



**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 XXXVI, Number 3

www.MOAAPortland.org

November 2019

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, 7 November 2019** and **Oregon City High School** is celebrating its Veterans’ Events on the 7th and 12th of November. In addition, the **AFROTC Detachments at the University of Portland** conduct their Veterans’ Day Ceremony at 1100 on Monday, 11 November 2019 at the Praying Hands Memorial on Campus. Hopefully, a good number of our chapter members can participate in at least one of these events. To learn more about these activities and how to sign up for them, please read the **Special Events Committee Update** column on *pages 4 and 5*.

I encourage you to get ahead of the power curve and pay your **2020 Annual Chapter Dues of \$30** as soon as possible but **no later than 1 January 2020**. (NOTE: Surviving Spouses and Honorary Members are still not required to pay dues but are *strongly encouraged* to do so.) Please pay your dues at a chapter meeting or send a check for \$30 (addressed to “MOAA Portland Chapter”) to our Chapter Treasurer, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)**, at MOAA Portland Chapter, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213. *Do not wait for an invoice!*

And, remember: **Recruiting new members** is the lifeblood of the chapter, and I ask you to be proactive in contacting
(continued on page 2)

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

Major John H. Sampson, USA (Ret)
Former Member, Chapter Board of Directors;
Second Vice President; Membership Chair; and
Special Events Chair

NOVEMBER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 2 November 2019

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

Hayden’s Lakefront Grill

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

Captain Jay W. Jewess, USCG (Ret), Director, Portland General Electric’s (PGE) Business Continuity & Emergency Management (BCEM), will speak to us on “**Resiliency Lessons Learned from Japan.**”

MENU:

Eggs Benedict

Muffins and Pastry

Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage

Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint

Assorted Juices and Milk

Freshly Brewed Stumptown Coffee

Assorted Numi Hot Teas

COST: \$26.00 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 or **503-381-2620 NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 23 October 2019**. **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 scholarships for lodging and gas for first-time attendees at the Biennial Oregon Women Veterans Conference in May 2020 in Bend, OR. Bring in diapers and baby wipes--and donate your old cell phones.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

potential new members and bringing them with you to the chapter meetings. Don't be afraid to **ASK** them to 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. Bill's email address is wtidd96218@aol.com. We **can** make our membership goal---if all of us work together as a team!

Right now, the chapter needs your help in the following areas:

- **Communications Committee:** Need volunteer(s) to:
 - Send out an already formatted news release before each chapter meeting;
 - Work with the webmaster and chapter president in ensuring the chapter website is up to date.
- **Photographer:** Need a volunteer to help **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** with ensuring pictures are taken at each chapter meeting.
- **Decorations:** Need a volunteer to help **Mrs. Betty Richard** with ensuring there are table decorations for each chapter meeting.
- **Second Air Force Representative on the Chapter Board of Directors:** Need volunteer to attend the 4 board meetings and as many chapter meetings as possible.
- **Joke:** Need volunteer(s) to tell a joke at the end of each chapter meeting.

Turning to the **Program** for the November brunch meeting, our guest speaker is the dynamic and very

accomplished **Captain Jay W. Jewess, USCG (Ret)** (*see picture below*). He is the Director, Portland General Electric's (PGE) Business Continuity & Emergency Management (BCEM).



Jay joined Portland General Electric (PGE) in July 2015 and currently directs Portland General Electric's business continuity and emergency management department (BCEM). His team is focused on ensuring PGE has effective response, management and recovery processes for incidents that could impact electrical service to customers and interrupt critical business processes. He served 27 years in the U. S. Coast Guard as an aviator and aeronautical engineer and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) where he was the Region IX Incident Management Assist Team leader. Jay graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Marine Engineering degree and received an MBA from the University of Purdue. Jay lives in Oregon City, Oregon with his wife, Luci.

Rest in Peace! It is always sad when a chapter member passes away, but on 15 September 2019, we lost a truly stalwart chapter member, **Major John H. Sampson, USA (Ret)**, who served in a variety of positions for over 15 years. John served in the following capacities: one of the Army reps on the Chapter Board of Directors; Second Vice President; Membership Chair; and Special Events Chair. He used to play the saxophone and lead the chapter members in a sing-

along of Christmas carols at our December Christmas Chapter Meetings. A MOAA Life Member, John Sampson was the very embodiment of the “Never Stop Serving” MOAA member. He will be sorely missed by all who were touched by his kindness, loyalty, caring, perseverance, and leadership!

Bottom line: More chapter members should be like John Sampson and volunteer to serve the chapter! “Many hands make light work,” and I would like to see more volunteers come forward. If you would like to volunteer to serve your chapter, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell).

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The Portland Chapter has welcomed only **11** new members since January 1, 2019—and our goal is **30** by 31 December 2019.

I only have one thing to say:

GET

SOME

NEW

MEMBERS!!!!

See you all at the November meeting!!

AN OPINION PIECE:

MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Beware the Fantasy Based Promises by Presidential Candidates - The Student Loan Scam (Again!): I know! This topic has been discussed several times in this column. The story gets worse essentially every year, and I will endeavor to make this the last edition; but it is useful to review as we are assaulted by Presidential Candidates making promises that essentially have no hard numbers behind them.

First, the crumbling of an accounting fraud facilitated by Congress, aided and abetted by the Obama Administration, and blessed by that oracle of financial rectitude, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Congress in the 1990s created a public student loan option to compete with subsidized private lenders. In 2010, with great fanfare and a promise that a nationalized program would cut out the middleman and return a profit to the federal budget, they created a much larger market, partially as a means to pay for Obama Care. The CBO then said that eliminating private lenders would SAVE \$38 billion during the period 2010-2020. They expanded that savings or “profit” forecast to over \$200 billion for the period 2012-2022. That was the high-water mark of optimism. By 2017, the 10-year forecast was negative, and by this year the 10-year outlook was a negative \$31.4 billion. All these figures were created by the CBO! Thus, over 8 years, the forecast has declined from a \$219 billion profit to a \$31 billion LOSS. The reality is probably even worse. At the current repayment rate, the student debt will not be repaid for 100 years.

The net takeaway of this fiasco, and the story is even worse than I have presented, is that relying on the “independent” CBO for accurate forecasts is the equivalent of believing in the tooth fairy. The CBO supposedly assesses the budget impact of every piece of legislation at the federal level which carries financial implications, which is virtually everything.

Remember, as a recent example, the CBO estimates of citizens signing up for Obama Care. They were not even close year 1, year 2, and year 3. Expectations were that numbers would quickly expand to over 20

million enrolled. They never exceeded 15 million, even under the threat of a tax if one did not sign up! Now, total uninsured numbers are again climbing. But that is a different story.

Do not be swayed by the argument that Medicare for All, eliminating private profits, as proposed by some, will substantially reduce medical spending, period. And any report from the CBO that endorses that idea is suspect.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

As the Holiday Season is fast approaching, our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, December 18, 2019** at **12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland 97232. Wives of Chapter members are cordially invited to attend. If you have food allergies, please call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at **503-654-1511** to arrange for an alternate meal.

If you would like to attend our luncheon, please call or e-mail **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**.

You can always count on a festive holiday ambience. Be assured that the meals will be delicious, as always. It would be a good time to find that last minute Christmas gift. The models from Albertina's Closet will be showing holiday clothing and accessories.

Thank you for your continued support in bringing in diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell

phones for the "**Cell Phones for Soldiers**" Program.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)

Junior ROTC (JROTC) Connections – Veterans' Day

- **Oregon City High School (OCHS)** – On 7 November 2019 from 7-9 pm at OCHS, the OCHS Band will give a free concert honoring our veterans. On 12 November 2019 from 5-7 pm, the OCHS JROTC Detachment will host a Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser & Veterans Appreciation Event. In recent years, veterans have been invited to share their military experiences with students during classrooms hours. Often such events have speaker sign-ups required by early in November (perhaps before the next month's *Brass Bulletin*). Plans have not yet been finalized for this year, but you can call the school at **503-785-8900**.

- **Reynolds High School** wishes to invite us to their annual *Living History Day* on **Thursday, November 7, 2019**. The day will begin with a continental breakfast and registration from 8:30 to 9:00am. There is a full day of events planned for veterans, students, and staff. After breakfast every veteran will have the opportunity to speak in a classroom with students and other veterans from 9:30-11:00am. Remember speaking to students is optional, and, if you would like to attend these sessions just as an audience member, you are also welcome.

Following speaking sessions in the classroom all veterans will reconvene for a fully catered lunch from 11:30-12:45. The day's events will conclude with the Assembly of Honor from 1:00-2:00 pm. This concluding assembly will showcase entertainment performed by students and community members, various honors and recognitions, and much more.

The main parking lot will be reserved for all veterans and there will be staff located at the entrance to help guide you into the building. As a courtesy to our veterans, they are offering golf cart transportation for some of our longer walks

throughout the day. If you would like to be a part of this great day, please RSVP by emailing your RSVP information to **Mr. Chris Phelps**, Reynolds Activities Director, at cphelps@rsd7.net or contact him by phone at **(503) 667-3186** (extension 1098). Please specify if you would like to speak to a classroom, or just will be attending as our honored guest.

University of Portland – Veterans’ Day: Each Veterans’ Day Air Force and Army ROTC cadets from the University of Portland keep a 24-hour vigil at the Praying Hands/Broken Wall Memorial near Christie and Kenna Halls. The Memorial Circle remembers those from Columbia Preparatory School, Columbia University, and the University of Portland who gave their lives in wartime. MOAA Portland Chapter members are invited to the ceremony held at the Memorial on 11 November 2019 at 11:00 am.

Stand-downs: I will be attending the Columbia County Stand-down on 13 November (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Columbia River Four Square Church, 555 Commons Drive, Saint Helens). Our Chapter’s “*Guide to Oregon ROTC Programs*” has proven to be a popular hand-out at all stand-downs.

ODVA VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

By Mrs. Rita Owens, ODVA Volunteer

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) estimates that, of the more than 300,000 veterans in Oregon, two-thirds aren’t receiving health care or benefits from the VA. Consequently, earlier this year, ODVA began recruiting volunteers to reach out to aging veterans in Clackamas, Deschutes, and Polk Counties. This pilot program, eventually

to be implemented statewide, seeks to help connect veterans and their family members with earned benefits, potentially providing financial support, health care, and other long-term care needs.

In Clackamas County, approximately fifty individuals applied for ten initial volunteer positions. Training and background checks commenced, and volunteers are now calling on long-term residential and adult foster care facilities throughout the County. Speaking with individuals and/or giving short presentations at care facilities, the Veteran Volunteer’s goal is to help veterans and their close family members become more knowledgeable about the federal, state, and county benefits available to qualified veterans. Depending on a veteran’s specific question or request, the volunteer may share information regarding necessary steps to initiate the qualification process, such as obtaining copies of military records.

Veteran Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Newell (mark.newell@state.or.us), heads the program for all three counties out of the ODVA Salem Office. Mark is largely responsible for program design, implementation, and on-going volunteer management -- and is the point of contact for interested parties. Seeking to educate, connect, and honor aging veterans, this new outreach program has the potential to bring earned federal benefits to Oregonians and to significantly improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable of our veteran population. For more information about the program: www.oregonvetvolunteer.com



Left to right: Guest speakers (Mr. Mark Newell, Mrs. Rita Owens, Ms. Ana Potter) are welcomed to the October Chapter Meeting by Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret), Second Vice President and Membership Chair

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON SENATOR MERKLEY'S SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION PANELS! *By Mr. Josh AG Laurente, State Scheduler and Assistant to the State Director from the Office of Senator Merkley*

Every year, members of Congress are required to nominate individuals to attend the nation's Service Academies. As part of his nomination process, Senator Merkley invites military veterans from diverse backgrounds to advise him by participating in interviews of selected applicants from Oregon. In 2018, MOAA Portland Chapter members made up the majority of interview panelists, and we would like to duplicate last year's success.

Basically, the event will involve volunteer participants coming to our **World Trade Center Office at 121 SW Salmon, Suite 1400, Portland 97204** on either **Saturday, December 7, 2019** or **Saturday, December 14, 2019** to do phone interviews with young adults who have applied to the Service Academies and are seeking Senator Merkley's nomination.

Our office will run only these two sessions on the two different Saturday mornings this year. Interviewers are asked to report to Senator Merkley's Office at **0830**. Interviews will be conducted from **0900 to 1200 noon**. Each shift will have three panels of two or three volunteers each (so we'd likely be asking for 12 to 18 people to volunteer, so we have alternates in case we lose a couple of folks to illness, etc. at the last minute). Each panel will be asked to conduct 10-15-minute phone interviews with a slate of applicants. Our office will provide complete information on each applicant to be interviewed, and instructions as needed. Of course, some of my colleagues and I will be on hand to orchestrate

everything and answer panelists' questions. The panels' recommendations will inform Senator Merkley's decision on whom to nominate.

We'll have coffee, pastries, a veggie tray, and other snacks during the panel interviews, and we will be ending in time for folks to grab lunch on their own. I'm already planning to contact panelists (once the schedule is firmed up) to see if they would like to grab lunch together afterwards. And if so, I'll make reservations for all of us at a suitable place.

If you have any questions or are interested in serving on one of these panels, please contact me by **31 October 2018** at either **503-326-3386** or at **State_scheduling@merkley.senate.gov**

WANT TO PARK FREE FOR UP TO 14 DAYS IN ECONOMY PARKING at PDX?

By Major General Curt Loop, USA (Ret)

Parking authorities at PDX Airport confirmed that, if you show the proper ID when exiting and paying for your parking in the economy parking lot, you can get up to 14 days of *FREE* parking.

The specifics are:

- That you have a VA Medical or ID card that says "Service Connected" on the front (it's right under the photo).
- That you have a disability letter from the VA.
- That you check out using the blue Exit that has a person collecting your parking payment.
- It is only good in the Economy parking lot.
- It is good for up to 14 days of parking (at \$12 a day, that's \$168 in savings!). If you park for 21 days, you only pay for 7 days.
- If you have the paperwork, just save it as a photo or PDF to your phone.
- You can also use your military retired ID with your passenger registration if you have military disabled licensed plates.
- Show your VA annual letter, VA ID card with service connected, and military ID.
- It takes a few minutes because the cashier must do a little paperwork. But it works.

SPREAD THE WORD!

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

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

Navy Reps

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

Air Force Reps

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253
Vacant

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)

MajGen Christopher S. Owens, USMC (Ret): 503-951-1805

CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

Legislative: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

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

Communications: *Vacant*

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman
Mrs. Carol Patrick

Decorations: Mrs. Betty Richard

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

Special Events: Capt Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm)

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

Chaplains: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)
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.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
Mark your calendars!**

December 3, 2019	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2020</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
February 1, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 6, 220</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
March 7, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 7, 2020	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 2, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 29-31, 2020	ODVA-Hosted Oregon Women Veterans Conference (Location: Bend, OR)

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 2019 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **4 November 2019**.