



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

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

**Volume XXXIX, Number 4**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**December 2022**

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM**

**By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**

Happy holidays to you and your families! As 2023 approaches and with the coronavirus still with us, we need to take time to count our many blessings and make sure that we keep in touch with family, friends, colleagues, and chapter members. Hopefully, your New Year's Resolutions will include: (1) attending chapter meetings, (2) recruiting new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter, and (3) getting more involved in the chapter committees.

I hope that all of you will come to the **6 December 2022 Christmas/Holiday Party and Chapter Meeting**. Our theme this year is "**Celebrating the MOAA Portland Chapter**." Highlights include:

- (1) The **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2021** will be presented to the Chapter (for the fifteenth year in a row) and MOAA video "**2022 Year in Review**" will be shown.
- (2) The **John Bennett Trio** will once again play for our singing of Christmas carols, listening, and dancing pleasure!
- (3) Each member and guest will receive free raffle tickets to win **Holiday Gift Baskets and Quality Bottles of Wine** for **Membership Appreciation**
- (4) Attendees are encouraged to wear their Service Dress uniform or festive holiday attire to the meeting
- (5) Share your favorite Christmas story, inspirational saying, poem, etc. Please let me know if you would be willing to share at the meeting so I can put you on the agenda.
- (6) Remembrance of **Pearl Harbor** and **Playing of Taps**
- (7) Pay your **chapter dues for 2023** no later than the first of January. Dues are **\$30 a year** and cover 1 January-31 December 2021. Please do not wait until the Treasurer sends you an invoice. See *page 2* for payment options.

**IN MEMORIAM:  
May He Rest in Peace!**

**RADM David A. Albrecht, USN (Ret)**

**DECEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 6 December 2022**

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Phone: 503-652-1515

**PROGRAM:**

Theme: "Celebrating the MOAA Portland Chapter"

- MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence Award
- Video: "MOAA: 2022 Year in Review"
- The John Bennett Trio
- Remembrance of Pearl Harbor
- Sharing Christmas Stories, Quotes, Poems, etc.
- Singing of Christmas Carols
- Membership Appreciation Gift Baskets & Wine

**DRESS:** We encourage you to wear your Service Dress Uniform or festive holiday attire to the meeting!

**MENU:**

Winter Cranberry & Goat Cheese Salad  
Rosemary & Buttermilk Brined Turkey  
Cranberry Sauce & Creamy Turkey Gravy  
Holiday Stuffing & Chef's Roasted Vegetables  
Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes  
Fluffy Rolls with Whipped Butter  
Choice of Apple or Pumpkin Pie  
Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea

**COST: \$48.00 per person** (includes 22% gratuity and \$2 for chapter)

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

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net** **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 30 November 2022. No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we must pay for no-shows. (Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.)**

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter is happy to welcome one new Surviving Spouse member:

**Mrs. Jan E. Albrecht, PhD**

When I first sat down to write this article for the Membership Committee's input to the *Brass Bulletin*, I was stumped for a new theme or subject. I could restate the need for volunteers, quote how many new members we had secured during the year, or once again challenge the membership to get out there and sign-up some more new members. I decided not to do any of the above.

As the last few days of 2022 draw near, one word came to mind: *reflection!*

With Christmas fast approaching, it is time for a fresh beginning, a chance to start over, and a time for change. During these last days of December, we will all rush to decide what resolutions we are determined to take on in the New Year, but what if, instead of rashly choosing something to aim for, we take a few minutes to reflect on what we know about our chapter?

The MOAA Portland Chapter has become a significant and influential player in the Oregon Legislative process, thanks to the tireless efforts of the Legislative Committee. Our members have contributed monies for our on-going MOAA scholarship fund, have supported the JROTC/ROTC detachments with their cadet activities, have donated to the Biennial Oregon Women Veterans' Conference several times, and have supported several

charity projects (e.g., USO at the Portland International Airport, Oregon World War II Memorial in Salem, giving gift cards to junior enlisted personnel in the Air Force and Coast Guard at Christmas, etc.). This year, the chapter won the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for the fifteenth year in a row; this award is only given to the very best chapters in MOAA.

There is so much more that I could add, but you get the picture. Our chapter has done well, but I know we can do better particularly in the area of membership recruitment so let's see if we can surpass 2022's membership registrations. **Let's go!!**

To one and all, I wish you the best for the holidays!

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**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN  
GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2023 DUES!**  
**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Treasurer**

As of 31 October 2022, the MOAA Portland Chapter had total assets of **\$23,126.58** and a total of **163** members.

- 111 Regular Members
- 49 Surviving Spouse Members (are not required to pay chapter dues but are encouraged to do so)
- 3 Honorary Members (are not required to pay chapter dues)

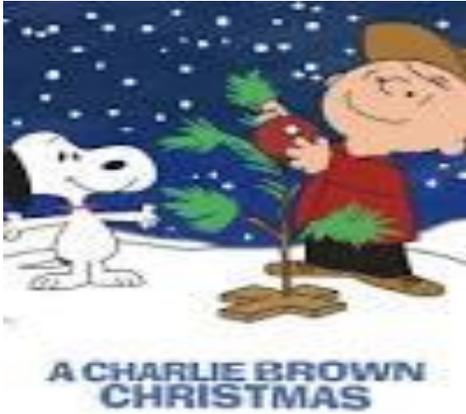
**2023 Annual Chapter Dues** are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) and are **due on or before 1 January 2023**.

There are several ways you can pay this year:

- mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213),
- having your bank mail us a check, or
- you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.

**SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER**

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



**The MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** will be held at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at the BRIX Tavern Tualatin, 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road, Tualatin, OR 97062. Phone number there is: 503-410-7553.

Spouses of Chapter members are always welcome. To make reservations, please contact **Mrs. Jan Brink** at **503-740-3345** or [jgbrink@comcast.net](mailto:jgbrink@comcast.net).

If you have made plans for a special trip or event for the new year, please be prepared to share. We would love to hear your plans and ideas.

Christmas is a special time of the year for “giving,” so let us remember to give diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront and Operation Diaper Bag. If you receive a new cell phone for Christmas, please give your old cell phone to the chapter to donate to the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

**HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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**AN OPINION PIECE:  
MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION,  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

*By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)*

**The Himars Warfare Revolution:** This heading is taken from a *Wall Street Journal* article of October 8, 2022.

I apologize, but the heading seemed perfect to the eyes of a submariner. Himars? What the heck is that?

Well, Himars is a weapon system that is having a huge impact in the ground war in Ukraine. Himars is short for the Army M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

Himars is a self-driven rocket delivery system that changes the terms of artillery battles. It is a Revolution that transforms very heavy artillery vehicles into a light, mobile force. It combines range, precision targeting, and mobility into a system that “collapses the massive logistical trail demanded by modern infantry units.” Currently, the Ukraine military has a limited number of Himars systems, but more are on the way.

The *Wall Street Journal* illustrates the advantages of a Himars system in combat. One group of two units had participated in 5 missions for one day and was preparing for dinner in the field. They are called upon to bombard another target and are under way toward a firing position in just minutes. Once on scene, 40 miles from the target, the three-man crew inserts target position coordinates, checks the rockets for readiness and fires two rockets. Before the rockets reach the target, the firing vehicle has exited its location and is on its way back to its hiding place.

The unit is back in position before the rockets hit the target, and 10 minutes later they are called for a new mission 44 miles away. The only difference is that the unit needs to reload rockets, which it accomplishes expeditiously with pre-positioned rocket replenished locations and several extra loaders. Again, within mere minutes, the units are in firing position, launch and head for safety as the rockets are in flight.

In contrast to the rapid responses provided by Himars vehicles, the Russian equivalent weapon requires some

20 minutes to set for launch, 40 minutes to reload and exhibits problematic accuracy.

The impact of Himars has been substantial. One battery destroyed 20 Russian anti-aircraft batteries in one engagement. Two other units coordinated over a 37-hour period and took out 120 Russian targets.

No Himars units have been hit to date, despite the Russian Secretary of Defense making them priority targets. There is a U.S. version of Himars that delivers a rocket 185 miles, although it has not been released to Ukraine to date.

Never heard of Himars before? Neither had I, but they are one reason why Ukraine has successfully rebuffed the initial assault by the Russians.

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***SENATOR MERKLEY'S  
OFFICE TEAMING UP WITH  
VETERANS' HISTORY  
PROJECT AND ASKING FOR  
YOUR HELP!***

Senator Merkley's office is proud to announce that they are teaming up with the [Veterans History Project](#) (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, and they are looking for volunteers to help serve Oregon's veteran community in this special way.

*About the Veterans History Project:*  
VHP was created by Congress in 2000 to collect and preserve the firsthand interviews and narratives of United States military veterans from World War I through the present so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of military service.

Currently, VHP has about 114,000 collections, and each collection

represents one veteran going back to WWI up to current collections of Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to audio and video recorded oral history interviews, VHP accepts and makes accessible memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps, and other historical documents from veterans.

VHP uses the 30-20-10 rule (only *one* of these requirements must be met):

- The video or audio recording must be at least 30 minutes long;
- *or* at least 20 pages of original narratives/memoirs, and wartime diaries or journals;
- *or* 10 or more letters, official military documents, or collections of original photos or artwork.

The collections are [accessible to all online](#), and are used by millions of researchers, authors, filmmakers, students, teachers, and more each year. High-profile projects that utilize VHP-gathered interviews include Ken Burns' *The War* and *The Vietnam War*. Learn more here about [what the Veterans History Project accepts and collects](#).

*How you can participate:*

- If you are an Oregon veteran, sit down and share your story with a family member, friend, loved one, or community member and record a conversation about your military experiences for 30 minutes or longer
- Volunteer to interview a veteran in your family or community
- Collect or donate a veteran's historical documents

The VHP website walks through [how to participate](#) with a [field kit](#) and [training video](#), which explains how the forms should be filled out, and how to prepare and conduct the interview.

*VHP Volunteering:*

Oregon veterans can participate at any time with the help of family, friends, or loved ones, but Senator Merkley's office wants to make the Veterans History Project accessible for every Oregon veteran in every community.

To achieve this mission, Merkley's office is looking to build a team of volunteers across the state who can be called upon to interview an Oregon veteran or collect their materials for submission to the Library of Congress. They will be a crucial resource for

Oregonians who would like to connect with VHP, or who need assistance conducting or recording an interview with a veteran. Senator Merkley's office will officially launch their involvement with VHP on Veterans Day, November 11. Oregon veterans or community members with questions, and those interested in conducting interviews or collecting materials from veterans, should email [VHP@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:VHP@merkley.senate.gov).

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### ***2023 TRICARE COST INCREASES***

***By Kevin Lilley***



Inflation figures which will lead to the highest cost of living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees in decades next year also will lead to significant increases in TRICARE enrollment fees, premium, and other rates.

TRICARE announced the 2023 rates Nov. 7, a week before this year's open season. Find all the rates [at this link](#); click [this link](#) for the same charts from 2022. Costs for next year's TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult plans [were announced in late August](#).

Thanks in part to MOAA's persistent advocacy, by law, many fees are indexed to the retiree COLA increase, which will be 8.7% in the new year.

MOAA defeated an alternative approach proposed by Congress and DoD which would have indexed increases to national health expenditures, resulting in consistently larger price hikes. One example of a COLA-linked increase for next year: Annual TRICARE Select enrollment fees for most Group A retirees and their families will rise to \$171.96 for individuals and \$345 for families for 2023, up from \$158 and \$317, respectively.

MOAA has worked to roll back these enrollment fees, which took effect in 2021 after being enacted in the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

TRICARE Select Group B retirees (entered service on or after Jan 1, 2018) and their families will pay annual enrollment fees of \$547.92 for individual plans and \$1,095.96 for family plans in 2023, up from \$504 and \$1,008 this year. Annual deductibles for TRICARE Select Group A remain the same year over year (\$150 individual/\$300 family), while Group B rates rose:

- **Individual in network:** \$182 (up from \$168)
- **Individual out of network:** \$365 (up from \$336)
- **Family in network:** \$365 (up from \$336)
- **Family out of network:** \$730 (up from \$672)

The annual catastrophic cap for TRICARE Select Group A retirees will rise from \$3,706 in 2022 to \$4,028 next year, and Group B retirees will see an increase from \$3,921 to \$4,262. Annual enrollment fees apply to the cap.

The catastrophic cap for TRICARE Prime Group A retirees remains at \$3,000, while Group B retirees will have a \$4,262 cap in 2023, up from \$3,921.

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### ***“THE WALL” TURNS 40: REFLECTIONS ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL***

***By Kipp Hanley***

*(This article originally appeared in the November 2022 issue of Military Officer Magazine.)*

It has been 40 years since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The dedication was held on Nov. 13, 1982. However, the gratitude the Wall elicited from Col. Pete Peterson Jr., USA (Ret), remains as powerful

today as it was when he first laid eyes on it in the mid-1980s.

“It means a lot,” said Peterson, a MOAA member and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) board member. “When we came back, we were the little redheaded stepchildren. So, when the monument popped up, I saw it as America’s way of saying we thank you for your service, we want to acknowledge that you didn’t create the war, nor did you lose it.”



Peterson was drafted in 1962, serving in special forces and artillery in his two stints in Vietnam. In his first tour of duty, he spent three months training the locals before being sent back seven years later after finishing Officer Candidate School. During each tour of duty, Peterson saw someone die in front of him. Many of those memories came flooding back when he got his first look at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

“I went down to the Wall, just me by myself, and it was quite an experience,” Peterson said. “I looked at things a little differently, and I was glad I was by myself because you unwind, you unravel. You don’t realize how much of those pent-up emotions you have stored.”

Made of polished black granite, the Wall is inscribed with the names of the more than 58,000 servicemembers who lost their lives during the war, listed in chronological order by date of casualty.

Since the Wall’s 1982 dedication, four components have been added to the memorial site: the Three Servicemen statue, a flagpole, the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, and the In Memory plaque, honoring those who died after the war ended.

Fellow VVA board member Lt. Col. Sandie Wilson, USAR (Ret), who served as a nurse in Vietnam from 1968-69, said she could not get close to the memorial the first time she visited it.

“You think about what might have happened [to you] when you see all [the] names on the Wall,” said Wilson. “It becomes very emotional knowing that those were the people we could not save.”

**Overcoming Obstacles:** While his purpose for the memorial was to honor those who fought and died, Vietnam War veteran and Wall founder Jan Scruggs never dreamed the structure would elicit the response it still does four decades later. Even today, the former Army specialist 4 (E-4) often travels from his Maryland home to the memorial, paying his respects and informally educating tourists.

“I thought it would be a novelty for the first couple of years,” Scruggs said. “A place where maybe Rolling Thunder [on Memorial Day weekend] would come down to for five years and then it would fade away. But what I found after three or four years after the memorial was built, it was everywhere. It was always on the cover of magazines, *Life* magazine, *Time* magazine. The Wall became synonymous with the Vietnam War and with the memories of people there.”

The idea of a memorial was conceived by Scruggs in the late 1970s. After a design competition, the jury selected the minimalist design of then 21-year-old Yale University senior Maya Lin.

But the memorial was never a sure thing as many powerful organizations and politicians opposed the idea right up to its construction date, said Scruggs.

“The Secretary of the Interior in March of 1982 had the construction permit, but he wouldn’t give it to me,” Scruggs said. “Thirty-two congressmen had called in

within a period of 45 minutes and said do not give them the construction permit.”

However, with support from inside the White House, the Wall was constructed. According to Scruggs, former Army officer and then White House Fellow Tom Shull told the Department of the Interior not to hold up the permit despite its 11th-hour opposition.

“We took the permit, ordered bulldozers and heavy equipment, and I told the bulldozer guy, ‘just rip the Mall up,’ ” Scruggs said.

As a representative for the National Urban League’s Veterans Affairs Committee, Brig. Gen. George Price, USA (Ret), saw the conflicting opinions of the design of the Wall firsthand at a meeting on Capitol Hill in 1982. During the meeting, someone referred to the winning design as a “black wall of shame,” which upset the African American veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. More than 7,000 African Americans died in the Vietnam War, according to the National Archives.

“That rubbed me the wrong way, so I made a statement [during the meeting] that there was nothing wrong with the color black,” said Price, a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund volunteer. “It is a color of honor. There was no reason to go on this tangent.”

A supporter of the wall design when it was still on paper, Price remains proud to be associated with the memorial to the fallen.

“I was fortunate to be a part of it, but the credit goes to Jan Scruggs and his volunteers,” Price said. “I got captured by the whole concept, and 40 years later we are still here.”

## ***2022-2023 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

## ***2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

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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**

*Vacant*

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

### **Marine Corps Rep**

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

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CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

### **USPHS**

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

### **Women in Service Rep**

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-710-1825

### **Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

### **Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)**

LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret): 508-963-1470

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

**PORTLAND CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
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P.O. BOX 18206  
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

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**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

<i>January 2023</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
<i>February 1, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
February 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
March 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 4, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 3, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
May 6, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
June 6, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom at **0800**—and ***are open to all members!***

**NOTE 3:** The newsletter takes a hiatus during January 2023. All articles for the combined ***February & March 2023 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Col **Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) by **Friday, January 6, 2023**.