

**Minutes from the 1 December 2020 Virtual Meeting  
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary**

- **28** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Virtual Meeting via Zoom. Chapter President, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, called the meeting to **order at 1831**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem. **Reverend Karyn Dix** gave the invocation.
- **President Mayer** welcomed guest speaker, **SMSgt Amy Almond-Schmid, ORANG**, the 142nd Wing Airman and Family Readiness Manager. **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** spoke on “**Remembering Pearl Harbor.**” **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** presented a video of FDR’s speech to Congress declaring war after the attack on Pearl Harbor. **CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)** played “Taps.”
- **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** introduced **SMSgt Amy Almond-Schmid, ORANG**, 142nd Wing Airman and Family Readiness Manager, who spoke to us on “**The 142nd Wing Resiliency Center: Caring for the Needs of Air National Guard Families.**”
- **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** talked about how we have raised money to benefit the ORANG 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing. Twenty-three (23) members of the chapter donated \$3,500.00; so, tomorrow, Larry will purchase 10 gift cards for \$350.00 each from Fred Meyer. These gift cards will be distributed to families that were picked by the First Sergeants of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing. They will probably be given primarily to E-4 and E-5 members who will receive them before Christmas. We did not get a discount because of the administrative difficulty of dealing with the large Kroger organization, but Larry will try to do that in the future. **SMSgt Amy Almond-Schmid** thanked our chapter for our generosity.
- Chapter President’s Comments: **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
  - **Reminder to pay your 2021 Chapter Dues:**
    - Please mail your check to our Treasurer, LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret) at MOAA Portland Chapter, Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213 by the end of this month.
    - Dues for regular members are \$30 a year and are to be paid before 1 January 2021. 2021 dues cover the period 1 January – 31 December 2021.
    - This year, we are again requesting Surviving Spouse and Honorary Members to pay annual dues.
  - **Save the Dates – MOAA Events:**
    - MOAA National Board of Directors Meeting – 29 January 2021 – will be held virtually.
    - MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, 4 February 2021
    - MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting – Thursday, 11 March 2021
  - **Save the Dates – Other:**
    - Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Meeting – Thursday, 2 December 2020
    - United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting – Saturday, 9 January 2021
    - Biennial Oregon Women Veterans’ Conference, hosted by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, has been rescheduled for 22-23 May 2021 in Bend, OR. It may be held virtually, depending on the pandemic guidelines at the time.
    - The 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games have been rescheduled for 4-9 July 2023 in Portland, Oregon.
- **Membership Committee Report by Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
  - Many people are feeling isolated and lonely, and chapter solutions include: encouraging members to attend chapter meetings by Zoom or telephone; start a “social time” virtually before each meeting; and organize a “Call Chain” by which all chapter members are contacted to see how they are doing.
  - Board members are contacting each member of our chapter by phone, and the members seem to appreciate that very much. We are updating contact information from some members as a result.
  - The Membership Committee has set up a MOAA Marketing Table in the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing Resiliency Center.
- **Scholarship Committee: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret):** No report.
- **Legislative Committee: LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret) and CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**

- Senator Jeff Merkley’s Office will be conducting Service Academy Interviews on 12 and 19 December 2020 from 0830-1230 on both days. If chapter members would like to volunteer, they should contact **Cristen Hyde**, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative, at [cristen\\_hyde@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:cristen_hyde@merkley.senate.gov). We should hear Wednesday or Thursday about how many will be needed to conduct the interviews.
- **Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Jean Hillman**
  - Conducted outreach to Surviving Spouse Members via postcards and follow-up telephone calls.
  - Found that some addresses and phone numbers are not current. She will continue to follow up.
  - She received some thank you cards from some of the ladies.
  - December 2020 Luncheon cancelled due to pandemic.
- **Special Holiday Readings** from several of our chapter members:
  - **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** told some stories from Antarctica.
  - **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** read a story about “The Janitor.”
  - **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** told about his relationship with Colonel Doctor in Hawaii.
  - **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** read about a little girl named Susie at Christmas.
  - **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** talked about “Playing Santa Claus.”
  - **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** read a poem about thankfulness.
  - **Col Richard Gano, USAF (Ret)** talked about his Christmas tree in 1966 in Vietnam.
- **“For the Good of the Order”**
  - **Wine Raffle:** Three winners will each receive two bottles of wine. Larry will try to get them all delivered by Christmas. Raffle winners included: **RADM David Albrecht, USN (Ret)**, **CDR Robert Steelman, USPHS (Ret)** and **CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)**.
  - **Joke:** **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** told a joke.
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
  - The Chapter President thanked:
    - All the chapter members who joined via Zoom that morning to support the chapter;
    - Our guest speaker, **SMSgt Amy Almond-Schmid, ORANG;**
    - **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for being our Zoom host;
    - **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**, **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)**, **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)**, and **Col Richard Gano, USAF (Ret)** for the Special Holiday Readings; and
    - **CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)** for playing “Taps.”
  - There will be no chapter meeting in January 2021.
  - **Next Meeting:** Saturday, 6 February 2021 via Zoom
    - Guest Speaker will be Mr. Steven J. Daniels, Commissioning Committee Chair – Outreach, who will speak on “The Mission of the *USS Oregon 973*.”
  - Next *Brass Bulletin Newsletter*:
    - The Newsletter takes a hiatus in January 2021.
    - Inputs for the combined February/March 2021 Newsletter are due no later than Tuesday, 5 January 2021 to the newsletter editor.
  - In closing, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!
    - As each member celebrates this holiday season, she asked everyone to remember:
      - our comrades-in-arms who are serving abroad in harm’s way and say a prayer for their safe return—and support their families while they are deployed and
      - stay in touch with families, friends, and colleagues throughout this pandemic.
- The Chapter President adjourned the meeting at **2008**.