



**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

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www.MOAAPortland.org

December 2023

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Happy holidays to you and your families! As 2024 approaches, and with the coronavirus and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East 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, (3) getting more involved in the chapter committees, and (4) supporting the chapter activities/charities.

I hope that all of you will plan to come to our very special **Christmas/Holiday Dinner Meeting** to be held on **Tuesday, 5 December 2023** at the **Monarch Hotel**. Our theme this year is **“Celebrating the MOAA Portland Chapter’s 67th Birthday.”** The highlight of the meeting is that the guest of honor and principal speaker will be the new MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, and his wife **Garrety**. Lt Gen Kelly will be speaking to the membership on the **“State of the Association.”** (See his picture below.)



DURING THE DECEMBER MEETING:

Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity, the **Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation Diaper Bag**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

DECEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

Social Time: 1730, Dinner Starts: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

Theme: “Celebrating 67 Yrs. of MOAA Portland Chapter”

- Guest Speaker: **Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, MOAA President and CEO
- Video: “MOAA: 2023 Year in Review”
- Presentation: MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence Award
- Membership Appreciation Gift Baskets & Wine
- Christmas/Holiday Music and Christmas Caroling

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: \$47 per person (includes 22% gratuity)
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** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 29 November 2023. 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.)**

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued from page 1)

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), is a native of New Jersey. He earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Notre Dame and holds two master's degrees, one in national resource strategy from National Defense University and another in military operational arts and sciences from Air University.

Kelly joined the Air Force in 1989, as a graduate of Notre Dame's ROTC program. In his 33-year Air Force career, Kelly served in a number of key command and staff positions, including commander, 92nd Mission Support Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.; deputy director, manpower and personnel, Multi-National Security Transition Command, Iraq; director, manpower, personnel and administration, U.S. Southern Command, Fla.; commander, 31st Mission Support Group, Aviano Air Base, Italy; commander, 501st Combat Support Wing, RAF Alconbury, U.K.; director, manpower, personnel and services, Air Combat Command, JB Langley-Eustis, Va.; director, military force management policy for deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services at the Pentagon; and commander, Air Force Personnel Center, JB San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

At the time of his service retirement in 2022, Kelly had completed 3½ years serving as the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel, and services at the Pentagon. Kelly took over as MOAA's president and CEO in January 2023.

He's part of a dual-military couple: He and his wife, former **Maj. Garrety Kelly, USAF**, met while stationed at SOUTHCOM.

As I close my comments, if you would like to help the chapter, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell). Remember: "Never Stop Serving!"

AWARD PRESENTATION TO ARMY RESERVE AMBASSADOR EMERITUS, MG CURT LOOP, USA (RET)
By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the "Order of the 88th Readiness Division" was presented to our own MOAA Portland Chapter Former Board Member, **MG Curt Loop, USA (Ret)**, on Wednesday, 15 November 2023, at Camp Withycombe. Presenting the award was **MG Matthew Baker**, Commanding General, 88th Readiness Division, Ft. Snell, MN, in honor of **MG Loop's** exceptional meritorious service as an Army Reserve Ambassador Emeritus.

Pictured below are (*left to right*): **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, MOAA Portland Chapter President; **MG Dennis Klein, USA (Ret)**, Army Reserve Ambassador Emeritus for Oregon; **MG Baker**; **MG Loop**; and **COL Bill Crist, USA (Ret)**, Army Reserve Ambassador for Oregon and MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Army Rep.



We extend sincere congratulations to **MG Loop** for all his efforts on behalf of the Army Reserve Ambassaor Program and the MOAA Portland Chapter throughout the years!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret) and Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret), Co-Membership Committee Chairs

We Membership Committee Co-Chairs often hear, “What is the value of paying dues, especially if we don’t attend meetings on a regular basis?”

We understand that life can get hectic, and attending every meeting might not always be feasible for everyone. However, we want to emphasize the importance of paying your dues, even if you can't make it to every gathering. Your contribution plays a crucial role in sustaining and strengthening our organization.

1. **Support for Our Mission:** By paying your dues, you actively support our chapter’s mission and objectives. Your financial contribution enables us to continue our work, whether it's advocating for a cause, organizing events, or providing resources to the community. Your support helps us make a positive impact, even when you can't physically attend meetings.

2. **Sustaining Our Infrastructure:** Our chapter relies on dues to maintain essential infrastructure and resources. This includes maintaining our website, administrative costs, and communication tools that keep our members informed and connected. Your dues help ensure that these resources remain available for all members, regardless of their meeting attendance.

3. **Inclusivity and Solidarity:** Paying your dues demonstrates your commitment to the chapter and the community it serves. It's a way of showing solidarity with your fellow

members and ensuring that the burden of financial support is shared equally. Your contribution helps maintain an inclusive and equitable environment for all members.

4. **Future Opportunities:** By consistently paying your dues, you help us plan for the future. It allows the chapter leadership to budget effectively and explore new opportunities for growth, outreach, and projects that can benefit our organization and its members in the long run.

5. **Personal Growth:** Even if you can't attend meetings regularly, being a dues-paying member allows you to stay connected with the chapter’s updates and resources. You may discover new opportunities or learn about valuable information that could positively impact your personal and professional growth.

In conclusion, paying your dues is not just a financial transaction but a statement of your commitment to the chapter and its goals. It helps us maintain our collective strength, serve our mission, and plan for a more prosperous future.

We understand that circumstances vary, and we appreciate your support in any form. If you have specific concerns or questions about dues, please feel free to reach out to our Membership Team. We are here to address your needs and make your membership a valuable and meaningful experience.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our MOAA Portland Chapter!



**PAY YOUR 2024 DUES BY
JANUARY FIRST!**

**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
Co-Treasurer**

2024 Annual Chapter Dues are \$30.00 (covering the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) and are **due on or before 1 January 2024**.

There are several ways you can pay this year:

- Mail a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213),
- Have your bank mail us a check,
- Pay via Zelle or VENMO, or
- 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**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Charlie Brown and Snoopy! Two of the lovable characters of Mr. Charles M. Schulz, who knew from *his earliest memories, that all he wanted to do was to “draw funny pictures.”* (November 26, 1922 – February 12, 2000). Charlie Brown’s official debut was October 2, 1950, and Snoopy’s first appearance began on October 4, 1950.

There will not be a MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter Meeting until January 2024. Mssvc02@gmail.com. As soon as the date is known, you will be informed.

Take time to check out help@everplans.com. Especially this time of year when we will be preparing for our end of the year tax issues.

Be thinking of what information you might like to share at our Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon, Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 12:00 Noon, at the **Oswego Grill**, 7 Centerpointe Drive, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

- A reminder, Chapter wives are always welcome at our luncheons.
- Call or text:
- Jan Brink: 503-740-3346 jgbrink@comcast.net
- Jean Hillman: 503-819-1042 budjean@aol.com

Remember to help those in need at the forefront, especially this time of year. **Operation_Homefront**, donate.operationhomefront.org, is in need of baby diapers and wipes. School supplies may still be needed also.

Operation Diaper Bag (503-273-5042) gathers many different baby items. Baby diapers and wipes donated by the MOAA Portland Chapter members were delivered to Operation Diaper Bag, receiving many thanks.

With the holidays coming soon, you may be receiving a new cell phone. Please remember to erase your old cell phone and bring it to Col Mayer for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

***By LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret),
Co-Legislative Committee Chair***

Latest Continuing Resolution Would Move Budget Deadline into 2024: With zero of the 12 appropriations bills needed to fully fund the government signed into law, Congress resorted to another continuing resolution (CR) to avoid a federal shutdown, with the House passing the year's second CR 336-95 on Nov. 14 and the Senate passing it 87-11 late Nov. 15, two days before the first CR expires.

The new CR, with no anticipated policy changes or spending reductions, features two distinct expiration dates extending the appropriations and authorities of the 12 FY 2023 spending bills: Jan. 19 for Agriculture, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD; and Feb. 2 for Defense, Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, Legislative Branch, and State-Foreign Operations. The White House had indicated the president will sign the legislation into law.

While MOAA supports the CR in lieu of a shutdown, relying on extensions instead of passing a full budget comes at a significant cost:

- **Underfunded programs, benefits, and services:** By extending the funding expiration dates into the new year, federal agencies overseeing the eight uniformed services lack the authorizations or funding necessary for crucial elements such as the annual military pay raise, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life programs for servicemembers and their families.

- **Time crunch:** The new expiration dates compress the timeline for federal agencies to spend funds and implement programs that will be outlined in the FY 2024 regular appropriation bills.
- **Looming budget cuts:** Failure by Congress to pass a budget by the start of the new year would pose a significant threat to all federal agencies and the programs vital to supporting the uniformed services and veteran communities. If all 12 regular appropriation bills for FY 2024 are not signed into law by Jan. 1, it would trigger an ***automatic 1% funding cut across all departments***, with no exception for DoD or the VA.

MOAA remains vigilant in monitoring Congress's progress on passing all 12 regular appropriation bills for FY 2024. Stay informed by subscribing to MOAA's weekly newsletter and visiting MOAA's Advocacy News page for the latest updates.

No More Delays – Ask Congress to Come Together to Protect Servicemembers' Pay: While Congress has completed its work on the short-term funding fix to prevent what would be a disastrous shutdown, it's long past time for lawmakers to set aside their differences and ensure all those in uniform, and all retired servicemembers, continue to receive pay during any lapse in federal funding.

The Pay Our Troops Act ([H.R. 5641](#)), and Pay Our Military Act ([H.R. 5667/S. 2835](#)) are strong starts toward this goal. Much of the text for these bills is similar to 2013 legislation necessary to ensure servicemembers were paid during previous shutdowns; the decade-old legislation applied only to the 2014 fiscal calendar and must be renewed.

Recent legislation includes protection for the Coast Guard, but unfortunately leaves out members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – an unfortunate, but common, oversight MOAA has flagged in discussions with lawmakers. It also does not address what a shutdown could mean for USPHS and NOAA retirees, who are not covered by the Military Retirement Trust Fund and could miss paychecks as a result.

The Military Coalition (TMC), of which MOAA is a founding member, is a group of 35 military and veterans service organizations (MSO/VSOs) that pools advocacy power and has continued to send a clear message to Congress to pass appropriations on time, protect servicemember pay, and improve the quality of life of those in uniform and their families.

“Many of our uniformed servicemembers are under financial stress, and endure unacceptable housing conditions and food insecurity, while our nation faces a recruiting crisis,” TMC President CW4 Jack Du Teil, USA (Ret), said. “Servicemember pay raises fell 2.6% behind the Employment Cost Index from 2014-16, and Basic Allowance for Housing was reduced 5%, all as cost-saving measures on the backs of our uniformed community. The threat of not receiving a paycheck is unacceptable for the members of our eight uniformed services.

“We urge Congress to rapidly pass the Pay our Troops Act before a lapse in appropriations. Missing a paycheck is a stress our servicemembers should not have to worry about, especially when deployed in harm’s way.”

Although a bipartisan deal on a continuing resolution (CR) has cleared the House and Senate, it is important to acknowledge these CRs are incredibly wasteful of taxpayer dollars and harmful to our national defense.

A new CR will kick the can down the road and buy time for Congress to pass the 12 appropriation bills for this fiscal year. It will also trigger automatic cuts if the federal government is not funded by the new year.

It is an important time to ask elected officials to put aside their political differences, lead by example, and keep to

the schedule. The work on appropriations should have been complete before Congress went on summer recess, and it is still incomplete. Our uniformed servicemembers do not have the luxury of going on recess or vacation when their mission is not complete, and Congress should stay in session, suspend all travel, and get the job done.

Lessening the Impact of TRICARE Fee Hikes: MOAA has long fought legislation that would burden TRICARE beneficiaries with additional costs as a way to address budget shortfalls in other areas. As Congress considered potential military health system reforms, MOAA was instrumental in:

- Locking the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission health care proposal to eliminate TRICARE and replace it with a selection of commercial health plans including monthly premiums and significantly higher out-of-pocket costs for working-age retirees.
- Grandfathering servicemembers and retirees who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018, from TRICARE retiree enrollment fee increases (\$450 individual/\$900 family for Select) and a new non-network deductible (\$300 individual/\$600 family) imposed on new entrants.
- Fighting multiple attempts to eliminate grandfathering (included in FY 2018 administration budget proposal and provisions in the Senate versions of the FY 2018 and 2019 NDAAs) which would have resulted in higher out-of-pocket costs for Group A/grandfathered retirees.



2023-2024 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

Co-Recording Secretaries

Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret): 503-698-3612

Major Paul Granada, USAF (Ret): 603-290-0232

Reservations Secretary

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

Co-Treasurers

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

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

Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Army Reps

COL William R. Crist: 503-705-6886

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

Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren: 503-780-4735

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

Coast Guard Rep:

CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS Rep:

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

NOAA Rep::

CDR Colin Kliewer: 410-212-3501

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)

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

Note: More contact info on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, www.moaaportland.org



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

<i>January 2024</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
February 3, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>February 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
March 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 6, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>May 1, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
May 4, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
June 4, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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: All articles for the **February 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **6 January 2024**.