



**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 XL, Number 6-7

www.MOAAPortland.org

March-April 2024

MARCH CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 2 March 2024

Social Time: 0830; Meeting Starts: 0930
The Aerie at Eagle Landing
10220 SE Causey Avenue
Happy Valley, OR 97086
Phone: 503-698-8020

PROGRAM:

Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret), Executive Vice President of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), will speak on the “**B-21 Raider: A Multi-Purpose Air & Space Capability for Our National Security.**”

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Tillamook Cheese
Roasted Potatoes
Bacon
Breakfast Sausage
Seasonal Sliced Fruit
Assorted Pastries
Coffee, Decaf, Hot Team, and Orange Juice

COST: \$33.00 per person (includes 23% gratuity)
Please make check payable to: MOAA-PDX

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 February 2024**. See Michael’s contact information and more info near the **end of the second column on this page**.

Reminder:

The Chapter Board of Directors Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800 on Wednesday, 1 May 2024 via Zoom Video Teleconference

APRIL CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 6 April 2024

Social Time: 0830, Meeting Starts: 0930
The Aerie at Eagle Landing
10220 SE Causey Avenue
Happy Valley, Oregon 97086
Phone: 503-698-8020

PROGRAM:

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret), Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Portland State and Western Oregon Universities, will speak on “**Nuclear Politics.**”

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Tillamook Cheese
Roasted Potatoes
Bacon
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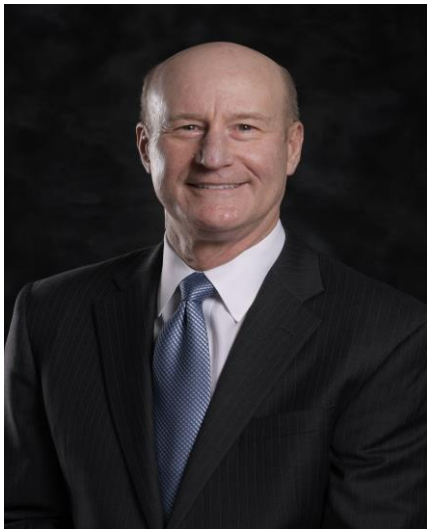
RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 April 2024**. **No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we must pay for no-shows.** (*Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.*)

DURING THE MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS: 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

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF
(Ret)

The **Program Committee** has provided two dynamic and knowledgeable guest speakers for the March and April 2024 chapter meetings. *In **March***, our guest speaker is **Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret)**, Executive Vice President of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), who will speak on the “**B-21 Raider: A Multipurpose Air and Space Capability for Our National Security.**”



Maj Gen Raaberg

Doug Raaberg is responsible for the strategic operations of the Association. He retired from the United States Air Force as a Major General where he led the most advanced air, space, and cyber operations in support of U.S. and international forces.

Doug is a member of the Terran Orbital Corporation board of directors; a leading manufacturer of small satellites primarily serving the United States and Allied aerospace and defense industries. He is an independent director member and serves on the audit and compensation committees. He is also an advisory board member of Atomic-6, an advanced composites manufacturing firm.

Raaberg is a 2020 graduate of the prestigious Lead Virginia program for experienced leaders and talented professionals.

Doug has 40 years of experience shaping leading edge concepts into operational reality and value creation for the customer. In his international position as Chief Executive for Northrop Grumman in the United Arab Emirates, he managed a new multi-national office that integrated a \$500 million portfolio of four corporate sectors into a country-focused effort. His innovative five-year strategic plan expanded into a \$2 billion pipeline of business opportunities.

He joined Northrop Grumman in 2010 to run the \$10B U.S. Air Force business development efforts for the company's Aerospace Sector. His general officer assignments included Chief Operating Officer of Air and Space Operations for Air Combat Command. Additionally, he has extensive experience in international military affairs orchestrating regional operations as the Deputy Director of Operations for U.S. Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Doug commanded the nation's only B-2 stealth-bomber wing that spearheaded the air campaign for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He is a combat veteran and holds the world's record for the fastest non-stop flight around the globe. For this historic aerial achievement in the B-1 bomber his crew received the Mackay Trophy for the U.S. Air Force Most Meritorious Flight of the Year. The trophy is on display in the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum.

He is an Honor Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and holds master's degrees from the University of Southern California and National War College. Doug is a senior advisor to the Council for a Strong America on Mission: Readiness in Washington DC and a Falcon Foundation Trustee to the United States Air Force Academy Falcon Foundation.

*In **April***, our guest speaker is **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)**, Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Portland State and Western Oregon Universities, who will speak on “**Nuclear Politics.**”

Christopher Owens grew up in Oregon. After graduating from Portland State University in 1982, he earned a commission in the Marine Corps. As a career

aviator and strategic planner, he served for 35 years in a variety of assignments in the US and abroad, including Somalia, Iraq, the Philippines, Italy, Japan, and Korea. He commanded a light/attack helicopter squadron, an air group, a brigade, an air wing, and a service component headquarters.



MajGen Owens

In addition to brigade and wing command, Owens' general officer assignments included Chief of Plans, Policy, and Strategy for US-ROK Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command in Seoul, ROK, and Chief of Staff, Naval Strike and Support Forces, NATO in Naples, Italy. His final assignment was Director of Expeditionary Warfare Division, OPNAV N95. He has accumulated over 4000 flight hours in a variety of type/model/series aircraft.

Owens retired from the Marine Corps in 2017 as a major general. Over the past several years he has taught a number of political science courses at Portland State and Western Oregon Universities as an adjunct professor. He is also active in several local non-profit organizations and city-community advisory boards.

As I close my comments, I would like to see members "step forward" to volunteer with a myriad of 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*

Earlier in February, the legendary Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on Groundhog's Day predicting an early Spring. Good news probably for most of us. The bad news is he's only had a 39% accuracy rate since 1887!

More unfortunate news, however, is we have no new members to report this month. Last month, we sent out 16 welcome packets to prospective members, so hopefully we'll start seeing some positive response from those. Plus, we have nine more going out this month.

How are your individual recruiting efforts going? Now that Spring is around the corner, according to Phil, and the holidays are over, let's renew our membership efforts and challenge – "Every member recruit a new member or bring at least one guest (potential member) to our next meeting." The past few issues of our Brass Bulletin Newsletter have provided some distinct direction in helping with your recruiting efforts. Please take time to review them if need be.

So today, I again ask each of you to help another fellow officer or surviving spouse to find their purpose in joining our MOAA Portland Chapter. Welcome them into our MOAA family and we will provide them with a plethora of opportunities and support for them and their families, as well as the local military community.

Each of us is just one spoke in the wheel when it comes to membership, and we are all spokes that keep that wheel moving. You may not hold a board or committee position in our Chapter, but we all are vital to membership. Whether you are a fellow officer or surviving spouse, we all have our purposes for belonging, for participating in the programs, for encouraging others to be active and take part. Let's all connect with fellow officers and spouses and help them

find their purpose in our MOAA Portland Chapter; one of MOAA's most effective affiliates, as evidenced by our Chapter being awarded the Five Star Level of Excellence Award for sixteen consecutive years.

Thank you everyone for all your hard work and dedication. I am honored to be part of the MOAA Portland Chapter.

CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2024 DUES!

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

2024 Annual Chapter Dues are \$30.00 (covering the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) and were **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.
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

GRASS ROOTS LOBBYING NEEDED!

Congress has been able to pass several continuing resolutions (CR) to keep the government open, but this is not good for our Armed Forces. The reason is that CRs do not include any increases in required new spending because Congress has not passed a new budget. They are just kicking the can down the road.

What can you do? Grass roots lobbying is an effective way to let your voice be known to your members of Congress (MOC). MOAA has developed an easy and efficient way for its members to participate in the political process. If you go to the MOAA website, hit advocacy, then hit Legislative Action, you will see a field with 21 issues populated. The first one is for you to urge you MOC to avoid a government shutdown and finish the appropriation process. AKA pass a budget. The other 20 range from paying our service members if there is a government shutdown, to improving survivor benefits to fixing the shortage of burier sites and finding a new national cemetery as Arlington is running out of space.

I urge each and every one of our members to take 15 minutes out of your day and do this. Explore the 21 issues that MOAA has created., select the issue(s) of interest to you, and ask your MOC to TAKE ACTION on that topic(s). Senator Merkley and Representative Bonamici always get back to me with their answers. We need your help!! Of the over 350,000 MOAA members, only 26,000 have taken advantage of the easy grass roots involvement in our government.

You can also call the Capital Hot Line toll-free at **866-272-6622**. Make sure you ask to talk to the **military staffer**. If they are not available, leave a message stating you are a constituent, you are a member of MOAA, and that you wish to have them return your call. When you speak to them, please refer to the House Resolution (HR) or Senate Bill (SB) that you would like to talk about.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



We have our special days in March 2024:

- **Easter Sunday**, March 31
- **St. Patrick's Day**, March 17
- **First Day of Spring**, March 19, but there are a couple more that need to be mentioned: **Peanut Butter Lovers Day**, March 1, and especially:
 - **K9 Vet Day**, March 13.

The **MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter 02** continues to grow with 285 members from 38 states. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month 12:00 noon PST. If you are interested in joining: mssvc02@gmail.com

At 2:00 pm PST on the same day, The Book Club will discuss the first book in the **Eve Duncan series** titled: **The Face of Deception**. More information is on the Surviving Spouse section of MOAA.org. If you would like to send pictures, stories, or information to the Newsletter Editor, please contact **Dr. Vivianne Wersel** at Viwersel@yahoo.com

Is a 55-and-Older Community Right for You? (By Nora Durham, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council)

Pros of living in one of these communities include:

- Like-minded people, because of age requirements, making friends easier.

- Activities and events, social events, games, movies, concerts, speakers and more.
- Less maintenance, probably an HOA fee for your maintenance and repairs.
- Many communities have various amenities, a pool, gym, tennis courts, golf, a game room and more.
- Transportation.
- Quiet.
- Safe and secure.

Cons of these communities might include

- Less privacy,
- Higher costs,
- Younger family members being restricted
- Depending on others.

If you are considering moving to a retirement community, make a list of all your questions and ask the (HOA) Home Owners Association for answers. Make sure you understand all the rules and fees before signing.

We will be planning a **Surviving Spouse Luncheon** in April or May. We would appreciate ideas for a fun, welcoming luncheon; please contact us at:

Jan Brink jgbrink@comcast.net
Jean Hillman budjean@aol.com

Spring is a wonderful time of the year. For example, if you love to work with flowers/plants, you could tell of your favorites and give planting ideas to help others enjoy them as well.

The MOAA Portland Chapter assists the following organizations throughout the year:

- **Operation Homefront** with baby diapers and wipes:
- **Operation Diaper Bag** gathers many different baby items. If you like to sew, just a few items needed: bibs, burping cloths, baby clothes, diapers bags and nursing covers. Call **503-273-5042** for the complete list.
- Did you receive a new cell phone recently? Bring your old cell phone to Col Mayer for the: **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

Thank you for any assistance you could provide for these charities.

***THREE TOPICS TO ANCHOR
MOAA's SPRING ADVOCACY IN
ACTION (AiA) PUSH!***

By MOAA Staff

The three issue areas comprising this April's **Advocacy in Action (AiA) Campaign** show the range of MOAA's legislative priorities – not just for officers, not just for retirees, and not wavering on our commitment to long-term advocacy goals. Here's a quick look at each of the issues, which were approved by MOAA's Board of Directors on 19 January 2024:

Concurrent Receipt

What's at Stake: The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) would end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The bill has a supermajority of bipartisan support – more than 325 House co-sponsors and more than 70 in the Senate – thanks in part to past grassroots efforts from MOAA and partners in The Military Coalition.

MOAA's Mission: We need to keep up this momentum and secure the bill's inclusion in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It's time for lawmakers to push this long-delayed step toward concurrent receipt for all past the finish line.

Full Housing Allowance

What's at Stake: The BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that's placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families in the middle of a nationwide rental shortage *and* ongoing recruiting challenges. Restoring this benefit – it was

cut by Congress incrementally beginning in 2015 – would make a difference in the quality of life for all who serve, but especially among junior enlisted members and their families, who rely on this allowance as a large percentage of their compensation.

MOAA's Mission: Language requiring an incremental increase reached the late stages of the FY 2024 NDAA process but ultimately was not included in the final bill. We must send a message to lawmakers that close isn't good enough – servicemembers deserve a full housing allowance, and more progress must be made this legislative session.

TRICARE For Life

What's at Stake: Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who'll use the benefit when they turn 65. MOAA remains concerned about a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report suggesting two measures which would severely weaken the benefit – enrollment fees topping \$1,100 per family, and cost-sharing requirements including an \$850 deductible and up to \$4,675 in potential yearly medical bills.

MOAA's Mission: Legislators seeking solutions to budget gaps must hear a clear message: Maintaining TFL is not just a national obligation to those who spent decades in uniform, it's also critical to ensuring key influencers in the recruiting process aren't discouraged from recommending uniformed service to future generations. While TFL fees or cost shares aren't part of any current legislation, we must counter CBO's misguided options with our grassroots advocacy efforts. The next CBO release is slated for December of this year, following the elections; MOAA will update our members as soon as we get the report.

Take Action Online: MOAA's last online advocacy effort addressing potential TFL fees resulted in nearly 49,000 messages to lawmakers. Register for MOAA's Legislative Action Center today so you can be part of upcoming campaigns.

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

2023-2024 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program: CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Membership: Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

CAPT Chicky McKinzie, USN (Ret)

Legislative: LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Communications: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman

Mrs. Jan Brink

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)

Mrs. Nancy Menagh

Fundraising and Scholarship: CAPT Lawrence W.

Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Special Events: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)

Chaplains: Reverend Karyn Dix

LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)

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

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	Brunch 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)

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 **May 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **6 April 2024.**