



**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

June 2024

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

As the 2023-2024 Program Year comes to a close, this year has been an exceptional one for the chapter. Just to prove the point, on 2 May 2024, I was made aware that the chapter had been awarded the **MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2023**, the 17th consecutive year that we have earned this prestigious honor which is the highest recognition that MOAA National awards an affiliate. Earning this award is a team effort, and I want to thank the officers, board members, committee chairs, and the membership for all their generosity, caring, hard work, and dedication.

Our chapter leadership will soon start planning for the 2024-2025 Program Year, which begins in September 2024 and ends in June 2025. We want to make sure that you, the members, are getting what you need from your MOAA Portland Chapter. So, to help us out, we are asking every member to fill out a **MOAA Portland Chapter Membership Survey**, telling us what you like about the chapter and letting us know how we can improve! The survey is short, with mostly multiple-choice questions – so it should not take you long to fill it out. *Please email or mail the survey back to me ASAP.* If you have any questions, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell).

As June is our last meeting for the 2023-2024 Program Year, I encourage as many of you to attend as possible – and bring some potential members with you!

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Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800
on Wednesday, 7 August 2024
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

JUNE CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 4 June 2024

Social Time: 1730, Meeting Starts:1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

Dr. Gordon Rudd, Professor of Strategic Studies, U.S. Marine School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), will speak to us on **“The Changing Nature of War.”**

MENU:

Field Greens Salad

Bavette Steak with Onions and Peppers

Coconut Lime Rice

Aji Amarillo Sauce

Queso Fresco

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea

COST: \$44 per person (includes 22% gratuity)

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

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 May 2024. 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.)**

DURING THE JUNE 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 Homefront** and **Operation Diaper Bag** —and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

Program: Turning to the **Program** for the June Dinner Meeting, our guest speaker will be **Dr. Gordon W. Rudd**, Professor of Strategic Studies, U.S. Marine School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW) since January 1998, who will speak to us on **“The Changing Nature of War.”**



Prior to working with SAW, Dr. Rudd spent two years (1996-1998) as Professor of Strategic Studies with the U.S. Marine Command and Staff College. During the period 2003-2004, he was detached for nine months to serve as field historian in Iraq with Office of Reconstruction & Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

From 1972 to 1995, he served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army. He has had troop service in infantry, airborne, mech, and Special Forces formations. He has served as a Joint Service Officer (JSO) and Foreign Area Officer (FAO). Overseas assignments include Panama, Lebanon, Israel, Korea, Iraq, Bosnia, and Turkey. His operational experience includes participation in Lebanon 1984-85 (UNTSO), northern Iraq 1991 (PROVIDE COMFORT), and Bosnia 1994 (UNPROFOR). His military training and

education courses include Infantry Basic and Advanced Courses; Ranger, Special Forces, Scuba, and HALO courses; DLI – French; USA Command & General Staff Course (non-res); USN Command & Staff Course (resident).

In addition to his full-time teaching, Dr. Rudd has taught military history courses at the Darden School of Business of the University of Virginia and for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. While at SAW, he has taught classes at the Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Marine Corps War College.

He is the author of *Humanitarian Intervention: Assisting the Iraqi Kurds in Operation Provide Comfort*, 1991, published in 2004, and *Reconstructing Iraq: Regime Change, Jay Garner, and the ORHA Story*, published in 2010.

Dr. Rudd earned his doctorate in history from Duke University in 1993. He earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Virginia Polytechnic & State University in 1972. He has earned master's degrees from the Naval War College (1988), Duke University (1990), and St. John's College (1999).

As I close my comments, I would like to wish all of you a very happy and productive summer! And, once again, I would like to see members “step forward” to volunteer with the myriad chapter duties and responsibilities. If you would like to help the chapter, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell). Remember: “Never Stop Serving!”

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**By CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, NC, USN (Ret),
Co-Membership Committee Chair**

It's nice to be back home in Portland; however, the weather hasn't been good since we've returned from San Diego. It promises to turn around in the next few days, so looking forward to that. It was nice to see everyone at the May brunch and the enthusiasm of many to make recruitment a priority. We certainly do appreciate everyone's willingness to assist with developing a strong recruitment model. This month, we're going to piggyback onto last month's membership article on recruitment and dig deeper into

generational differences in persona and what MOAA provides to each. Hopefully, this will help you focus your recruitment approach for each age group.

20- to 30-year-old - Junior officer starting life: MOAA helps to get their lives off to a great start. **Markers:** Exciting “firsts” (marriage, baby, house), deployment, stains of war, high divorce rate, one-tour of duty/forced out due to draw downs, questioning military life as a career, allegiance to other Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, wired, media savvy, proactive, activists. **MOAA provides:** 1) Military professionalism, 2) Transition services – resume’ reviews and virtual job fairs, 3) Financial guidance and products, 4) Spousal professional development.

31- to 45-year-old - Mid-grade officer/family life: MOAA helps to meet the needs of their family. **Markers:** Pragmatic, skeptical, more earning potential, “trading up” homes, saving (or not saving) for college and retirement, “sandwich generation”, possibly more deployment, injury, career instability or dissatisfaction, divorce, geobachelors, wired, possibly transitioning out of active duty to service in the National Guard or reserves. **MOAA provides:** 1) Military professionalism, 2) Transition services including spouse programs, 3) Life insurance, 4) Guidance in using civilian insurance, 5) Interest-free loans and grants for children.

46- to 59-year-old - Senior office/transitional life: MOAA helps them to refocus and thrive. **Markers:** Second and non-military careers, reinventing themselves, mind/body wellness-focused, retirement concerns, benefits eroding, spouse in workforce. **MOAA provides:** 1) Transition services including financial/benefit guidance, 2) Advocacy against retirement threats, 3) VA claims

assistance, 4) Health insurance, 5) Health insurance, 5) Interest-free loans and grants for children.

60- to 70-year-old – Early retiree/retired life: MOAA helps them retire the way they envisioned. **Markers:** Original activists, idealistic, retiring later, stretching savings, downsizing, increasingly wired, illness prevention, caring for elderly parents. **MOAA provides:** 1) Travel services, 2) Healthcare guidance – TRICARE to Medicare, 3) Healthcare advocacy, 4) Wealth planning.

70+ year old - Fully retired/hard worked life: MOAA honors their service and keeps them connected to their military family. **Markers:** Patriotic, fond memories, spouses/friends dying, depression, isolation, chronic health concerns, financial difficulties (especially among widows). **MOAA provides:** 1) Access to grassroots advocacy efforts, 2) Camaraderie through local chapters, 3) Publications, 4) Support for spouses and families who have lost an officer.

Former Officers - MOAA helps well beyond their military careers. **Markers:** Have left the military for various reasons – spouse may desire a more stable living environment, officer may have developed negative views of the military, may want to reconnect with family and friends, may have served out a planned amount of time. Interested in the products and services MOAA provides, but less interested in legislation and lobbying efforts as they don’t directly apply to them anymore. **MOAA provides:** 1) Advocacy - GI Bill training improvements-you have 10 years to use the GI Bill, Tax credits for employers to hire veterans, 2) Career transition services, 3) Financial guidance, 4) Travel discounts, 5) Community and camaraderie through local chapters.

Spouse - MOAA honors their steadfast commitment. **Markers:** Uncertainty and fear about “what’s next” in term of spouse’s assignments and potential deployment, difficulty putting down roots in a community, different schools and routines for children, careers often put on hold, sacrifices made to support spouse, financial matters fall on their shoulders. In essence, spouses are serving the military alongside their servicemembers and want to be viewed and respected for their tremendous and selfless efforts. **MOAA provides:** 1) Advocacy to support military

families, 2) Publications-State Report Card and Military Family Legislative Action Guide, 3) Spouse career resources and relocation information, 4) Military Spouse Symposia, 5) MOAA insurance plans.

60+ Surviving Spouse –

Markers: For older spouse, dwindling support system and burdened or confused by tasks he or she has never had to deal with, like financial matters. In essence, spouses are serving the military alongside their servicemembers and want to be viewed and respected for their tremendous and selfless efforts. **MOAA provides:** 1) Advocacy to support serving spouses, 2) Publications-Help You Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead, Auxiliary Checklist, and Military Officer magazine, 3) Travel discounts, 4) MOAA insurance plans, 5) Community and camaraderie through local chapters.

The above guidance was taken from MOAA's Membership and Marketing Update and is another way to think about recruiting and supplementing your already excellent efforts. Hope it helps. Please bring at least one guest (potential member) to our June dinner meeting since this will be the last opportunity before our summer recess. And definitely call me at 320-766-0808 if you have any ideas for a recruiting visit or would like to organize one. Enjoy your summer and let's take advantage of the nice weather to get out and about promoting our MOAA chapter.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Here are the legislative issues that MOAA will be focusing on with Congress this year.

- **The Veterans Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.** (Senate Bill 3885)

The bill would allow for the study of the feasibility creating a pathway for caregivers to contribute to their own Social Security and personal retirement accounts, provide employment benefits and transition assistance, and extend CHAMPVA health care coverage for primary caregivers.

- **Elizabeth Dole Home-and Community-Based Service for Veterans and Caregivers Act.** (House Resolution 542 & Senate Bill 141). This bill would help veterans and their caregivers transition between caregiver support programs, assess the level of care they need, expand mental health services, and coordinate between Veterans and their families and veterans support organizations (VSO) such as MOAA.
- **Expanding Veterans Options for Long Term Care Act.** (House Resolution 1815 & Senate Bill 495). This legislation would allow the VA to launch a pilot program to look for the effectiveness of paying for assisted-living services. Currently the VA is unable to pay for room or board expenses at these facilities.
- **Veterans Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform (CARE) Act.** (Senate Bill 1792 and House Resolution 4518). The bills would allow VSO's and non-profit organizations operating in the veteran and caregivers sphere to advocate for that population within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The Care Act would provide a standardized process for training organizations to assist caregivers and veterans in navigating VA programs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Go to the MOAA website (www.moaa.org), click on "Take Action," pick the topic(s) you want to support, and you will get a written letter to your Member of Congress that will be sent with your name attached.

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

**COL Neil E. Saling, Jr., USA (Ret)
MOAA Life Member**

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



Here we are at **June** -- halfway through 2024. Time does fly by...

June 6, Anniversary of the **D-Day landing at Normandy**. **June 12**, **Women's Veterans Day**, **June 14**, **Flag Day** to celebrate the adoption of our U.S. flag. **June 16**, **Father's Day**. A few fun days: **June 7**, **National Chocolate Ice Cream Day**, **June 13**, **International Axe Throwing Day**, (*this is harder than it looks!*) **June 21**, longest day of the year.

An informative article on TRICARE For Life, (TFL), can be downloaded from the MOAA Website, ADVOCACY IN ACTION. Please take time to read this article. There is an MOAA contact : Karen Ruedlsuell, Director, Health Affairs, KarenR@moaa.org or 703.838.8164.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SVCC) continues to grow. You will be able to talk with and discuss issues with others from all over our United States. mssvc02@gmail.com

Our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Summer Luncheon** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 12:00 Noon**, at the de Fuego

Taqueria Restaurant at The Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Avenue, Clackamas, OR 97015 . We will be able to dine outside. There is plenty of parking. If you would like to attend, please call, text or e-mail: Mrs. Jan Brink: 503-740-3346, jgbrink@comcast.net or Mrs. Jean Hillman:503-819-1042, budjean@aol.com

The MOAA Portland Chapter assists the following organizations during the year: **Operation Homefront**, with baby diapers and wipes: **donate. Operation Homefront.org**, **Operation Diaper Bag** gathers many different items: 503-273-5042 for the list of needed items. Did you receive a new phone recently? Please bring your old cell phones to Col Mayer for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**. Thank you for your assistance in these programs.

MINUTES FROM THE 4 MAY 2024 CHAPTER MEETING

By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **28** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0930**.
- President Mayer made opening remarks, noting that May is National Military Appreciation Month and welcomed the guest speaker, **LT Connor A. Russell, USCG**, Response Ashore Office, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River.
- President Mayer led the pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem led by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**. The chapter chaplain, **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)**, gave the Invocation.
- Brunch was served.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, President Mayer formally introduced the guest speaker, **LT Connor A. Russell, USCG**, who gave a presentation on "High Crimes and Misdemeanors in the Columbia River Sector." LT Russell discussed the organizational structure and missions of the USCG in the Pacific NW, as well as incident response and search and rescue examples. He discussed the intensive training provided by the Coast Guard and finished with current planning for

natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Afterwards, there was an extensive question and answer session. President Mayer thanked LT Russell and presented him with a gift.

BUSINESS SESSION CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- **President Mayer** announced that on 2 May 2024 she had been advised that the **MOAA Portland Chapter** had been awarded the prestigious **MOAA Five-Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2023**. This makes the 17th consecutive year of winning this coveted award. President Mayer thanked all officers, board members, committee chairs, and the membership for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.
- **President Mayer** announced highlights of the 1 May 2024 Chapter Board of Director's Meeting:
- The MOAA Portland Chapter is in the black financially, except for payment of annual membership dues.
- Membership recruiting is important, and a challenge was given to all members to bring at least one guest to the next chapter meeting on **Tuesday, 4 June 2024**.
- President Mayer noted that **COL Bob Windus, USAR (Ret)** recently retired as ESGR Committee Chair. We are now looking for a replacement for him.
- President Mayer reminded members of several upcoming events:
 - **MOAA Monthly Chapter Leader Roundtable**, 30 May 2024 (Virtual)
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**, 7 August 2024 (Virtual)
 - **MOAA West Workshop**, 15-16 Nov 2024, Reno NV
- **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Dept of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)**

Meeting, 5 June 2024, in-person, Salem OR (need to RSVP)

- **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**, 13 July 2024 (Virtual)

Membership Committee Report: CAPT Chicky McKinzie, USN (Ret) reported that all members should complete the Membership Survey by 17 May 2024 and return it to President Mayer. She also reiterated the need to bring in new potential members to our next chapter meeting on 4 June 2024.

Fundraising Committee Report: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) stated that we are making progress on our current fundraising project, a commitment of \$5,000 towards the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial on the Grounds of the Capitol in Salem, OR. The chapter has raised \$3,429.54 to date. He projected us to have the full amount by the end of this calendar year.

Legislative Committee: President Mayer noted that MOAAA's Advocacy in Action (AIA) event on 15-18 April 202 had a contingent of 225 people who contacted every congressional office to advocate for the following three issues: concurrent receipt, full housing allowance, and TRICARE for Life. She commented that the Legislative Committee members will follow-up on these issues by contacting US Senators and Congressmen in August when they are in Oregon. To make their voices heard to our legislators, members should go to the MOAA website and check the [Legislative Action Center](#).

Surviving Spouse Report. Mrs. Jean Hillman commented that a Surviving Spouse Luncheon is being planned for Wednesday, 19 June 2024 at 1200 noon at the de Fuego Taqueria Restaurant at The Monarch Hotel.

Personal Affairs Committee: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): Since the last meeting, President Mayer noted that **COL Neil Saling, Jr., USA (Ret)** passed away 16 December 2023.

Special Events Committee Report. President Mayer reported that the 2024 Leadership Awards were presented to Air Force ROTC **Cadet Dustin J. Kelly** and Army ROTC **Cadet Rakesh Sudebi** at the University of Portland on 18 April 2024. **LCDR**

Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret) presented 30 Gold Bars to AROTC and AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland on 18 April 2024.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- The wine raffle raised **\$315**. Raffle winners were: **MajGen Dan O’Hollaren, USAF (Ret); LtCol Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret); CAPT Dave Todd, USN (Ret); Mrs. Jean Hillman;** and **MAJ Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret).**
- **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **LT Connor A. Russell, USCG;** all those who attended the meeting; **Mrs. Nancy Menagh** for providing the table decorations; and the staff of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the meal and service. She also recognized the Women’s Army Corps, founded 82 years ago on 15 May 1942, and wished all the mothers a Happy Mother’s Day! The next chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at The Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, OR. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Gordon Rudd**, Professor of Strategic Studies, U.S. Marine School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), who will speak to us on **“The Changing Nature of War.”** The meeting adjourned at **1135**.

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:

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

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

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
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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
July – August 2024	No chapter meetings scheduled
<i>August 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
September 3, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 5, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
November 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>November 6, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
December 3, 2024	Christmas/Holiday Party (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 **September 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 August 2024**.