



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

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**
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**P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268**

Volume XXXIV, Number 9

www.MOAAPortland.org

June 2018

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)



GUEST SPEAKER: The guest speaker for our June dinner meeting is a very accomplished individual—**Mr. Tyler Sibley** (see picture above), a Senior Test Pilot for the Commercial Aviation Division of Insitu, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Boeing Company, headquartered in Bingen, Washington with offices in the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Australia), who will speak to us on **"Drone Warfare."** Tyler focuses on manned and unmanned operations and is qualified to fly all Insitu's unmanned platforms.

Insitu is a pioneer in the design, development, and manufacturing of high-performance, low-cost unmanned aircraft systems used for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance in military and commercial applications.

Increasingly, Insitu provides integrated solutions of

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JUNE CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 June 2018

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

Mr. Tyler Sibley, Senior Manned/Unmanned Test Pilot for the Commercial Aviation Division of Insitu, Inc., will speak on **"Drone Warfare."**

MENU:

Northwest Salad

Beef Bourguignon

Potatoes Au Gratin

Sautéed Green Beans

Rolls and Butter

Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please

contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** at **503-974-9335** or dbredemann@comcast.net or on-line at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on**

Wednesday, 30 May 2018. No late reservations,

and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows. (Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.)

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

CPT Wilford Carey, USAR (Ret)

Lt Col Bob Turkisher, USAF (Ret)

DURING THE JUNE MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to endow a second MOAA Portland Chapter National Scholarship by the end of 2018. And please continue to bring in packages of diapers and baby wipe for **Operation Homefront**—and donate your old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

aircraft, sensors, communications, data acquisition, processing, and communications in real time applications. Such platforms are having a major impact on warfighting across a wide range of users. Insitu systems have accumulated one million flight hours, and over 130,000 sorties.

Tyler Sibley was most recently a member of Insitu's Demonstration Team and was an integral part of many notable flight demonstrations, including Unmanned Warrior 2016 and the first Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) flight in Europe.

Before that, **Tyler** was a field service representative for Insitu and completed two six-month deployments to Iraq. He went on to become a full-time pilot and operator instructor for the company, teaching students from more than 11 different countries. Prior to joining Insitu, **Tyler** was an aircraft electrician in the U.S. Navy until 2009.

Tyler has twice been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a B.S. degree in Aeronautics and Minors in Management and Aviation Safety. He is a lifetime member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and the President of EAA Chapter 1567.

CHAPTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The MOAA Portland Chapter can be very proud of its accomplishments this program year. We submitted the **MOAA National Five Star Levels of Excellence Award Application** for the eleventh consecutive year—and should receive the results in July or August. We donated **\$2,500** to the **USS Portland Commissioning Ceremony**—and

presented a check to the Commissioning Committee Chair, **Mr. Gary Piercy**, at the June 2017 meeting. We provided \$500 each to the **Oregon City High School JROTC** and **Reynolds High School JROTC**. We provided **ROTC** scholarships of \$500 each for the AFROTC cadet and AROTC cadet who won the MOAA National Awards for Outstanding Leadership at the University of Portland. We gave a set of Gold Bars to each of **28** commissioning AFROTC and AROTC cadets at the University of Portland. We heard from a variety of diverse, interesting, and educational guest speakers at our brunch and dinner meetings. In calendar year **2017**, we welcomed **19** new members to the chapter. The Surviving Spouse and chapter members continue to support Operation Homefront and the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program. We donated **\$2,500** to the **2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference** in April as scholarships to help first time women veterans with lodging and gas costs. In May 2018, our members elected to endow a second **MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship**. Our chapter “never stops serving!”



Chapter President, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) (*left*) stands in front of the MOAA Portland Chapter “Proud Bronze Sponsor” sign with Ms. Liz Estabrooks, ODVA Women Vets Coordinator, and Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret), Chapter Second Vice President and Membership Chair, at the 2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference in Sunriver, OR.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We really need volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **Membership Committee:** Major Bill Tidd needs a few more volunteers to contact potential new chapter members from the MOAA National Prospective Members' Listing.

- **Coast Guard Rep: CDR Ron Youngman** is stepping down from the board after many years, so I am looking for a replacement for him.

2018-2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS:

I look forward to continuing to serve as your Chapter President for the 2018-2019 program year and leading our dynamic and innovative chapter leadership team.

A big thanks to the following who are continuing in their current officer positions: **Larry Roberts, Bill Tidd, Roy Raat, George Peters, and Myrna Trull!** And kudos goes to **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** for stepping up to take over the **Reservations Secretary** position—while **Dave Bredemann** moves over to serve as the second Navy rep on the chapter board of directors.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

Finally, “many hands make light work,” and I would like to see more members “step forward” to help on our various committees. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or **310-897-1902** (cell).

TREASURER’S REPORT

By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)

As of 6 May 2018, the MOAA Portland Chapter has overall assets of **\$19,169.12** and a total of **206** members: 108 members have paid chapter dues through 2018, 10 members have paid through 2019, and 3 members have paid through 2021. There are 7 Surviving Spouses who have paid dues for 2018; 44 Surviving Spouses have not paid (but are not required). Our two Voices for America’s Troops have paid their dues for 2018. And, finally, we have three Honorary Members who are not required to pay dues.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

The Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new member:

CPT David C. Molina, USA (Former)

One of the things I constantly hear is “*Why Do I want to stay a member of the Portland Chapter when I rarely attend the meetings?*” There are a lot of reasons! First and foremost is the many efforts and programs that are pursued by the chapter in direct support of the military community. The Portland Chapter has raised funds sufficient enough to endow one and 90% of another national scholarship, donated to the *USS Portland Commissioning Ceremony*, helped with the establishment of the PDX USO, and helped sponsor the 2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference in Sunriver. The chapter also provides substantial scholarships to the local ROTC and JROTC Detachments for leadership training. Surviving Spouse Liaison has provided comfort and cards to the families of recently deceased members and is constantly in touch with anyone who is sick or in distress. The second reason that you should support the chapter with your membership is the monetary impact your membership has on the chapter as a whole. Believe me, numbers do count when it comes to MOAA National reimbursement. Look at the type of incentives the chapter receives from MOAA Headquarters.

- \$10 for each new incentive qualified chapter membership.
- \$15 for each new Premium member and \$30 for each new life member.
- ***\$250 retention incentive awarded to chapters that retain 80% or more of their membership.***
- \$50 for updated membership rosters submitted by March 1 each year.

I could go on and on about how insignificant **\$25** is when one considers what one spends on food, beverages, and entertainment each year. I could list many more activities that the Portland Chapter is involved in; however, I would like to finish with just a simple idea. We, as officers, made the commitment to serve our country out of respect, patriotism, and a sense of honor. Therefore, I challenge you to follow MOAA’s tag phrase: “***Never Stop Serving.***”

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

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Good News on Medicare Cards: One of the continuing irritations in my life is the need to show a Medicare card at many medical offices. One should not carry a current Medicare card because it has your name and Social Security number. If it is lost or stolen, you are very exposed to identity theft. For that reason, I store my card at home and bring it with me whenever I believe it will be required.

Now the good news, minor though it may be! A new Medicare identification card is ready for a 12-month rollout, starting this month. The new version will NOT have your Social Security number. Rather, it will have a randomly generated identifier number consisting of 11 digits. Thus, carry it with you with no risk.

Luckily, Oregon residents are among the first to receive cards. If all goes as planned, we should have new cards by the end of June. And since plans are often found to be wanting, remember Cover Oregon, the current card will be accepted through December 31, 2019. That is over 1.5 years for Medicare to get it right.

Now, the cautionary news. Scammers are already at work making cold calls requesting personal information under several pretexts, and/or payment for the card, which is, of course, free.

If a caller asks for information, for money, or threatens to cancel your Medicare insurance, hang up and call **1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227)**. Alternatively, call the AARP fraud help line, **1-877-8-3360**.

An Improved Retiree Dental/Vision Program is Coming: The current Tricare

Retiree Dental Program coverage is terminating at the end of calendar 2018. It will be replaced by plans from 10 carriers under the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Program, known as FEDVIP. We can all begin reviewing program options right now by going to opm.gov/fedvip.

Enrollment occurs during the fall from November 12 to December 10. Coverage takes effect on January 1, 2019.

FEDVIP is available to all who qualified for the Tricare Retiree Dental Program. Separately, one can also enroll in FEDVIP Vision coverage.

For more information, visit www.tricare.benefeds.com and also sign up for email notifications. You will then receive an email when new information is available and as key dates loom.

All indications are that the replacement of the current plan will be a distinct improvement for Tricare beneficiaries.

Thanks to Chapter member Bill Kroger for forwarding the above information. We will try to keep up to date as the program change evolves.

COLA Keeps Trending Up: While the reported Consumer Price Index for March was down by 0.2% month to month, the unreported but relevant price index actually rose by a minuscule .2%. Thus, the 6-month cola index rose by a substantial 1.61%. This compares with a rise of approximately 1.1% in the comparable 2017 period.

If one were to simplistically just double the 6-month increase to estimate full year results, the expectation would be a final cola of 3.2%, which compares with the actual 2017 cola of 2.2%.

However, one does not know what the actual second 6-month data will be. Net, we are off to a good start, and it would be reasonable to anticipate a 2019 cola to exceed that of the current year. Looks like wage growth is starting to exceed overall inflation numbers, which is what would be expected in a mature economic expansion. We will keep you apprised.

**ENDOWING A SECOND
PORTLAND CHAPTER MOAA
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP By
CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**

At the May board meeting, the directors voted to devote funds raised through our monthly raffles to complete the endowment of a SECOND Portland Chapter Scholarship. We currently need just \$1,176 to establish a separate national scholarship funded with \$25,000 contributed by chapter members over the last few years. We expect to complete the effort this fall!

You may recall that we funded the initial MOAA National Scholarship in less than four years of dedicated effort, aided by several substantial contributions by individual Chapter members. This took much less time than we had earlier anticipated. Moreover, MOAA National started naming Designated Scholars for the Chapter Scholarship the very first year of our fund raising.

We have been blessed by the several Designated Scholars we have assisted. The most recent, **Hannah Jewess**, is just about to graduate from the Colorado School of Mines. Interestingly, her older brother also was a MOAA Scholarship winner, before her family moved to Oregon City. Hannah’s dad is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Captain and a brand-new member of our Chapter.

Preceding Hannah, our Scholarship supported **Sara Hays** through four years of undergraduate study. She is presently in medical school at OHSU, where she is about to complete her first year.

The second Chapter Scholarship will double our impact on the children and families of our military colleagues, many of whom are serving when their children are in college.

Since we have so many members who were not in the chapter when we got involved in the MOAA National Scholarship Program, I will summarize why this is a very worthwhile utilization of our funds. The MOAA Scholarship program is almost unique in that annual scholarships are mostly in the form of zero interest loans, supplemented by smaller grants. Typically, the annual loan is \$5,000, with another \$500 in a grant periodically. Repayment of the accrued loan begins when a student graduates, although repayment is deferred if the individual goes on to graduate school, such as Sara Hays. Since the interest rate is zero, there is no financial penalty for going on to graduate study. Thus, the Scholarship Fund is self-renewing, or an “Evergreen Fund.” Long after each of us is gone, our fund will be assisting deserving students.

MOAA manages the entire program at no cost, so it is an incredibly efficient way to convert our contributions into student assistance. The Scholarship Fund corpus is professionally managed and overseen by an investment committee, so this is managed very closely. Last, as compared to federally managed student loan programs, which see default rates in the teens, the MOAA fund has a default rate under 1%, as you might hope and expect where the recipients are the children of military officers.

So, there is an update. It is another worthy recipient of our charitable dollars raised through the raffle system. For those so inclined to write off charitable contributions, you might want to contribute checks to the raffle rather than cash. Just write a check to the “Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund.” MOAA will send you a receipt which can be utilized when you file your tax returns. For future reference, all of our prior raffle money’s have been donated to charitable organizations.

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

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

Our April MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Spring Luncheon had seven in attendance. Although small in number, it was a joyous occasion with lots of good discussion. As usual, everyone received chocolate candy brought in by Mrs. Carol Patrick; there was enough for our volunteer servers also.

Please mark your calendars for our next luncheon as it will be our last until October. (We take a summer break).

It will be held on **Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 12:00 noon**, in the **Main Dining Room at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232**. Chapter wives are cordially invited.

***Please note the day change** as we usually meet on Tuesdays.

If you have food allergies, please call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at **503-231-0216** and arrange to have an alternate meal choice compatible with your dietary limitations.

For reservations, call or e-mail **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**

Please continue to bring diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and used cell phones for the **"Cell Phones for Soldiers Program."**

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

REPORT By Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)

The **Air Force ROTC Dining Out** took place on 19 April 2018 at the Commons at the University of Portland, with 150-200 people in attendance. The guest speaker was Detachment Commander **Colonel**

Scott Peel, USAF. He spoke about the need for military officers to make decisions based upon the best information available. Inaction can result in failure even when subsequent events dictate the outcome may not be what the officer intended. At the conclusion of his speech, he announced his retirement after a career of 29 years in the Air Force; he is well-respected by the AFROTC community and will be missed. **Awards** were presented by 18 military and patriotic organizations. Our Chapter President, **Colonel Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, presented our **MOAA Award to Cadet Nicholas McHatton**, who was one of the Masters of Ceremony for the evening. When **Col Mayer** also announced that our Chapter was giving **Cadet McHatton** a scholarship check for \$500, there was a very positive reaction from the audience. **Colonel Mayer** also presented the 10 commissioning cadets with their first sets of Gold Bars. The career fields of the new Second Lieutenants are: **Joseph Baumann** (Pilot), **Steven Call** (Cyber Officer), **Daniel Colton** (Air Battle Manager), **Madison Kelly** (Space Officer), **Phillip Lavoie** (Combat Systems Officer), **Jacob San Agustin** (Combat Systems Officer), **Nicholas Scacciotti** (Pilot), **Savon Sengsavanh** (Combat Systems Officer), and **Samuel Swanson** (Public Affairs Officer). Attending this event from the MOAA Portland Chapter were: **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)**; **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**; **Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)**; and **Mrs. Kathryn MacEllven**.

The **Army ROTC Dining Out** took place on 4 May 2018 at the Airport Sheraton, with over 250 people in attendance. The guest speaker was **COL James Lovejoy, USA (Ret)**, a retired JAG officer. His speech was titled: *"Top 10 Benefits of Military Service"*. Much of his talk was drawn from humorous situations faced by the many members of his extended family who are serving or had served. His point about the opportunity to manage a large number of persons when you are relatively young is very true. **Awards** were presented by more than 20 military and patriotic organizations. **Captain Doug MacEllven** presented our **MOAA Award to Cadet Daniel Prior**. He was surprised that our award included our Chapter's check for \$500 to facilitate his continuing university studies. We were the only organization presenting a check, and **Mrs. Kathryn MacEllven** reported that the audience was very animated upon hearing about the scholarship assistance. **Captain MacEllven** presented the commissioning cadets with their first sets of Gold Bars.

These new Second Lieutenants enter their new duties in a variety of ways:

- Active Duty: **Erin Adelman** (Nursing), **Kristin Bean** (Nursing), and **Nina Sackett** (Military Police).
- National Guard: **Patrick Barrier** (Field Artillery), **Elizabeth Biggs** (Quartermaster), **Taylor Paschall** (Engineer Corps), **David Stevens** (Armor), and **Thailer Tanatchangsang** (Infantry).
- Army Reserve: **Patrick Grace** (Adjutant General) and **Justin Klein** (Engineer Corps)
- Educational Delay: **Tsikata Apenyo** (Fulbright Scholar, commission June 2019), **Koa Bartsch** (Chaplain Corps), **Alexys Bermudez** (Medical Corps), **Abigail Brown** (social work major, commission Sept 2018), **Andrew Mueller** (applied health & fitness major, commission Sept 2018), and **Christian Wells** (Medical Corps)

Detachment Commander **LTC Dennis McGee, USA** asked **Captain MacEllven** to stay on the floor after awarding Gold Bars to the 18 commissioning cadets so that he could say words of praise about the contribution of the MOAA Portland Chapter. In his final address to the Army ROTC community, **LTC McGee** announced that he has received a new assignment to South Korea. His dedication to the student/cadet community is well appreciated, and he will be missed.

The **Army Junior ROTC Career Spotlight Day** was again held at Oregon City High School on 18 April 2018 with about 30 speakers in attendance, including two of our Chapter members: **Major Bill Tidd** and **Captain Doug MacEllven**. Each speaker was given a classroom to which students came after signing up for the topic. **Bill Tidd** gave an open-ended presentation answering questions on all matters aeronautical and on jet aircraft.

Doug MacEllven spoke on working while being a student during three levels of college. Next year, the format will be two or three 30-minute sessions so that students can visit multiple topics and not be limited to one speaker.

The **Army JROTC Awards Ceremony** was held at Oregon City High School (OCHS) on 1 May 2018. **Captain Doug MacEllven** presented the **MOAA Leadership Award** (medal & certificate) to **Cadet 1st Sergeant Brenden Christian**, who has been selected as Cadet Battalion Commander for the next school year. He gave a fine acceptance speech where he announced that a goal is expanding the cadet membership to about 150 in a school of 2,000 students. About 20 organizations gave awards, but, with only 6 of the organizations sending presenters, **Captain MacEllven** was able to tell the audience about some of MOAA's activities. The JROTC students are serious and dignified. Their Detachment Commander [our Chapter member **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**] focuses on developing the cadets' sense of personal responsibility and good citizenship, in addition to military skills.

The **Army JROTC Awards Ceremony** will be held at Reynolds High School on 1 June 2018. The Detachment Commander is our own Chapter member, **CWO4 Rick Fernandez, USA (Ret)**. **Captain MacEllven** will be presenting the **MOAA Leadership Award** to **Cadet 1st Lt Angelika Dorokhov**.

At the **MOAA Portland Chapter June dinner meeting**, we will present the two JROTC Commanders with Chapter checks for **\$500** each (\$700 from our budget and \$300 from the USAA community projects award to us). OCHS uses this financial award to send a cadet to the Pacific Northwest Leadership Conference at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington at the end of the school year. That cadet will report back to our Chapter at our Christmas dinner meeting in December.

Stand-Downs: **Captain Doug MacEllven** (ROTC information) and **Major Bill Tidd** (MOAA membership information) staffed a MOAA table at veterans' fairs and events. We attended smaller events in April at Marylhurst University and Hood River County, but larger events will be held in the coming months (Portland, East County, Washington County, and Columbia County).

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

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**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your calendars!**

July and August 2018 *No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meetings*

August 2, 2018 *Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)*

September 4, 2018 *Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)*

October 6, 2018 *Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)*

November 3, 2018 *Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)*

November 8, 2018 *Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)*

December 4, 2018 *Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)*

January 2019 *No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting*

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0930**—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the ***September 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **6 August 2018**.