

Minutes from the 2 March 2024 Chapter Meeting
By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **27** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR**. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0930**.
- President Mayer made opening remarks, noting that March is Women's History Month and also Military Appreciation Month. The State of Oregon celebrates "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans' Day" on 30 March each year.
- President Mayer introduced the guest speaker, **Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret)**, Executive Vice President of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), who would be brought in virtually via Zoom at 1015.
- President Mayer led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the invocation.
- President Mayer made introductions of the Head Table:
 - **LTC Fred Broadwater, Army National Guard (Ret)**
 - **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)**
 - **Captain Phil Myers, USAF (Ret)**
 - **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
 - **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret)**
- Brunch was served.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, President Mayer introduced the virtual guest speaker, **Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret)**, who is responsible for the strategic operations of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA). **Maj Gen Raaberg** spoke about the new "**B-21 Raider: A Multi-Purpose Air and Space Capability for Our National Security.**" He began with the history of the strategic bomber from 1937 to the present, discussing aircraft capabilities and missions. The B-21 Raider, named after the Doolittle Raiders, is the most recent stealth bomber to be added to the USAF. After the presentation, there was an extensive question and answer session.

BUSINESS SESSION

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- **President Mayer** announced highlights of the Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, held on 7 February 2024:
 - The MOAA Portland Chapter is in the black financially with a total of 156 Chapter members. She reminded everyone that 2024-chapter dues need to be paid in a timely manner.
 - Membership is important, and a challenge was given to all members to bring at least one guest to the next chapter meeting on **Saturday, 6 April 2024**.
 - President Mayer noted that **CAPT Douglas Brown, USCGR (Ret)** stepped down from the board due to medical reasons, and **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** will take his place as the Coast Guard Representative.
- President Mayer submitted the nomination package for the **MOAA Levels of Excellence Award for 2023** to MOAA National on 16 February 2024.

- President Mayer reminded members of several upcoming events:
 - **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting**, 11 Mar 2024 (Virtual)
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**, 1 May 2024 (Virtual)
 - **ODVA and Tri-County Veteran Service Office's Women Veteran Luncheon**, 19 March 2024 (Crowne Plaza-Portland/Lake Oswego)
 - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting**, 6 Mar 2024 (Virtual/need to RSVP to get link to attend meeting)
 - **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**, 13 Apr 2024 (Virtual)

Membership Committee Report: Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) pointed out the Membership Information Table, filled with items of interest for members.

Fundraising Committee Report: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) stated that the fundraising project was a commitment of \$5,000 towards the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial on the Grounds of the Capitol in Salem, OR. Collected so far: \$2,584.49.

Legislative Committee: LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)/CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret). LTC Battles noted that MOAAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) event will be conducted this year from April 15-18, 2024. This year's topics include concurrent receipt, full housing allowance, and TRICARE for Life.

Personal Affairs Committee: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Since the last meeting, President Mayer noted that **Mrs. Joan Litel**, a Surviving Spouse, passed away in June 2023, and **Sister Catherine Trtek**, an Honorary Member, passed away on 13 January 2024.

Special Events Committee: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret) noted that the Chapter will continue to present MOAA Leadership Awards to one Army and one Air Force cadet and Gold Bars to the AROTC and AFROTC commissioning cadets at the University of Portland.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- The wine raffle raised **\$300**. Raffle winners were **Mrs. Jeanette Brink; MajGen Chris Owens, USMC (Ret); CAPT David Todd, USN (Ret); CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret); CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret);** and **LTC Gary Battles, USA (Ret).**
- **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret)**; all who attended the meeting; **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for being the Zoom Host; **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for providing the table decorations; and the staff of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the meal and service.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 6 April 2024** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing, Happy Valley, OR**. Guest speaker will be **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** who will discuss **“Nuclear Politics.”**
- President Mayer reminded chapter members about Daylight Savings Time beginning on Sunday, 10 March, and then closed the meeting with a Happy St. Patrick's Day, First Day of Spring, and National Vietnam War Veterans' Day. The meeting adjourned at **11:26**.