



**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 XXXV, Number 3**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**November 2018**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

**By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**

Let me be the first to wish you a Happy Veterans’ Day! During this time of the year, we as veterans get a chance to “tell our stories” in many different forums. As many of you know, **Reynolds High School** is conducting its “**Living History Day**” on **Thursday, 8 November 2018**, and **Oregon City High School** is celebrating its **Veterans’ Event** on the same day. Hopefully, a good number of chapter members can attend these events and speak to the high school students about their military careers. To learn more about these events and how to sign up for them, please read the **Special Events Committee Update** column on *pages 6 and 7*.

I encourage you to get ahead of the power curve and pay your **2019 Chapter dues of \$30** as soon as possible. And, as an added incentive, if regular chapter members pay their 2019 dues before 1 January 2019, they pay at the old rate of \$25. They may also pay dues at the rate of \$25 for *up to five years* in advance if they choose to do so—as long as they are paid before 1 January 2019. I have already taken advantage of this offer—and I have paid my dues through 2023 (a savings of \$25)! **Any dues paid on or after 1 January 2019 will be at the \$30 rate.** (NOTE: Surviving Spouses and Honorary Members are still not required to pay dues but are *strongly* encouraged to do so.) Please send your dues checks, addressed to “MOAA Portland Chapter,” to our Treasurer, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)** at MOAA Portland Chapter, P.O. Box 68959, Portland, OR 97268.

*(continued on page 2)*

**IN MEMORIAM:  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE!**

**Major James R. Bell, USA (Ret)**

**OCTOBER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 3 November 2018**

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

Hayden’s Lakefront Grill

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: (503) 885-9292

**PROGRAM:**

**Mr. Ben Berry**, Founder and CEO of the Airship Technology Group in Lake Oswego, will speak to us on his father, “**Flaps Berry: Tuskegee Airman.**”

**MENU:**

Scrambled Eggs with Green Chives and Tillamook

Smoked Cheddar Cheese

Hayden’s Home Fried Potatoes

French Toast

Signature Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage

Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint

Chilled Assorted Juices

Freshly Brewed Stumptown Coffee

Assorted Hot Teas

**COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**

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

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at [mjseiwald@comcast.net](mailto:mjseiwald@comcast.net) or **503-381-2620 NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 31 October 2018**. **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 NOVEMBER MEETING:** Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the second endowment of the Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship. And please continue to bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes--and donate your old cell phones.

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)**

Our MOAA Portland Chapter needs to grow if we are to provide more quality programs and services for the military community in the greater Portland Area. Our goal for this year is **30** new members. So, please be proactive in contacting potential members, bring them with you to the chapter meetings, and don't be afraid to **ASK** them join—by filling out the MOAA National and Portland Chapter Membership Application Forms and paying their dues. Or, if you prefer, ask Second Vice President and Membership Chair, **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**, to send a prospective member a recruiting package—either by mail or email. Bill's email address is [wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com). We **can** make our membership goal---if all of us work together as a team!

Turning to the Program for the November brunch meeting, our guest speaker is the dynamic and accomplished **Mr. Ben Berry**, the son of "**Flaps**" **Berry**, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, and a legend in the aviation community. Ben will tell us the story of an unschooled black kid who was successful in World War II as a Tuskegee Airman and the struggles he and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen went through.



**Mr. Ben Berry**

A strategic technology leader, **Ben Berry** is a professional with performance-based leadership and knowledge of diverse

private and public-sector business and technology systems. He is currently the Founder and CEO of the Airship Technology Group in Lake Oswego, a company with very aggressive clean-tech, long flight endurance unmanned aerial vehicles. Prior to this, he was the Executive Vice President of Information Technology and CIO for the federal government's Bonneville Power Administration

Mr. Berry has held various senior leadership technology positions serving the Royal Saudi Air Force, Kingdom of Saudi Arabian International Airports, and Hughes Aircraft Company – Los Angeles.

He is the previous Chief Technology Officer for the City of Portland where he provided leadership for enterprise computing, analysis, design and deployment of computer applications, mobile and wireless computing services for public safety 1<sup>st</sup> Responders (police, fire, emergency communications, emergency management), and other customers.

Previously, he served as Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Chief Information Officer providing overall leadership, planning, development and delivery of information technology services for ODOT and several other non-transportation organizations. As CIO for the second largest state agency in Oregon, Mr. Berry was responsible for systems supporting highways, bridges, rail service, right-of-way determinations, DMV and Motor Carrier commercial trucking inspections and licensing throughout the state.

Mr. Berry is the former Regional Chief Technology Officer of Providence Health System Oregon, supporting a service area of eight hospitals and 33 clinics. He has held executive and management positions in sectors such as state and local government, healthcare, telecommunications, aerospace/defense and airport transportation. Berry received his M.B.A. from UCLA and a B.S. in Life Science--*Biotechnology* from the University of Portland.

He currently serves on the following Boards: Central City Concern, University of Portland, School of Business – Operations and Technology Management, Oregon State University, School of Business – Business Information Systems, Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, Boy Scouts of America – Pacific Cascade Council Board, and iUrban Teen Technology.

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new member who joined us since the last newsletter:

**Captain Thomas Maloney, USAF (Ret)**  
And his wife **Steffanie**

I, for one, am sorry to see summer slowly fading into the realm of memories, but, with the beginning of fall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, I am once more reinvigorated to except the challenges of chapter membership. Ever since the first of the year, the chapter membership drives have been dismal, to say the least, with only seven new members acquired. I, like you, was more interested in the activities of summer than the unrewarded task of beating my head against a brick wall, attempting to sign-up new members. Fall is here, and we ALL need to start thinking about the life-blood of the MOAA Portland Chapter – obtaining new members. If the attrition rate continues (we lost 12 members last year), the chapter will not be able to support the worthy programs and initiatives we love to sponsor.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, I received the latest EXCEL listing of the .potential new members in our area. I have scrubbed the listing to a potential 80 names and need volunteers to make phone calls. If you wish to volunteer, contact me at [wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com). And I will send you a listing. The more volunteers I get, the less names for each volunteer.

Finally, if you need a talking point when approaching a potential new member, consider this. You know the value of belonging to MOAA and the MOAA Portland Chapter. But when you are talking to a potential new chapter member, it is important to remember that

many officers may have only limited knowledge of MOAA's services, legislative advocacy, and community initiatives. Educate those potential members, bring them to a chapter meeting, and ask them to sign up! Remember to "Never Stop Serving!"

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

**By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**

**Senator John McCain Commentary from 2008:**

Now that we are over a month away from the multi-day celebration of McCain's life, it seems appropriate to remember him through his own words in a 2008 speech: "I was in solitary confinement (in the Hanoi Hilton) when my captors offered to release me. I knew why. If I went home, they would use it as propaganda to demoralize my fellow prisoners...I was not in great shape, and I missed everything about America. But I turned it down."

He then discusses the heightened torture that he was subjected to, torture that eventually broke him, but not for long. He continues, "I fell in love with my country when I was a prisoner in someone else's. I loved it not just for the many comforts of life here. I loved it for its decency; for its faith in the wisdom, justice and wisdom of its people. I loved it because it was not just a place, but an idea, a cause worth fighting for. I was never the same again. I wasn't my own man anymore. I was my country's."

He was a true hero who spent years in a prison while his dad was Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, and a Destroyer Leader ship was named after his grandfather, the *USS John McCain*, who was on the front line in Vietnam. Enough said!

**How the Federal Government Wastes Our**

**Dollars:** For your enjoyment or exasperation, a non-profit recently catalogued some of the wasteful spending of our Federal government. Not surprised, are you?

- Improper Medicare Payments - \$28 billion per year
- 35,212 Federal Lawyers (incredible) - \$5 billion
- 3618 or 17 Public Affairs Officers for each of the 202 Federal agencies - \$368 million
- Beauty and Cosmetology "Colleges" - \$677 million

And, the average Federal employee receives 43 paid days off annually, or 17% of a work year. A private sector employee receives 3 weeks of vacation per year, or 6%. My excerpted list does not include the real crazies like \$670,000 for two sculptures for a VA facility that serves blind veterans.

**New Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Plan Data Available**

**Now:** As promised, detailed plan information for both Dental and Vision Insurance Plans--taking effect January 2019--is now available. For many of us, an email was sent the 2nd of October, providing a link to a Tricare web site that contains a wealth of data and phone numbers and email contacts for each vendor. If you did not receive the Benefeds alert, just go to [tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com) and you can get started.

There are 10 different dental plans, 6 of which are designated "high" and 4 designated "standard." High plans are more expensive than standard plans, but also have better benefits, particularly in the amount of co-payment percentage assumed by the beneficiary and the total maximum benefit per year per person.

I found the plan layout to be reasonably intelligible, and it made the plan-to-plan comparisons straightforward. Plan costs depend on your zip code, and whether your plan is for yourself, yourself plus one, or your family.

Benefits vary by whether costs are incurred inside or outside the plan network. However, my dentist said that they are members of basically all the vendors--but would join any network I selected if they were not already members. I spoke with my primary dentist; I intend to call our endodontic dentist (see root canal) before I make a final decision.

There are some differences in percentage coverage at both the "intermediate" level of care, meaning fillings and the like, and the "major" level of care, such as root canals, crowns and periodontal. Since "major" dental work is where the larger charges come into play, look at this area carefully. The other area of significance is annual maximum benefit per person. The highest maximum for Standard policies was \$2,500 per person per year. Several of the "High" policies had no cap.

I have not yet spent any time on the Vision policies. I did call one vendor with a specific question and received a direct, immediate answer.

So, start the comparison shopping. Open season for signing up with one plan is November 12 through December 10. If you miss that window you are out of luck until 2020. There is a MOAA webinar scheduled for November 14 regarding the enrollment process. Let me know if there are any areas I have not covered, or incorrect information, at **503-722-1807** or **[Rocketlarry@icloud.com](mailto:Rocketlarry@icloud.com)**

**State Bureaucrats Screw Up Again Amid upward**

**"Adjustment" of Compensation:** In early September, more than 100,000 Oregon College Plan accounts containing more than \$1.8 billion in assets were frozen, made inaccessible and impossible to withdraw funds to pay for the upcoming year. Officials at the 529 plan said that the lockout, website bugs, and customer service delays were "an unfortunate but fairly predictable result of transferring the accounts to a new plan administrator, new mutual funds, and a new platform." The plan executive director was quite sanguine in his comments, saying, "No conversion is perfect."

This debacle of the month derives from the initial selection of TIAA-CREF as investment platform and plan administrator. They are mediocre asset managers and that should be the first criterion when you are responsible for the college savings of a wide income range of investors. At least, the plan is transitioning to one of the best investment platforms, Vanguard, which is also administrator for some of the best and largest 529 plans. That the bureaucrats would choose the beginning of a school to implement such a change is unfathomable. A sad story, but just one of many that reflect badly on the Oregon bureaucracy.

To add insult to injury, the entire state government system, from agency to agency is currently undergoing an "ADJUSTMENT" of individual employee compensation to ensure a wonderfully progressive "pay equity" status. However, there will be no downward adjustments, just upward or no change. Essentially, state compensation will increase an estimated \$400 million above any COLA adjustment going into the next biennium. I will make a bet that the actual impact will exceed \$400 million, probably significantly. And the Governor complains, as an eternal motto, that she needs higher taxes and more revenue. And the beat goes on!

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**REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH  
 OREGON MEMBERS OF  
 CONGRESS**

*By LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)*

Here is a summary of the Chapter Legislative Committee's Meetings with Oregon Members of Congress in their local offices over the summer:

- Larry Roberts and I met with Phylcia Hagerty, who works for Representative Suzanne Bonamici. We reviewed senate issues, and she supports HR 333 and 1384. She also reported back to me that, on the Widow's Tax, all 5 Oregon House Members have signed up to co-sponsor the bill.
  - Both Doug MacEllven and I met with Joel Corcoran who works for Senator Jeff Merkley. We reviewed senate issues, and he felt the Senator would support S-66, S-143 and S-339. Joel is acting as the temporary military liaison as Kelly Fitzpatrick has taken a job as the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.
  - Joel also shared with us that Representative Blumenauer and Senator Ron Wyden were without military liaisons, and that he would pass the information to Senator Wyden. I went back to Phylcia and asked her to pass House issues to Representative Blumenauer.
- Here is a summary of the bills discussed with our Oregon members of Congress:
- Federal - HR 333:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.
  - Federal - S 66:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.
  - Federal - S 143:** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another state.
  - Federal - S 339:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.
  - Federal - HR 1384:** A bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38 of the United States Code to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services and veterans for certain

benefits and for calculating the deadlines for certain benefits.

**Article on Global Warming:** In a separate issue, I have been talking to and sending information to Mike Fabey who is writing an article on “Global Warming and Its Effect on the Military” for an upcoming article in the *MOAA Military Officer Magazine*.

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***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***  
***By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Liaison to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee***

As you are reading your November 2018 *Brass Bulletin Newsletter*, please notice you only have a few days to make a reservation for our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon**. It will take place at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 16, 2018** at **Albertina Kerr’s Restaurant**, 424 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97232 in the main dining room. If you have food restrictions, call Albertina’s at 503-231-0216 to arrange a special meal. Wives of chapter members are always welcome.

We hope you can attend as this is our first luncheon since June, so we will have a lot to talk about. To make reservations, please contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or [jymbo@earthlink.net](mailto:jymbo@earthlink.net).

And please save the date for our **December Christmas Surviving Spouse Luncheon** to be held at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, 18 December 2018** at **Albertina’s!**

The following is a list of **publications provided by MOAA National** that are available for Surviving Spouses and their families:

- Financial Planning Guide
- Estate Planning
- Personal Affairs Guide

- Military Entitlements
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- Aging into Medicare and Tricare for Life
- Helping Your Survivor Now
- Survivor’s Checklist
- Guide to Military Burials
- Survivor’s Planning Guide
- Turning the Corner

These publications are available at the Membership Table at our MOAA Portland Chapter dinner and brunch meetings. If you cannot attend any of these meetings and would find any of these publications helpful, please let **Mrs. Jean Hillman** ([budjean@aol.com](mailto:budjean@aol.com)) or Major Bill Tidd ([wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com)) know—and they will make every effort to provide you with copies.

Operation Homefront still needs diapers and wipes. If you are planning on purchasing a new cell phone soon, please save your old cell for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

Looking forward to seeing you at our luncheon and hearing all about your summer adventures!

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***SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE***  
***By Captain Douglass T. MacEllven, USAF (Former)***

**Junior ROTC Connections:**

- **Oregon City High School (OCHS)** – Veteran speakers conveying their military experiences may attend the Veterans Day event to be held on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**. This is OCHS’s second year of the program, and, if you would like to address students (usually in small class room settings), please contact the JROTC Detachment Commander, **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, who is a MOAA Portland Chapter member. His email address is [douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us)
- **Reynolds High School “Annual Living History Day.”** This event has been held for a number of years with about 400 veterans having participated over time. Last year, there were several hundred veterans who spoke to students in small classroom settings. This year’s event is on the same day as

OCHS – **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, and the point of contact is teacher **Chris Phelps** at [cphelps@rsd7.net](mailto:cphelps@rsd7.net)

permanently disabled before age 18, and 2) surviving spouses. DIC is awarded if the veteran's death is "service-connected" (SC); "non-SC" under some circumstances.

### Stand-downs:

- **Captain Doug Brown, USCGR (Ret)** and I staffed the MOAA Portland Chapter table at the Portland Veterans Stand-down held at Memorial Coliseum on 11 September 2018. There were about 400 vets, 60 employers, and 60 providers (including MOAA). After the event, we were able to provide **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** with several names of officers who are interested in receiving his MOAA Portland Chapter Membership Email Package. About 10 persons took our "ROTC Programs in Oregon Guide."
- **Upcoming Stand-downs** are East County (Troutdale) on October 20<sup>th</sup> and Columbia County (Saint Helens) on 9 and 10 November (only two-day event in our area as homeless vets prepare for winter).

**MOAA Portland Chapter VA Benefits Overview Sheets** (available at the MOAA Membership Table at our chapter brunch and dinner meetings):

- **"Surviving Spouse Pension" Sheet #1:** I have delivered a final version of this sheet #1 to **Mrs. Jean Hillman**, who is distributing it to our Surviving Spouse members.
- **"Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)" Sheet #2:** It is a supplement to the MOAA guide ("*Help Your Survivors – Now*"; article on page 8). I draw on my experience of managing hundreds of DIC cases. As does MOAA, I stress "planning ahead", but I note caution as well. There are two common groups who receive DIC: 1) offspring who were

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### **PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**

#### **President**

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

#### **First Vice President**

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

#### **Second Vice President**

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

**Correspondence Secretary:** LTC George M. Peters, USA (Ret): 503-659-0834

#### **Recording Secretary**

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

#### **Reservations Secretary**

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

#### **Treasurer**

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

**Immediate Past President:** *Vacant*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

#### **Navy Reps**

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

#### **Air Force Reps**

Col Lynn Guenther, 541-354-1771

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253

#### **Marine Corps Rep**

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

#### **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)**

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

(NOTE: More contact info on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, [www.moaaportland.org](http://www.moaaportland.org))

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
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P.O. BOX 68959  
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

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**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your calendars!**

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

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

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

*January 2019*              *No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting*

February 2, 2019      Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

*February 7, 2019*      *Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)*

March 2, 2019          Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

April 2, 2019            Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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**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 **December 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **5 November 2018**.