



**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 XXXIX, Number 3

www.MOAAPortland.org

November 2022

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs will honor all veterans during its **Statewide Veterans Day Ceremony** this year and will feature remarks by federal, state, and local dignitaries and ceremonial elements including color guard, national anthem, wreath presentation and the playing of “Taps.” This year’s event will be held at **11 a.m., Thursday, November 10** at the **Oregon State Capitol Park** located on Court Street Northeast in downtown Salem — directly in front of the Oregon State Capitol Building. While the celebration will honor Oregon veterans of all eras, there will be special recognition of Oregon’s Korean War generation. ODVA is honored to welcome Consul General Eunji Seo of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Seattle, Wash., who will serve as one of the event’s keynote speakers.

At the October 2022 United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting, ODVA Women Veterans Program Coordinator, Jessica Bradley, announced that the **2023 Oregon Women Veterans Conference** will be held from **20-21 May 2023** in the **Salem Convention Center**. The theme is “Stronger Together – Voices of Service.” The early focus will be on outreach, sponsors, and speakers as ODVA finalizes the agenda. More information will be coming soon. Visit **wvc.oregondva.com** or contact Jessica at **jessica.bradley.odva.oregon.gov** if you have any questions or suggestions. I hope all the military women in the MOAA Portland Chapter put this event on their calendars and plan to attend! *(Continued on page 2)*

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

LTC Macil Leslie Flye, USA (Ret)

NOVEMBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 5 November 2022

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000
The Aerie at Eagle Landing
10220 SE Causey Avenue
Happy Valley, Oregon 97086
Phone: 503-698-8020

PROGRAM:

CDR Colin Kliever, Executive Officer of NOAA’s Pacific Maritime Operations Center, will speak on **“The Mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).”**

MENU:

Variety of Quiche
Roasted Potatoes
Bacon
Breakfast Sausage
Seasonal Sliced Fruit
Assorted Pastries
Coffee, Decaf, Hot Team, and Orange Juice

COST: \$33 per person (includes 23% gratuity)

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

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, 2 November 2022. 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 chapter charity. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

Program: Turning to the **Program** for the November Brunch Meeting, our guest speaker will be **CDR Colin Kliewer**, Executive Officer of NOAA's Pacific Marine Operations Center, who will speak to us on **"The Mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)."**



CDR Colin Kliewer (*see photo above*) joined the NOAA Commissioned Corps in 2006 after completing a master's degree at Texas A&M. The combination of uniformed service with an environmental mission focus was a perfect fit. He is currently serving as the Executive Officer of NOAA's Pacific Marine Operations Center in Newport, OR.

CDR Kliewer's assignment history has encompassed a variety of geographical and operational areas. His initial assignment was as navigation officer aboard a NOAA fisheries ship in the Gulf of Mexico conducting benthic trawl surveys and long-line shark surveys. He then moved to Annapolis to work with state and federal partners up and down the Chesapeake Bay on multiple small boats: setting up an array of data buoys,

conducting shoreline fish surveys, and hydrographic habitat mapping. His second ship tour, based out of Charleston, SC, focused on hydrographic mapping, diving, and ROV operations in the Southeast Atlantic and U.S. Caribbean areas. Then after three years ashore at NOAA HQ in Silver Spring, MD, CDR Kliewer conducted his third ship tour, as XO on a NOAA fisheries ship based out of Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, AK, surveying pollock surveys and monitoring ice seal populations in the Bering Sea.

He currently lives with his wife and two kids in the Willamette Valley and commutes to the Marine Center in Newport.

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 Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

The MOAA Portland Chapter is happy to welcome two new Surviving Spouse members:

Mrs. Tammy Boyce
Mrs. Lou Christianson

Well, folks, it is that time of year when we return to the business of supporting our MOAA Portland Chapter and place some renewed energy into new member recruitment. I have been enjoying the summer playing in multiple softball leagues and tournaments and must admit I haven't spent a lot of energy trying to recruit new members. However, with my exposure to many softball players, I have been successful in making several players aware of the goals and initiatives of MOAA. Now that summer is slowly waning, it is time for ALL of us to re-new our efforts.

I would like to take a moment and talk about motivation. Motivation is that one intrinsic ingredient that gets us up in the morning and persuades us to attack a challenge whether we feel like it or not. Each of us has to find the motivational factor that is going to persuade us to walk up to a family member, colleague, friend, or total stranger and talk to him or her about

MOAA and the chapter. It is widely accepted that individuals who are motivated intrinsically take pleasure in what they are doing and are not overly concerned with external awards. I want each of you to look at the recruitment of new members as an avenue to express your human relations talents and a PERSONAL goal in your support of the MOAA Portland Chapter.

Remember: "We never Stop Serving!"

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11 THANKSGIVING - NOVEMBER 25

Eight ladies attended our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon** in September. **Mrs. Lou Christianson** and **Mrs. Tammy Boyce** were attending for the first time. They were welcomed and given their MOAA Surviving Spouse "Never Stop Serving" pins. We also celebrated, with singing and dessert, a very special **98th** birthday for **Mrs. Edie Rieken**.

Our **Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** is scheduled for **December 14,**

2022. Time and restaurant to be decided by our committee. Please remember: Chapter wives are always welcome.

At a recent MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting I was asked a question regarding the name change from Auxiliary to Surviving Spouse. Our (SSAC) Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee, the ladies who represent us, discussed a name change with the MOAA President/CEO to whom they report on issues affecting the surviving spouses of military members. During the MOAA Annual Meeting in October 2015 in Orlando, Florida, the name change was announced. For more information, go to the MOAA Website, www.MOAA.org under "Bylaws."

While you are on the website, go to Member Benefits: check the Vacation information on the latest travel packages. (**NOTE:** Our MOAA Portland Chapter receives rebates/royalties on trips scheduled through this website.)

Please continue to support Operation Diaper Bag, Operation Homefront, and the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

NEW THREE-DIGIT SUICIDE CRISIS LINE GOES INTO EFFECT

(From the September/October 2022 Issue of DAV MAGAZINE)

The Veterans Crisis Line has a new toll-free, three-digit dialing code to make it easier for individuals to access confidential help in a mental health emergency.

Veterans, their families, and friends can dial **988** and **then press 1** to be connected to trained counselors. The new three-digit code went live nationwide in July helping make it easier to remember and share in times of need.

The current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number, **1-800-273-8255**, remains available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

Veterans can also reach the Veterans Crisis Line through **chat** at veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat and via **text** at **838255**.

**OREGON VETERAN VOLUNTEER
TRAINING PROGRAM TO
VIRTUAL TRAINING SEMINAR
IN LATE OCTOBER**

**Two-day Training set for Oct. 26-27,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is seeking volunteers for its Veteran Volunteer Program who are interested in serving aging veterans in their own communities by helping veterans learn how to access potential earned benefits and resources. The goal of this program is to equip volunteers with information so they can help educate and connect veterans — primarily, seniors — to their earned benefits and other potential resources.

Volunteers work closely with ODVA's Veteran Volunteer Coordinator and accredited local county veteran or tribal service officers in the area, locating veterans who may need assistance accessing their benefits in long-term care facilities, senior centers, libraries, mobile home parks, and retirement communities, or wherever people gather.

The program is open to anyone 18 years or older. Volunteers are asked to commit to serving eight to 10 hours per month. A background check will be performed (at no cost to the volunteer) before the volunteer is permitted to work with veterans. If you enjoy working with the aging population and want to make a difference in the lives of veterans, you are encouraged to apply.

The next training is scheduled for interested volunteers in Lane and Douglas counties and will be held virtually, Wednesday-Thursday, October 26-27. The training will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. both days and attendance to both sessions is required.

To register or get information about an upcoming training in your area, or for more information about the program, please visit oregonvetvolunteer.com or contact Veteran Volunteer Coordinator **Mark Newell** at **971-720-8911** or ODVA_VeteranVolunteer@odva.oregon.gov.

**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WILL
INCREASE 8.7% NEXT YEAR**

By Kerry Hannon, Senior Columnist and Senior Reporter at *Yahoo Money*

The biggest increase in Social Security benefits in four decades will deliver much-needed breathing room for millions of Social Security recipients. The Social Security Administration, the federal government agency that oversees the benefits, announced an **8.7% increase** in the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023.

The increase is the largest since 1981, when the COLA was 11.2%, and raises the average retiree benefit by more than \$140 per month starting in January, according to the Social Security Administration.

The adjustment — coupled with a decrease in Medicare Part B premiums next year — will make a critical difference in making ends meet for the more than 70 million retired senior citizens and disabled workers who have grappled this year with mounting prices for everything from electric and natural gas bills to groceries and monthly rent.

Folks who receive Social Security benefits are typically notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. Most beneficiaries can also view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

The jaw-dropping bump-up was stoked by the soaring cost of groceries, gas and other goods and services since July. The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 8.5% year over year in September, down from 8.7% in August.

The COLA is calculated by averaging together the CPI-W consumer price index for the third quarter of the year — July, August, and September of 2022 — and then comparing that figure with the same data last year.

NEW STUDY FINDS EVEN MORE YOUNG AMERICANS ARE UNFIT TO SERVE



New sailors take the oath of enlistment during a joint service swearing-in ceremony at Busch Stadium in St. Louis in 2021.

Editor's note: This article by Thomas Novelly originally appeared on [Military.com](https://www.military.com), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

A new study from the Pentagon shows that 77% of young Americans would not qualify for military service without a waiver due to being overweight, using drugs, or having mental and physical health problems.

A slide detailing the findings from the Pentagon's 2020 Qualified Military Available Study shared with Military.com shows a 6% increase from the latest 2017 Department of Defense research that showed 71% of Americans would be ineligible for service.

"When considering youth disqualified for one reason alone, the most prevalent disqualification rates are overweight (11%), drug and alcohol abuse (8%), and medical/physical health (7%)," the study, which examined Americans between the ages of 17 and 24, read. The study was

conducted by the Pentagon's office of personnel and readiness.

Mental health accounted for 4% of disqualifications, while aptitude, conduct or being a dependent accounted for 1% each. Most youth, 44%, were disqualified for multiple reasons.

The updated figures paint a picture of what is currently plaguing military recruiters in many of the service branches, with a shrinking pool of potential service members available to them.

Maj. Charlie Dietz, a Department of Defense spokesman, confirmed that the study shared with Military.com was accurate and said all the services are being challenged by the current recruiting environment.

"There are many factors that we are navigating through, such as the fact that youth are more disconnected and disinterested compared to previous generations," Dietz said. "The declining veteran population and shrinking military footprint has contributed to a market that is unfamiliar with military service resulting in an overreliance of military stereotypes."

Lawmakers have been raising the alarm over the recruiting environment throughout the year. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee personnel panel, said during an April 27 hearing that he was worried the widespread ineligibility of many Americans will contribute to readiness problems.

"To put it bluntly, I am worried we are now in the early days of a long-term threat to the all-volunteer force. [There is] a small and declining number of Americans who are eligible and interested in military service," Tillis said. He added that "every single metric tracking the military recruiting environment is going in the wrong direction."

The Council for a Strong America, a nonprofit organization made up of retired military officers, law enforcement and business leaders that advocates for better nutrition and healthy lifestyles among kids, issued a press release expressing alarm at the findings.

The group called on lawmakers in Washington to take action so that younger generations would qualify for military service.

"The retired admirals and generals of Mission: Readiness recognize that the underlying causes of obesity cannot be solved by the efforts of the military alone," the Council for a Strong America said in a statement. "With an increase in youth being ineligible for military service, it is more important than ever for policymakers, including state and local school boards, to promote healthy eating, increased access to fresh and nutritious foods, and physical activity for children from an early age." Dietz told Military.com that the Army and most of the service's reserve components are in jeopardy of missing their FY2022 recruiting goals.

HELP AFTER IAN: THE MOAA FOUNDATION'S CRISIS RELIEF FUND STANDS READY TO ASSIST By Jackie Copek



A Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk flies overhead while military personnel scan for unaccounted people in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. on Sept. 29.

Hurricane Ian caused catastrophic damage in Florida and the Carolinas – home states for a combined 2.4 million veterans and almost 290,000 currently serving personnel.

Many members of this community need assistance in the storm's aftermath, and The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Fund stands ready to provide aid, regardless of rank or service branch. "If you have been affected by Hurricane Ian, or any other natural disaster, my heart goes out to you and your family. I invite you to submit an application to The Crisis Relief Fund" said Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA.

The Crisis Relief Fund assists veterans, active duty servicemembers, and their families, including survivors, in crisis situations, such as natural disasters, by providing one-time emergency grant funds to approved applicants. The goal of this program is to provide meaningful aid to members of the uniformed services community in their time of need.

Three distinct features set the Crisis Relief Fund apart from similar relief programs:

1. A streamlined application that **takes less than 20 minutes to complete**, *saving applicants the time they need to address other urgent priorities.*
2. Funds reaching the bank account of approved applicants **within two weeks of approval** -- timely relief when it can do the most good.
3. **No requirement for a VA disability rating** to be eligible, bridging the gap for the 12 million veterans without a disability rating.

If you have not been impacted by this storm, **we urge you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our Crisis Relief Fund** and ask that you share this resource with all members of the uniformed services community. Before Hurricane Ian hit, the Crisis Relief Fund already had distributed almost \$20,000 to individuals impacted by the record-breaking flooding in Kentucky. With an expected influx of applications from those in need after Hurricane Ian, The MOAA Foundation is asking MOAA members to take action by making a donation. **All donations, no matter the amount, help ensure those in need receive assistance.**

The MOAA Foundation relies on individual donations to fund these vital emergency financial assistance grants. ***Will you help us provide active duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families with financial assistance when they need it the most?***

2022-2023 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

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

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

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Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

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Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

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

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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
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P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>November 3, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
November 5, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
December 6, 2022	Dinner Meeting with The John Bennett Trio (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2023</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
<i>February 2, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
February 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
March 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 4, 2023	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 0900—and ***are open to all members!***

NOTE 3: All articles for the **December 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **9 November 2022**.