **please call** if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.

DIRECTIONS: From **I-205**, take McLoughlin Blvd (99E) North (4.1 miles) to Chestnut Street; turn right on Chestnut (just past the U-Haul Store); Gray Gables is located on the left hand side of the street. From **Portland**, take McLoughlin Blvd (South) to Chestnut Street; turn left onto Chestnut Street; Gray Gables is on the left. An open **No-Host Bar** is available, and a parking attendant is on duty.

***SHORT BIO OF OUR JUNE
DINNER GUEST SPEAKER***



Colonel Michael T. Irwin, USAF (Ret)

Col Michael T. Irwin, USAF (Ret) was selected by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley as the Oregon Federal Security Director (FSD) effective October 24, 2005. He began his TSA career in August 2002 as the Deputy Federal Security Director at San Francisco International Airport, and also served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Aviation Operations at TSA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining TSA, Irwin served 25 years in the Air Force where he retired as a Colonel. *Irwin brings a unique perspective on transportation security as he was the Director of Operations in the White House Military Office on September 11, 2001.* He has an extensive background in aviation operations including flying, command and control functions, and engineering. He has served in multiple senior staff positions, including time on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

As Federal Security Director, Irwin is the senior U.S. Department of Homeland Security representative for the state of Oregon. He manages a staff of more than 500 and is responsible for fulfilling the TSA mission of protecting the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce. This includes passenger and baggage screening operations, as well as airport

and air carrier regulatory compliance, at seven airports throughout Oregon. With state, local and regional partners, Irwin also oversees security for highways, railroads, buses, mass transit systems and ports.

Irwin is a native Oregonian, and holds a degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Portland; a Masters degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Illinois; and an MBA and a Masters degree in National Security studies from the National War College.

***MINUTES FROM THE MAY DINNER
MEETING by Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret)***

On **3 May**, there were **50** members and guests who came out for dinner at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. During the social hour, raffle tickets were sold for a good bottle of wine and a paperback book, *The Ravens*; the proceeds were for the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund. After the social time, Chapter President--**Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**--called the meeting to order at **1830**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the National Anthem was sung [led by **Mrs. Jan Brink** and **CAPT Larry Roberts USNR (Ret)**], and **Chaplain (LTC) Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)** gave the invocation.

Chapter Presidents Comments: President Mayer opened the meeting with the following comments: "May is a special month for the military. It is full of occasions to recognize people serving in the uniformed services. The entire month of May is National Military Appreciation Month. The best-known event of the month is Memorial Day, a time to remember fallen comrades. It is also the unofficial start of summer, marked by parades and other festivities honoring service members. May also includes Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday of the month. It comes near the end of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday. This celebration started in 1949—following the consolidation of the military services in DoD—to honor Americans serving in the U.S. military. The country celebrates the event with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. Another occasion this month is Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which is the Friday before Mother's Day. It began in 1984 when President Reagan proclaimed the observance to recognize the vital role military spouses play in the

nation's defense. For MOAA, of course, every day is military appreciation day. After all, that is our reason for being!"

President Mayer then discussed the following: (1) On the Board of Directors, we need to fill the second Navy Representative; also, we are always looking for new members for our various committees. (2) The **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Friday, 13 May 2011 at 0930 at the Colwood National Golf Course. Two of the items to be addressed are: (a) Exploring a Partnership with the Military Order of the World Wars, Portland Chapter's "**Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance**" in October, and (b) Submitting the MOAA Levels of Excellence Award for 2010 by 1 June 2011, and (3) the **Programs Committee** is looking for suggestions for military speakers; contact Col Mayer with your suggestions. Col Mayer then introduced several special guests: **Brig Gen Art Cornelius, USAF (Ret)**, the guest speaker, and his wife, **Merilyn**; and **MG Curtis Loop, USA (Ret)**, Oregon State President of the Association of the US Army.

Membership Committee Report: **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)** introduced **Lt Col Jonathan G. Stacey, USAF (Ret)** whose wife, **Lisa**, was unable to attend. **MAJ Sampson** reported that the Membership Committee met on 23 April 2011 and that the plans are being worked on for a Membership Reception to be held in August, perhaps at The Bomber Restaurant in Milwaukie, Oregon. He also announced that he would be presenting an award to the Oregon City High School JROTC on 10 May 2011. The "Give Me 10" membership recruiting program was discussed. There is a new category of membership in MOAA; it is a non-voting membership for juniors and seniors at the Service Academies, ROTC programs, and OCS.

CAPT Larry Roberts USNR (Ret) then gave the **Scholarship Committee Report**. All were urged to purchase raffle tickets. Prizes were a bottle of wine and a copy of the book, *The Ravens*, signed by the guest speaker, **Brig Gen Cornelius**. **CAPT Roberts** then read an e-mail update from our scholarship recipient, **Ms. Heather Chase**: "Everything is going great. I have finished my thesis and will be graduating on May 22nd. I'm planning to work through the summer--and eventually go into the masters program at the National College of Natural Medicine to become a naturopathic doctor. I will need to get a few science pre-reqs, but after that it is a 4 year program. I still plan to stay active within the art world, but I'd like to wear many hats. Perhaps I will see you soon at a MOAA event. Have a good day! Best, Heather"

After a served dinner, **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **Brig Gen Arthur C. Cornelius, USAF (Ret)** who spoke on "My Adventures as a Raven Forward Air Controller (FAC) in Southeast Asia." General Cornelius presented a fascinating color slide briefing on the Raven FAC mission he flew in Laos during the Viet Nam War. Not only did he discuss the flying missions in the O-1 aircraft, but he gave an extensive discussion and description of the Laotian people and leaders and what eventually happened to some of them who moved to the US after the war. At the conclusion of the speech, **Col Mayer** presented **General Cornelius**, and his wife, **Merilyn**, with a gift (*see below*).



Committee Reports then continued. The Nominating Committee Chair, **LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret)**, presented the slate of chapter officers for **2011-2012: President – Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret); First Vice President – MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret);**

Second Vice President – CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret); Secretary – Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret); Treasurer – Captain Jim Cole, USAF (Sep); and Immediate Past President – LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret). The slate was unanimously approved in a vote by the chapter membership. For his **Legislative Committee** remarks, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** encouraged the chapter members to read his column in the upcoming June newsletter. In the “**For the Good of the Order**” portion of the meeting, **CAPT Roberts** selected the winners for the wine and the autographed book, *The Ravens* by Chris Robbins.

In her closing remarks, **President Mayer** thanked our guest speaker, **Brig Gen Art Cornelius, USAF (Ret); Mrs. Edie Rieken** for the “May Baskets” on the tables; all members who attended; and The Monarch Hotel staff for the excellent dinner and service. The next meeting and last one of the program year will be on 7 June 2011 at The Gray Gables Estate in Milwaukie, Oregon. Our guest speaker will be **Colonel Michael Irwin, USAF (Ret)**, the Director of TSA in Oregon, who will speak on “**White House Communications on 9/11.**” And, **BG Norm Hoffman, AUS (Ret)**, the President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, will install the chapter officers. The next *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* is the June edition; inputs are due 7 May 2011. Chapter members will receive their newsletters via mail and email o/a 12 May 2011. Newsletters are posted on the chapter website. The June newsletter is the last one for this program year; there are no newsletters for July or August. The next newsletter will be the September 2011 issue. Inputs for the September 2011 newsletter will be Saturday, 6 August 2011.

Col Mayer then wished all the mothers a very happy Mother’s Day, the veterans a happy Memorial Day and Armed Forces

Day, and the military spouses a happy Military Spouse Appreciation Day! She finished with the following: “As you celebrate these special days with your family and friends, I ask each of you to remember our sisters and brothers in arms who are serving abroad in harm’s way and say a prayer for their safe return. And pray for their families back home as well.” The meeting was adjourned at **2147**.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

The Portland Chapter would like to welcome the following new member:

Brig Gen Arthur C. Cornelius, USAF (Ret)
and his wife **Merilyn**

The Membership Committee met on Saturday, April 23rd to plan for a new membership reception. It was suggested that it be held at The Bomber Restaurant on SE McLoughlin Boulevard on a Friday in the month of August from 5:00-7:00 pm. More information will be forthcoming.

MAJ Sampson will represent the Chapter at the Oregon City High School J/ROTC Awards Ceremony on 10 May 2011. The ceremony will start at 5:30 pm.

We will continue to contact junior and senior ROTC cadets/midshipmen for a one year non-voting membership with National MOAA.

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

For the third year, Auxiliary members are invited to a patio luncheon (hope for good weather!) at my home on **21 June at 12:00 noon**. This will again be our opportunity to support our Chapter’s Scholarship Fund. We hope you will contribute the amount a luncheon at Albertina’s would cost—or more. Please call me (Edie) by the 19th to make your reservation and for directions if you need them: **(503) 254-5029**. Spouses are always welcome! However, **please make your reservations early** as there will be a limit to the total number I can seat at my home.

And don't forget to ask family and friends for old cell phones!

The (National) MOAA Auxiliary Advisory Committee participated in April's annual "Storming the Hill" day in Washington, D.C. Our Auxiliary Liaison, Joanne Steen, reports that in spite of heavy rain, it was "the perfect day" to meet with Senators and Representatives. They focused on a few key issues:

#1 – CAP FUTURE TRICARE FEE INCREASES AT COLA PERCENT: Encouraged recognition in law the service member's heavy pre-paid premiums of service/sacrifice.

#2 – PROTECT OUR TROOPS AGAINST MANPOWER/PAY RAISE CUTBACKS. Don't cut forces or pay for troops in the 10th year of war.

#3 – INEQUITIES REMAIN FOR DISABLED, WIDOWS, RECALLED GUARD/RESERVE. We need to keep pushing for at least incremental progress. Joanne adds, "I shared copies of my annuitant account statement which really caught their attention!" Encouraged them to sign on as co-sponsors for the H.R. 178 (the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act). She then encourages us to contact our Representatives about co-signing this important piece of legislation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

ID cards without Social Security Numbers: If you are like me, you do not carry your Medicare card because it contains your Social Security number and you are concerned about the potential for identity theft. Likewise, I carry my military ID card with some trepidation.

The good news is that DoD now recognizes that it is unwise to imprint

Social Security numbers on identification cards, either numerically or through bar codes.

There is currently in place a broad and phased-in plan to replace ID cards with new ones that omit the numerical Social Security numbers. A further phase will eliminate the bar code numbers on the reverse of your ID.

I checked with the ID card office at the Portland Air National Guard Base. They currently hope to start processing retired ID cards this summer. The earliest availability would be June, but that date is likely to slip. I will keep checking monthly about availability, and we will post it on the chapter website as soon as we have definitive information.

For later use, the phone number is 503-335-4046. When you have a confirmed date and time for reissuance, go to Building 142 on the Portland Air National Guard Base, 6801 NE Cornfield, Portland, Oregon. Please do not light up their phones until we have news that they are ready for retired folks.

Defense Authorization Bill, Fiscal 2012: Congress finished a two week break the end of April, after the belly bumping spectacle that ended with a budget deal for **the remaining few months of fiscal 2011, just 8 months late.** Now come the titanic struggles to solve the Debt Limit (more later) and the fiscal 2012 Budget.

Within the budget struggle, the Defense Authorization Bill congressional action was initiated in the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee the first week of May. Then, the full House Armed Services Committee was to take up the bill the second week of May.

MOAA suggests that members might/should contact our House Representatives and ask for their support to include provisions in the bill which address the following issues:

- *Protect the forces against manpower cuts and pay raise cutbacks, or sneaky ways to reduce net pay.
- *Cap any future percentage increase in Tricare fees at the retired pay COLA percentage.
- *End unfair penalties reducing compensation of thousands of disabled retirees, military survivors and members of the Guard and Reserve.

One can find a summarizing message on the MOAA site, or you can craft your own.

I have mentioned that Oregon Congressmen have been active supporters of military personnel, active and retired, residing in Oregon, **including those using the VA hospital. Give them a continued push to continue such support** in a period of unprecedented pressure on spending throughout the government.

The Debt Ceiling: Myths and Facts: The following is excerpted from an op-ed written by Emil Henry Jr., an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury from 2005 to 2007, in the April 27, 2011 *Wall Street Journal*:

“Since 1962, the U.S. has reached its debt ceiling 74 times. Every time, (it) has been raised with little notice outside Washington and **little, if any, change in the trajectory of government spending. (emphasis added). The difference today is that the world is watching.** Observers around the globe can expect to hear many old myths:

**The Treasury is certain that there will be wrenching dislocations in the capital markets if the ceiling is not raised.* In fact, there is no secret Treasury analysis suggesting the world will collapse. Because we’ve always raised the ceiling, we simply don’t know the consequences of not doing so.

**The Treasury will raid pension funds.* When the ceiling is reached but not exceeded, the Treasury has lawful tools to free up borrowing capacity and prolong the time until the ceiling’s technical breaching. No retiree will lose a penny by virtue of the Treasury’s technical use of its time-tested tools.

**The government will default on Treasury obligations if the ceiling is not raised.* It is critical that we not default, but we don’t have to. Hitting the ceiling means that we

can spend only what we collect in taxes. **We have \$2.2 trillion of tax revenues in 2011, which can easily pay the \$225 billion of net interest on the debt.** (Paraphrased)

The reality is that the debt ceiling will be raised once again.”

Now you can turn the sound down when the talking heads, politicians, and Administration officials say the sky is falling. It will not happen.

Tricare Young Adult Coverage is here, but at a price: One of heralded aspects of the 2010 health care legislation was that individuals can remain on parental health insurance through age 26. That was extended to Tricare, but DoD was mandated to charge premiums for the coverage. And what a deal it is! Coverage under Tricare Standard can be purchased retroactive to January 2011 for \$2,232 per year, pretty high for typical young adults. “Standard” is fee for service, so one is excluded from Tricare Prime for this year. Prime will be added for fiscal 2012. No other Tricare Standard beneficiaries have to pay a premium. Nor are there discounts for multiple individuals in one family.

Tricare Prime premiums will be \$2,556 a year, not including co-pays. That is more than five times what a military family pays to enroll in Prime. Given the unattractive aspects of the product, officials project only a “modest” take rate of six percent, or about 14,000 participants out of an eligible population of 233,000.

Good News, There will be a 2012 Cola: The most recent CPI increase was 1.1% which virtually assures there will be a reasonable COLA increase in January. Last month, I said it was likely, not assured. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-722-1897 or Larry@RocketVentures.com

IN MEMORIAM: May He Rest in Peace!

Lt Col Roger A. Crabbs, USAF (Ret)

Happy 100th Birthday to

LTC Albert E. Opdenweyer, AUS (Ret)

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)****Contributing to a "Best in America"**

Fund: Thanks to your generosity during the chapter meeting raffle, and the generosity of an individual donor, I sent checks in a total of **\$236** to the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund on the 3rd of May. We continue to make steady progress on this important program. I will have a mid-year report on actual contributions for the June meeting and will have it posted on the website thereafter. I am confident we will meet our 5-year goal of \$25,000 in contributions in a timely manner.

Many of you met our first scholarship recipient, **Heather Chase**. Well, Heather will graduate with her Bachelors Degree on May 22nd. Further, her plan now is to enter the National College of Natural Medicine, right here in Portland, this fall. Her goal is to become a naturopathic doctor, and NCM is the original college teaching natural medicine. If, as I believe, Heather is typical of the MOAA Scholarship recipients, our dollars are in excellent hands. She is poised, mature, focused, and independent. She has been helped for 4 years in achieving her undergraduate degree through MOAA Scholarships. We have invited Heather to attend the June meeting and let us know how this support has enabled her education. You may recall that Heather's mother is an active duty Air Force nurse based on the East Coast. This scholarship program is a great example of us taking care of one of our own. Heather thanks you, and we all thank you.

The Scholarship Committee consists of **Gary Brink, Nanci Visser, Jim Patrick, John Hill, Mary J. Mayer, and Larry Roberts (me)**. We are all available to answer your questions. Thanks for your commitment to the education of the future

leaders of our country and to the children of our nation's defenders.

Portland Chapter Officers**President**

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

First Vice President

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

Second Vice President

CAPT Lawrence Roberts, USNR (Ret): 503-722-1897

Secretary

Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret): 503-702-3812

Treasurer

Capt James R. Cole, USAF (Separated): 503-644-8765

Immediate Past President

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

Portland Chapter Board of Directors**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

Navy Reps

CAPT James H. Main: 503-793-8499

Vacant**Air Force Reps**

Col Michael T. Bieniewicz: 503-335-4021/4020

Col Duncan G. Koller: 503-693-2483

Marine Corps Rep

Maj James F. Simpson: 503-233-9341

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

Women in Service Rep

LtCol Nanci L. Visser, USMCR (Ret): 503-614-8463

Liaison, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Mrs. Edie Rieken: 503-254-5029

Directors-at-Large

LTC David E. Hill, USA (Ret): 503-579-9684

Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot, USAF(Ret): 503-476-4891

Portland Chapter Committee Chairs**Programs:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)**Membership:** MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**Legislative:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)**Personal Affairs:** CWO4 Al Drenkhahn, USAF (Ret)**Communications:** LTC William Kroger, USA (Ret)**Auxiliary:** Mrs. Edie Rieken**Scholarship:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR(Ret)**ESGR Outreach:** Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)**TOPS:** Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot, USAF (Ret)**Historian:** COL John H. Hill, USA (Ret)

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
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P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

June 7, 2011	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Installation of Chapter Officers (Location: Gray Gables)
<i>July & August 2011</i>	<i>No Dinner Meetings Scheduled</i>
<i>August 5, 2011</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
September 6, 2011	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch)
October 4, 2011	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: TBD)
November 1, 2011	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: TBD)
<i>November 4, 2011</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at 0930—usually at the **Colwood Bar & Grill** at the **Colwood National Golf Course**--and ***are open to all members!*** Alternate locations will be indicated.

NOTE 3: The newsletter takes a hiatus during July and August 2011. All articles for the **September 2011 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **6 August 2011**.