



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

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

Volume XXXVIII, Number 6

www.MOAAPortland.org

March 2022

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

March is **Women’s History Month**. It is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since **1987**. The Women's History Month theme for 2022 is “**Providing Healing, Promoting Hope**.” This theme recognizes the many ways in which women have provided healing and hope to humanity for countless generations.

As part of that celebration, we salute female veterans of all branches and all eras. The service of our women in uniform continues to be a source of pride and professionalism for those who have served and who benefit because of their continued service to our state and nation. Women have served in the United States military for over two hundred years.

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) will spotlight some of Oregon’s extraordinary women veterans on Facebook during Women’s Military History Week, March 14-18. Follow [ODVA’s Women Veterans Facebook](#) page to keep up to date on all the latest information concerning women veterans in Oregon. For Resources and Information on Women Veterans, please visit the ODVA website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Women-Veterans.aspx>

March is also **Military Appreciation Month** As part

(Continued on page 2)

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

Major John W. Christianson, USAF (Ret)

MARCH VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:

Saturday, 5 March 2022

Social Time: 0930; Meeting Starts at 1000

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom Video Teleconference

PROGRAM:

Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret), Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA), will speak on an “**Update on Veterans’ Issues in Oregon**.”

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or mjseiwald@comcast.net **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 2 March 2022** so he can advise the Zoom Host to allow you access to the virtual meeting. *If Michael has not confirmed your reservation in two days, please follow up with him.* Once you have reservations, join the Zoom Meeting one of two ways (see below).

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING: Please use one of the two following methods:

1. **For video teleconference**, click on the following link (or put the link in your computer’s browser), then add Meeting ID and Password:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87425549476>

Meeting ID: 874 2554 9476

2. **For audio only**, dial the phone number below, then add Meeting ID and Password:

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 874 2554 9476

NOTE: If you have any problems joining the meeting, please call our Zoom Host, **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)**, at **503-410-1843 (cell)**.

of that celebration, we salute all military members, veterans, and their families for their selfless and dedicated service to their country. Also, remember that the State of Oregon celebrates “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans’ Day” on 30 March of every year.

For our 5 March 2022 **Virtual Chapter Meeting**, I encourage you to do the following:

- (1) Buy Wine Raffle Tickets at \$20 each for some fine bottles of wine.
- (2) If you have not done so already, please pay your **chapter dues for 2022**—they were due the first of January. Dues are **\$30 a year** and cover 1 January-31 December 2022. Please do not wait until the Treasurer sends you an invoice; to find out ways you can pay your dues to the Treasurer, *see page 3*.

The **Program Committee** has provided a very dynamic and knowledgeable guest speaker for the March 2022 chapter meeting. She is **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and MOAA Portland Chapter member, who will speak on an “**Update of Veterans’ Issues in Oregon.**” (*See photo below.*)



Appointed by Governor Kate Brown and confirmed by the Oregon Senate on 26 September 2018, she became the first woman to lead the agency since its founding in 1945. She’s been a veteran’s

case worker, legislative policy supervisor, human resources director, and congressional liaison. From 2016-2018, Kelly worked for U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, as his constituent services representative for veterans and military affairs. In this role, she fielded calls from veterans or their families who were dealing with various problems, including housing insecurity and health issues. Her work also allowed her to create relationships with the many organizations in the state that work to support military members and veterans.

Kelly joined the Army in 1980 through the ROTC program at Boston University and worked in command and staff positions until 1996. She spent time as an assistant professor at West Point, a human resources director in South Korea, and a public affairs officer for an infantry division in Georgia. After retiring from the military, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. She then spent a couple years on Capitol Hill, before going to the Congressional Activities Office of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence within the Department of Defense. She worked there from 2004 to 2016, eventually becoming director of that office.

I think you would all agree that we had an exceptional guest speaker at our **February Chapter Meeting**, **CPT Alan Rosenhan**, the S5 Civil Affairs Operations Planner for the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, who spoke to the membership on “**Rangers Lead the Way.**” And, in response to our members on how to learn more about the Rangers, CPT Rosenhan provided a list of some of his favorite books about Ranger history, as well as a link to a more thorough reading list:

- [Darby's Rangers, We Led the Way](#)-William O Darby
- [The Spearheaders](#)- James Altieri
- [Violence of Action](#)- Marty Skovlund, Jr.
- [Back in the Fight](#)- JOSEPH KAPACZIEWSKI
- [The Ranger Book](#) - Ross Hall
- [Rangers in Korea](#)- Robert Black
- [Rangers in World War II](#)- Robert Black
- [Ranger](#)- Ralph Puckett
- [Black Hawk Down](#)- Mark Bowden
- <https://www.threerangersfoundation.org/ranger-reading-list>

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

Well, it is that time again to write and uplifting, enthusiastic article for the *Brass Bulletin*. The problem is that I don't have one. As I stated in my last article, we are starting our 3rd year at fighting this COVID-19 virus, and I don't think there is anyone out there that doesn't believe that it will probably be with us the rest of our lives, in some variant or another.

It has been a long time since we recruited a new member. Thinking about it, it makes sense. We are not comfortable going out into the environment, making contact with people we do not know or going to gatherings where the potential of being exposed is high. We stay within our own little groups where everyone is vaccinated and boosted and following the safety rules. These groups are the same ones we have tapped over the years for membership.

It's not that we don't know how to attain new members. For the past several years, the membership has been provided the guidance and tools, both from the chapter and MOAA National, to address almost every opportunity. What we need is the ability to venture into new environments for fresh faces.

The chapter is presently at the lowest membership that I can remember. The reasons are quite clear. Our membership is relatively old, and we are losing, on average, 3-4 each year. Also, a number of members have left the area. We need to convince our members to stay for the long run until we can rejoin in fellowship. Then we can pursue new memberships and revitalize our chapter.

REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2022 DUES!

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

As of 31 January 2022, the MOAA Portland Chapter had total assets of **\$22,564.41** and a total of **163** members:

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

2022 Annual Chapter Dues are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January – 31 December) and were **due on or before 1 January 2022**. There are several ways you can pay this year: mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213), having your bank mail us a check, or you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.

AN OPINION PIECE: MY COMMENTARY ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

*By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
Legislative Committee Chair*

Iran Nuclear Negotiations Almost Irrelevant: The United States is currently engaged in active negotiations with Iran regarding Iran's ongoing efforts to join the small club of countries that possess nuclear weapons. Interestingly, the U.S. is not even present at the negotiating table but is represented by some of the nations that were involved in the 2015 deal signed by the Obama administration and led by John Kerry for the United States. Currently, Iran refuses to engage directly with the U.S., which should tell us many things, none of them good.

However, recent assessments by the United States suggest that pursuing or signing a new treaty are in large part irrelevant!

A key aspect of the 2015 agreement, although it was not explicitly included in the deal, was that it would provide for a one year “breakout period.” That means that if Iran violated the agreement, it would take them 12 months to create enough nuclear material for ONE BOMB. This does not mean that Iran could field a nuclear weapon in a year, but there would be sufficient material which then had to be fashioned into a warhead and attached to a missile with sufficient range to attack an adversary.

However, the Trump Administration withdrew from the treaty in 2018, and Iran undertook to accelerate its nuclear material development program starting in 2019.

Biden Administration personnel commenced a review of Iran’s progress this last fall and concluded that breakout time under “any realistic deal would be significantly lower than 12 months.” Indeed, some unidentified U.S. officials estimated that a breakout could take just “a few weeks.” (Statements in quotes are from a 2-4-22 *Wall Street Journal* article)

Some former U.S. officials estimate that any breakout period less than 6 months would significantly weaken the U.S. ability to respond. Oh, my Gosh!

So, why are we still at the negotiating table, even by proxy? By the way, estimated breakout figures vary by source, but the trend over the past year plus has been definitely toward shorter time frames.

Watch for further developments. There are many unknowns, but the indicators are frightening.

China and Xi Jinping: I was struck this weekend during the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies. During the parade of national teams, China President Xi Jinping was seated by himself in the

upper reaches of the venue. He seemed bored, stood when the Chinese team entered, and offered a feeble wave during their entrance. He exuded all the personality of a clam, and similar enthusiasm. Of course, political charisma is not a prerequisite in a country where citizens do not have a vote.

Mr. Xi has presided over a period of amazing growth in the Chinese economy. The country has grown from 5% of the WORLD GDP in 2005 to around 17% in 2020, or about .8% per year. The impact of China on the world has grown commensurately economically and politically.

In the wings is a bid by Mr. Xi for an unprecedented third term in office later this year. It has been almost a given that he could remain President for life.

However, the picture may be changing, in part due to self-inflicted wounds.

First, China’s economic growth rate is slowing quickly and uncharacteristically. The years of 8% and better GDP growth rates seem to be pretty much over. The IMF recently reduced its GDP estimate for 2022 from 5.7% to 4.8%, while the early returns show essentially zero growth in manufacturing and possible a negative result for the first quarter. Similarly, consumer spending has been adversely affected by the lockdowns imposed under the Zero COVID policy. The IMF also postulates only a 5.2% growth in 2023.

While Xi has consolidated his power while in office by stepping on the private economy, especially in 2021, he has expanded government favoritism toward the large and slow state- owned enterprises. Over the past decade, the growth in productivity has slowed to an average of .7% per year from the earlier rate of 3.5%. The IMF notes that the state-owned companies are 20% less productive than the private economy, and he is pouring more resources into these less productive firms.

Looking forward, one of the most visible and potentially damaging challenges facing China is the property sector, primarily home building. The country sought a controlled collapse of a lengthy inflating real estate bubble. The major real estate firms are vastly overextended, are close to or in default on untold billions of dollars of loans and are struggling to constrain the impact of a lengthy process.

So, Mr. Xi has a tiger by the tail! It will be interesting to see if political crackdowns as in Hong Kong, muzzling of dissent throughout the country, stringent control of the entire population, single point leadership and strong monetary reserves will be sufficient to dig out from under the recent blunders. Stand by for an interesting several years.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Mrs. Jean Hillman

Surviving Spouse Liaison



March is a “special time of year.” St Patrick’s Day and the first day of spring. I know I’m always anxious to get out in the yard, but I am aware there can still be freezing nights.

**“In the spring,
at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt.”**

-- Margaret Atwood

Normally, I would be writing about the February Valentine’s Day Luncheon and the fun time we had, but we have not been meeting together as of this time due to the pandemic.

I would like to plan a MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon in April. I have called both the Claim Jumper and the Lake Oswego Grill. Right

now, the rule is to wear your mask into the restaurant, be seated, then you may remove your mask while eating. A possible date and time would be **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 12:00 noon**. The final place for the luncheon will be decided in the near future. Please e-mail me at budjean@aol.com and let me know your feelings. Or text me at: **503 819 1042**.

Chapter wives are always welcome to attend our luncheons.

Here is the information on the website and phone number for MOAA again as there is an abundance of information for Surviving Spouses: **Phone: 1-800-234-6622**; website: <http://www.moaa.org>

Let’s remember to continue gathering or making items for **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**. Check with family and friends for old, used cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

*The AMEN of nature
Is always a flower.*

--Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

Thoughts for the Day:

Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give. — Eleanor Roosevelt

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up. — John Holmes, military veteran & author

Giving is the master key to success, in all applications of human life.

— Bryant McGill, activist & motivational speaker

MOAA'S SPRING "ADVOCACY IN ACTION" EVENT TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN APRIL 2022

By MOAA's Government Relations and Council & Chapter Affairs Teams

MOAA's spring advocacy campaign, *Advocacy in Action* (AiA), will again be held virtually this year after MOAA leaders concluded we are still not at a point where we can bring people in and get them to Capitol Hill for in-person visits. Security concerns are a main factor, along with health protection protocols. We all miss the opportunity for in-person meetings on Capitol Hill with our legislators and their staffs.

MOAA's virtual **AiA 2022** event will kick off on **Friday, April 1st** and conclude on **Friday, April 29th**.

MOAA is encouraging Councils and Chapters to start planning for the Congressional break from April 11 – 22, 2022 when legislators will be in their home districts, an opportunity for many to meet with their legislators at their district offices.

The MOAA Portland Chapter Legislative Committee, chaired by **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** and **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, will be working with the President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, **Lt Col Tom Majchrowski, USAF (Ret)**, to schedule the various virtual or in-person meetings with our Oregon legislators during April 2022.

MOAA HQ may assign a MOAA HQ Staff member, Board of Directors member, or an Advisory Council member to each AiA team, depending on availability. Experience has shown pairing state leadership constituents with Board members or a MOAA National

Staff/Committee Adviser offers an important "force multiplier" effect.

On February 4, 2022, the MOAA National Board of Directors approved the following **AiA Campaign Topics**:

- **Military Pay Raise at 4.6% per the Employment Cost Index (ECI):** MOAA supports the full pay raise for all and will guard against any reductions to fund pay-table overhauls.
- **The Richard Star Act:** This bill would end an unjust offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured retirees who were unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat injuries. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. Two different payments for two different purposes. To reduce retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.
- **The Stop Copay Overpay Act:** This bill would reduce mental health copays that were more than doubled through military health system reforms. Mental health is increasingly important and getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This issue impacts currently serving families on TRICARE Select, working age retirees and their families.

MOAA will provide more information, including issue papers, on these three topics in the coming weeks as we prepare to engage with Congress on these important issues.

The public AiA website will provide updates to non-participants about the campaign topics and advocacy efforts and can be accessed at: www.moaa.org/AIA.

For any questions about the *Advocacy in Action* event, please use this email: legis@moaa.org



2020-2021 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**President**

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): 1-310-897-1902

First Vice President

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret): 503-739-3334

Second Vice President

Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret): 1-443-996-1011

Recording Secretary

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

Reservations Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297
MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret): 503-309-7458

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896
CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

Air Force Reps

Vacant
Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

Coast Guard Rep: CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS

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

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)

Vacant

2020-2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program: CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)
CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Membership: Major William J. Tidd, USAF (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
Vacant

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio: 503-936-5896

Fundraising and Scholarship: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Special Events: *Vacant*

ESGR Outreach: COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)
COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

Chaplains: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)
Reverend Karyn Dix
Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

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: Mark your calendars!

(NOTE: These meetings may be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic!)

March 5, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Virtual)
April 5, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 5, 2022	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
May 7, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
June 7, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
July – August 2022	No chapter meetings are scheduled
August 4, 2022	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0945**—and **are open to all members!** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the combined April/May 2022 **Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at marvjmayer@yahoo.com by Monday, 7 March 2022..