



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)
Brass Bulletin Newsletter**
“Never Stop Serving”

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**
--
**P.O. Box 18206
Portland, OR 97213**

Volume XXXVIII, Number 3

www.MOAAPortland.org

November 2021

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Happy Veterans Day! During this time of the year, we veterans can look back on our careers with pride and a bit of nostalgia and count our blessings during this COVID-19 pandemic. It is certainly not easy to navigate through the numerous restrictions on our day-to-day activities. Lots of our friends, colleagues, and family members are feeling isolated, lonely, and have a need to connect with their fellow human beings. It is especially important for our chapter members to stay connected with each other. One way to do this is to participate in our virtual chapter meetings. We are fortunate to be able to use the Zoom Video Teleconference technology (or your own telephone) to join in fellowship and camaraderie once a month – and support our chapter charity through the wine raffles. Last month, we had 27 attendees at our chapter meeting; I would like to encourage more of you to consider “joining” the November chapter meeting to hear CAPT Scott Jackson tell us about the USCG Sector – Columbia River. You don’t have to drive, pay for meals, or dress up! You can join us from the comfort of your own home. And remember, **recruiting new members** is the lifeblood of the chapter, and I ask you to be proactive! Reach out to potential chapter members and ask them to “Zoom” into our chapter meetings.

I encourage you to get ahead of the power curve and pay your **2022 Annual Chapter Dues of \$30** as soon as possible but **no later than 1 January 2022**. (NOTE: Surviving Spouses and Honorary Members are not required to pay dues but are *strongly encouraged* to do so.) Please pay your dues by sending a check for \$30 (addressed to “MOAA Portland Chapter”) to our Chapter Treasurer, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)**, at MOAA Portland Chapter, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213. **Please do not wait for an invoice!**

(Continued on page 2)

Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0900
on Thursday, 4 November 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Teleconference**

NOVEMBER VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:

Saturday, 6 November 2021

Social Time: 0930, Meeting Starts: 1000

Virtual Meeting: via Zoom Video Teleconference

PROGRAM:

CAPT Scott Jackson, USCG, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, who will speak on **“420 Miles of Coastline, 465 Miles of River: The US Coast Guard’s Role in Maritime and Environmental Safety”**

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net** **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 November 2021** so he can advise the Zoom Host to allow you access to the virtual meeting. Once you have reservations, join the Zoom Meeting one of two ways (see below).

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING: Please use one of the two following methods:

1. **For video teleconference**, click on the following link (or put the link in your computer’s browser), then add Meeting ID and Password:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85707582843?pwd=ZFEvYUd0V0lHRmVkJkRElzdXI3QnM1UT09>

Meeting ID: 857 0758 2843 Passcode: 716466

2. **For audio only**, dial the phone number below, then add Meeting ID and Password:

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 857 0758 2843 Passcode: 716466

NOTE: If you have any problems joining the meeting, please call our Zoom Host, **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)**, at **503-410-1843 (cell)**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

Program: Turning to the **Program** for the November Virtual Meeting, our guest speaker is **CAPT Scott Jackson, USCG**, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, who will speak on **“420 Miles of Coastline, 465 Miles of River: The US Coast Guard’s Role in Maritime and Environmental Safety”**



He is responsible for all aspects of Coast Guard and interagency response providing maritime safety, security, and stewardship in the Coast Guard’s 5th largest area of responsibility encompassing 3 states, 33 ports, 885 nautical miles of waterway and shoreline, and 10 Coast Guard units contributing to a \$24 billion national impact.

Prior to Sector Command, Captain Jackson completed a year-long program earning a master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA. Before attending War College, Captain Jackson was the 42nd Commanding Officer of Air Station / Sector Field Office Port Angeles WA where he was responsible for all Coast Guard aviation support to Puget Sound, the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Northwestern Washington and a 125 nautical border with Canada. He additionally provided logistics support for 12 Coast Guard,

Navy, and CBP tenants including a WMEC, 5 WPBs, and 3 boat stations. During his tenure, Port Angeles supported national efforts along the Southwest Border, in the Arctic, and in the Western Pacific. Previous to Port Angeles, he served as Operations Officer of Air Station Elizabeth City NC where he directed the employment of 48 pilots and 120 aircrew flying the Coast Guards newest fleet of both fixed and rotary wing aircraft in an AOR spanning from Greenland to South America. In this capacity he supported national responses to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, and Matthew - providing critical SAR and airlift support throughout Atlantic Area’s AOR.

From 2011-2014 he served as the D14 Command Center Chief and District SAR Mission Coordinator, providing oversight of multi-mission operations in a 12 million square mile AOR. While there, he helped streamline SAR procedures between the Coast Guard and Micronesian governments and assisted in development of Coast Guard international engagement strategy for 18 Pacific Island Nations.

Other Coast Guard assignments include: Air Station Kodiak AK where he served as an Assistant Operations Officer, MH60 Flight Examiner, and D17 arctic aviation planner, leading the first interagency aviation deployments to both Nome and Kotzebue AK; Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose where he served as the U.S. Coast Guard’s Exchange Pilot to the Royal Navy and qualified as the first Coast Guard Instructor Pilot in the Sea King Mk5/6; Air Station Houston TX where he served as an HH65 aircraft commander.

A seventh-generation American military service member and fourth generation military officer, Captain Jackson graduated from Texas A&M University as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1993 and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army where he served in a variety of command and staff assignments both overseas and stateside. In July 2000, Captain Jackson was selected for a Direct Commission in the U.S. Coast Guard. He holds master’s degrees in both Strategic Studies and Quality Systems Management, is an Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies fellow, and is a graduate of the Army War College, Air Command and Staff College, and the Combined Arms & Services Staff School. His military decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, seven Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, and a variety of other awards.

He has over 5,000 hours of military flight time in 8 different helicopter types and holds FAA commercial and instrument rotorcraft ratings. He has been happily married to his best friend, Melani, for over 27 years and has three sons (Caleb, Joshua, Noah) and a daughter (Leah).

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**By Major William J. Tidd, USAF
(Ret)**

I, for one, am sorry to see summer slowly fading into the realm of memories, but, with the beginning of fall, I am once more reinvigorated to accept the challenges of chapter membership. Ever since the first of the year, the chapter membership drives have been dismal, to say the least, with only two new members acquired. Like you, I was more interested in playing softball this summer than performing the unrewarding task of beating my head against a brick wall, attempting to sign-up new members. Fall is now here, and we ALL need to start thinking about the lifeblood of the MOAA Portland Chapter – obtaining new members. If the attrition rate continues (we lost 7 members this year), the chapter will not be able to support the worthy programs and initiatives we love to sponsor.

If you need a talking point when approaching a potential new member, consider this: You know the value of belonging to MOAA and the Portland Chapter. But, when you are talking to a potential new chapter member, it is important to remember that many officers may have only limited knowledge of MOAA's services, legislative advocacy, and community initiatives. Most officers "Never Stop Serving."

Here is a little quote to brighten up your day. *Fall is finally here! The smell of fresh baked apple pies, pumpkin spice*

everything, hayrides, bonfires, corn mazes, and colorful autumn leaves. Halloween and Thanksgiving are just around the corner and the beauty and bounty of nature are indisputable.

AN OPINION PIECE:

MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Beware the Siren Song of Clean Energy: By executive order (cancel Keystone Pipeline), Federal Government legislation (the current massive spending bill, state legislation), California, Texas, and more, the country has hastened to combat climate change through building "clean" energy sources. This entails huge solar panel installation, wind farms installed and building (drive into Palm Springs for an example of windmills overwhelming the landscape), and more.

However, as the Texas grid disaster earlier this year pointed out starkly, Mother Nature does not always cooperate to produce energy in the amount or consistency promised by models.

Europe, summer and fall 2021 provides a stark example of the uncertainty of clean energy and its ramifications in the modern economy. Europe has invested heavily in wind power, and governments have shut down coal plants. This summer, the wind slowed down substantially.

As a result, Europe suffered a fossil fuel shortage, the impact of which has spread westward across the Atlantic. At the same time, drought in Asia has reduced the amount of hydro power in the face of increasing demand. This led to China rationing power to its aluminum smelters. Aluminum prices hit a 13 year high in early September.

On the European front, British electricity prices rose 700% from the prior decade average. Germany electricity prices doubled year to year! Germany in August saw the price rise 12%, the highest increase since 1974. European natural gas spot prices rose five-fold year to year. Users are switching to coal, but coal prices have tripled! Energy is a worldwide market, so the side effect on the United States gas market is that we have experienced a 300% increase in spot prices

over the past year, while exports rose 40% in the first six months of 2021.

Higher gas and utility prices of 5.2% and 21.1% over the first six months of the year in the U.S. are already bleeding into inflation.

The Administration plans to curtail oil, gas, and coal production. Watch out below!

Federal Taxes-The Devil is in the Details: In mid-September, both the House and Senate tax writers published proposed legislation to be approved through the reconciliation process to implement the President's tax and economic programs. The papers that I read reported major aspects of these very complex proposals, but generally did not look more than skin deep.

As always when dealing with legislation conceived in secret and provided to the governed just before hearings begin in Congress, the devil is in the details. Note that the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee said that publicizing tax increases early merely gives opposition "time to build." And we thought that they work for us!

Notable details left unmentioned:

- The President and the Congress seek to make the "rich" pay their "fair share." Rich generally focuses on individuals like Jeff Bezos, who is REALLY RICH! However, the proposal defines DOWN what it takes to be classified as rich. The figure at which the highest tax rate has been imposed for a married couple filing jointly has been \$628,300. It will be cut to \$450,000, a reduction of 28%. Of course, this snares a whole new cadre of taxpayers that have been planning/hoping to reach the higher rarified atmosphere, just not so quickly. Moreover, if this figure is implemented in 2022, the \$450,000

figure will really mean some percentage points lower than \$450,000 due to abnormally high inflation. Eventually, one may call the "rich" the "well-to-do."

- The Administration trumpets that it protects the middle class.

However, the legislation proposes to cancel a small business 20% deduction against qualified business income. This means that, if a small business in 2022 achieves the same income as it reported in 2021, it will face a higher tax, not even including moving into a higher tax bracket. I thought that small business personified the definition of middle class. Protecting the middle class by raising taxes by a subterfuge seems like lying.

- The Administration attacks corporations by proposing to raise the corporate tax rate to 26.5% from 21%. If one adds state and local income taxes to corporate payments, the average is 31%, which would be the highest level in the developed world. Who does Congress believe pays corporate taxes and would be affected by the proposed rate hike? Well, a combination of employees who will face lower compensation and bonuses, stockholders who will receive lower dividend increases, and customers who will see price increases to offset the government take. In essence, you are taxing the broader economy. Sensible? Your choice!

There are numerous other details to be discovered, but I have neither the time nor the space to go further. By the way, our own Senator Wyden wants to start taxing capital gains on an annual, unrealized basis. Are you kidding, Senator?

REMINDER:

IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OR EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT COL MARY J. MAYER, USAF (RET) AT MARYJMAYER@YAHHO.COM OR 310-897-1902 (CELL) WITH YOUR NEW INFORMATION

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Liaison to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Welcome to November! Let's enjoy the leaves that are still refusing to fall. It is such a colorful time of year. I feel we are blessed here in Oregon to have our four seasons.

Our MOAA Portland Chapter leadership is thinking that in December we may be able to meet in-person and socialize. This information is very encouraging, as that is the month we normally have our MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon.

* * *

Information from Oregon Department of Justice:

Consumer Hotline: 1-877-877-9392
oregonconsumer.com

Consumer Tips to Protect You and Your Family

- **Become educated:** Go to above website to learn more about consumer protection.
- **Sign online:** oregonconsumer.gov to be notified of new scams, fraud, and threats.
- **Reduce junk mail:** 1-888-567-8688 or register online at optoutprescreen.com to reduce offers of credit and insurance.
- **Reduce telemarketing calls.** The National Do Not Call Registry allows you to block most telemarketers who should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If so, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Register online at donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 **from the number** you want to register.
- **Wiring money is like sending cash.** Con artists often insist that people

wire money, especially overseas, because it's nearly impossible to reverse the transaction or trace the money.

- **Read the fine print.** Read contracts in full and make sure you understand the terms before you sign. Be suspicious of promises made by salespersons that differ from the written terms. Be sure to get a copy of the signed contract for your files.
- **Report fraud.** If you think you have been a victim of fraud, call the Oregon Department of Justice at 1-877-877-9392 and request a complaint form be mailed to you or visit tinyurl.com/ORcomplaintform to file online.
- You may request this flyer from the **Oregon Department of Justice**, "Top Ten Consumer Tips to Protect You and Family."
- It will have more helpful information.
- Please remember we continue to support **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**. If we can meet for our MOAA Portland Chapter Christmas Meeting and our Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon, we should have a nice amount of baby items to donate. Remember to donate old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program** also.

AN OPINION PIECE:***WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA***

By CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)

What ultimately became Wreaths Across America began in 1992 when Mr. Worcester, a wreathmaker from Maine, found himself with a surplus of wreaths and donated them to be placed at Arlington in one of the older, little visited, sections of the cemetery. Other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. The annual tribute went on quietly until 2005, when a photo of the headstones, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the web and brought national attention to the project.

Fast-forward to 2020, Wreaths Across America and its national network of 2 million volunteers placed 1.7 M veterans' wreaths at 2,557 participating locations in the United States and beyond. This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. Typically, a brief public ceremony is

held at each participating cemetery followed by placement of the wreaths. When the wreath is placed, the person placing the wreath says the name of the veteran aloud thereby ensuring that the veteran is not forgotten. If you'd like to see a short video about Wreaths Across America, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Dy6PE37g2k&t=81s>.

If you're interested in sponsoring (purchasing) wreaths to be placed on veterans' graves this year, please consider purchasing them through the Multnomah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution websites. They are working to honor all veterans and active military members by placing live wreaths on veterans' graves both at Willamette National AND River View Cemeteries. Many of you are likely familiar with the large Willamette National Cemetery at SE Mt. Scott Blvd. Predating that, River View Cemetery at S Taylors Ferry Rd. was opened in 1882 on land purchased by Henry Corbett, William Ladd and Henry Failing and it remains non-profit today. Among other veterans, it is the final resting place for 165 largely forgotten veterans from the Spanish-American War buried there together.

To demonstrate their commitment to this cause, Multnomah Chapter, DAR is ensuring a third wreath will be placed for every two wreaths sponsored through their websites. They will also place veteran wreaths on specific veterans' graves at either of those cemeteries if the purchase is designated as Grave Specific at the time of purchase and the veteran's information is provided.

Each hand made, fresh, live wreath costs \$15 to sponsor and is made in the United States with Maine balsam. Orders must be placed by Nov. 29, 2021 for placement this year.

To sponsor wreaths at:

- Willamette National Cemetery, go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0053
- River View Cemetery, go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0063.

Feel free to contact Sharon Sebbio at 2retcaps@comcast.net or 503-410-1825 with any questions or if you'd prefer to purchase wreaths by check. **Thank you for your consideration of this patriotic cause.**

ODVA REQUEST FOR GRANT EVALUATORS

***By Jacqueline Kemp, ODVA Grants Coordinator,
Statewide Veteran Services***

The 2021 Oregon State Legislature approved \$600,000 for the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant (**CVRC Grant**) and \$938,118 for the Veteran Services Grant (**VS Grant**) Program. The VS Grant and the CVRC Grant are to each be awarded multiple one-time grants on a competitive basis.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is sending you this invitation to ask you to consider serving as an evaluator for one or both of these two very important grants, the CVRC Grant or the VS Grant proposal review process. We are looking for evaluators who will be able to read, evaluate and score grant proposals. Training will be provided on how to use the evaluation tool, in advance. I will also be available throughout the evaluation period to answer questions about the evaluating process.

The **Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant** proposals are due to ODVA on October 27, 2021 and the **Veteran Services Grant** proposals are due to ODVA on November 17, 2021. I will then review each proposal for completeness and formatting. After that, I will send them out to the evaluators, please see below for the specific timeline for each of the grants.

Each proposal will be read and scored by three different evaluators, taking about 2-3 hours per proposal. As you become more familiar with the evaluation process, the time needed to review may be reduced. Each evaluator will be assigned three to five proposals to start. If you are willing to give more time, I can assign additional proposals. All evaluators must attend a 1 ½ hour *remote* training session, to be conducted using M365 Teams. You will receive a link to the meeting once I receive your Interest Form.

- Thursday, October 21st from 10:30 am – 12 noon; or
- Tuesday, October 26th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant: The purpose of the CVRC Grant is to augment existing campus programs that help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college and complete educational goals, and then transition from college to the workforce and the community. In 2020, all 14 of the public universities and community colleges that applied for a grant received a portion of the available grant funds.

Veteran Services Grant: Eligible proposals must provide direct services, at no cost to the veteran, that help improve outcomes in areas such as health or behavioral health care, housing security, employment opportunities or stability, education and training opportunities, transportation accessibility and availability, or other critical services within a community. In 2020, a total of 20 organizations received grant awards offering direct services to veterans.

If you are interested, please fill out your interest form by October 20, 2021 by using the following link:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ae471f12be784121bb452a0ecc3a525b>

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jacqueline.kemp@ODVA.Oregon.gov or (cell) 503-580-9049.

2021-2022 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

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

First Vice President

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret): 503-739-3334

Second Vice President

Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret): 1-443-996-1011

Recording Secretary

CDR Doug J. Sheehan, USCGR (Ret): 503-653-6058

Reservations Secretary

CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret): 503-381-2620

Treasurer

LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret): 971-226-7103

Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret): 503-309-7458

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

Air Force Reps

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Vacant

Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep: CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS

CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman: 503-333-4565

Women in Service Rep

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret): 503-951-1805

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

(NOTE: These meetings may be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic!)

<i>November 4, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>November 6, 2021</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)</i>
<i>December 7, 2021</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>January 2022</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
<i>February 3, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
<i>February 5, 2022</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)</i>
<i>March 5, 2022</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)</i>

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0945**—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the **December 2021 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **8 November 2021**.