



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

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

**Volume XL, Number 3**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**November 2023**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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

In September of this year, I attended the annual Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) Convention and ran into Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret), the AFA Executive Vice President. We got into an animated conversation which resulted in his graciously providing me with two top notch guest speakers for our chapter meetings. The first one is this month’s virtual guest speaker, Colonel Stuart A. Pettis, USAF (Ret), who is the AFA’s premier Guardian in leading AFA’s STEM Programs (CyberPatriot, StellarXplorers). Stu is also a space warfighter who is not only a graduate of the AF Weapons School at Nellis AFB, he’s also responsible for the stand up of our 5<sup>th</sup> service, the USSF! Doug assures me that Stu will dazzle our membership and “knock it out of the ballpark.” So, based on his glowing endorsement, I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting to hear this dynamic and knowledgeable speaker.

On 2 March 2024, General Raaberg himself will speak to us on his area of expertise, the B-21 Raider. So, “Save the Date” on your calendar for another memorable event!

Finally, for those of you who are interested in the Oregon Military Museum Fundraising Project, “Memorials of World War II 10-day Tour to France and England,” from 24 June to 3 July 2024 by Collette, please contact Maj Gen Dan O’Hollaren, USAF (Ret) at 503-780-4735 or [danoh73@comcast.net](mailto:danoh73@comcast.net) -- or go to the following link: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1168271>

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Reminder:**

**The Chapter Board of Directors Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800 on Wednesday, 1 November 2023 via Zoom Video Teleconference**

**NOVEMBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 4 November 2023**

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

**PROGRAM:**

**Col Stuart A. Pettis, USAF (Ret)**, Director of STEM Programs and Space Subject Matter Expert for the Air & Space Forces Association, will speak on the **“Standing Up of the Fifth Service: the U.S. Space Force.”**

**MENU:**

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

**COST:** \$33 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](mailto:mjseiwald@comcast.net) or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 1 November 2023. 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 bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity, the **Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation 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 **Col Stuart A. Pettis, USAF (Ret)**, Director of STEM Programs and Space Subject Matter Expert for the Air & Space Forces Association, who will speak on the **“Standing Up of the Fifth Service: the U.S. Space Force.”**



**Col Stuart A. Pettis, USAF (Ret)**

Stuart A. Pettis is the Director of STEM Education Programs for the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) where he oversees the CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers competitions for high school and middle school students around the United States.

He also serves as a space subject matter expert for the AFA, as required.

Colonel Pettis retired from the United States Air Force in September 2021 after a 29-year career. He served in a variety of space operations and policy assignments at the Headquarters Space Force and Air Force, major command, numbered air force, and unit level.

He also commanded Thule Air Base, the Air Force's largest overseas installation, as well as the 1st Air Support Operations Squadron where he also served as the Air Liaison Officer for the United States

Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. Between October 2007 and May 2008, he led the 1st Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron during the surge in Iraq.

He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Weapons School and a contributor to the book *Space Power Integration: Perspectives of Space Weapons Officers*, published in 2006 by Air University Press. He has also contributed articles to *Air & Space Power Journal's* online journal *Air Chronicles*, as well as Air Force Space Command's professional journal *High Frontier*.

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](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) or 310-897-1902 (cell). Remember: “Never Stop Serving!”

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**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

**By CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret), Co-Membership Committee Chair**

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined since the last issue of the *Brass Bulletin*:

**LTC John Toll, USA**  
And wife **Katherine**

**COL David Gillingham, USA (Ret)**  
And wife **Jan**

Congratulations! I'm going to be positive and say we're on a roll. We haven't had two new members in a month since June. Thank you for your recruiting efforts. Let's keep it up and work towards at least two new members a month for the rest of the year, and then up it to three a month in 2024. We can do this!

Your potential members may ask “Why join MOAA?” Good question. The following two paragraphs are taken from the MOAA website under Member Benefits and give us some talking points when recruiting new members.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: "Never Stop Serving."

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

We have all benefitted from the advocacy of MOAA, both nationally and locally. And I know you are proud to be a member and provide your own advocacy through our Chapter. That's why we've won the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! So, I hate to keep repeating myself, but we continue to challenge all of you – please bring at least one guest (potential member) to our next chapter meeting in November! Numbers count.

Happy Halloween everyone! May your treats be many, and your tricks be few. Have a spooktacular day!

***CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2024 DUES!***  
***By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Treasurer***

**2024 Annual Chapter Dues** are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) and are **due on or before 1 January 2024**.

There are several ways you can pay this year:

- Mail a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213),
- Have your bank mail us a check,
- Pay via Zelle or VENMO, or
- Have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.

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***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***

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



There is much history in the month of November. It was fun and very interesting to recall. November 11, 1919 (Armistice Day) which was changed to Veteran's Day in 1954. November 1, 1927, Ford Model A began production November 9, 1989, The Berlin Wall came

down. November 11, 1926, US Route 66 was established. November 26, 1941, Thanksgiving Day was established. Let's "slow down" and take the time to remember all we are thankful for.

Several of our local MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses, are finding it well worth their time to join the MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter. [Mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:Mssvc02@gmail.com)

The newest member benefit reported on is *Everplans*. An *Everplan* gets your household and life organized. It guides you through it all. Check it out online, then if you decide it would be right for you, MOAA has special discounts. [help@everplans.com](mailto:help@everplans.com).

There will be no Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meeting in November or December.

However, our Portland Chapter is planning a special *Christmas Luncheon* in December. We have reservations: 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, Lake Oswego Grill, 7 Centerpointe Drive, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. Chapter wives are always welcome at our luncheons. Call or text:

- Jan Brink: 503-740-3346  
[jgbrink@comcast.net](mailto:jgbrink@comcast.net)
- Jean Hillman: 503-819-1042  
[budjean@aol.com](mailto:budjean@aol.com)

Finally, please remember those that need our help. Operation Homefront in need of baby diapers and wipes. School supplies also needed. Operation Diaper Bag gathers many different baby items. (503-273-5042 for more information).

Did you receive the new iPhone 15? Bring your old cell phone to Col Mayer for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

### **THE LATEST: 2024 COLA**

The 2024 COLA is **3.2%**.

The September 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released Oct. 12, was 302.257, 3.5% above the FY 2023 baseline of 291.901. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2023) are compared to the FY 2023 COLA baseline to calculate the 2024 COLA (see "How Your COLA Is Calculated," below).

Last year's COLA was 8.7%, and the previous year's COLA was 5.9%. Aside from those adjustments, the 2024 COLA is the largest since a 3.6% increase for the 2012 calendar year.

The October 2023 CPI-W, the first of the new fiscal year, will be released Nov. 14. Calculations for the 2025 COLA will use the baseline of 301.236 – the average of the CPI-W figures for the last three months of the 2023 fiscal year.

Why Does MOAA Track COLA? Protecting the value of service-earned benefits has long been a pillar of MOAA's advocacy. MOAA has led previous efforts to rebuff budget plans seeking to reduce or eliminate COLA for military retirees, many of which have taken root shortly after large increases.

The nature of a higher COLA is to preserve purchasing power for retirees, VA beneficiaries, and surviving spouses – not to fund other government programs.

**INPUTS NEEDED FOR ADVOCACY IN ACTION (AiA) TOPICS: MOAA's President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), wants to hear from you about future advocacy topics.**

Some MOAA members have asked how they can provide their input for the process of selecting topics for the annual Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign. MOAA always has been receptive to the views of its



members, and we've decided to make the process of sharing ideas easier and more accessible.

We would like to hear from you by Nov. 1 about topics you'd like to see prioritized for the next AiA campaign, set for April 2024. You can send that input [via this survey](#), which can be found on MOAA's Legislative Action Center site.

Please be sure your suggestion falls under one of the topic areas outlined in our legislative priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, which will still be in session in the spring:

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
- Service Families
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserve

**Note:** Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed above; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and we leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

Feel free to [share the survey link](#) with fellow members and others in your network.

The early deadline is critical to MOAA's AiA planning process – topics

must be approved by our board of directors in the fall so we can begin planning an array of informational and promotional efforts in time for the spring event.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important stage of our advocacy, and for your continued grassroots support of ongoing efforts on the Hill. Your work on all fronts makes a difference.

**REGISTER FOR MOAA's ANNUAL MEETING:** MOAA's 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held Friday, Nov. 3 at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Va.

The event will feature updates on the association's efforts to grow our membership, strengthen MOAA Charities, strengthen our affiliate system, prepare for the second session of the 118th Congress, and more.

Please note that no associated events are planned and that MOAA does not provide transportation or lodging, nor reimburse expenses, for annual meeting attendance. The learn more and register, visit [MOAA.org/annualmeeting](https://MOAA.org/annualmeeting).

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## MEMORIES OF THE OCTOBER 2023 MEETING



***Mr. Steve Bates tells the membership about the Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial***

***RETIRING ODVA DIRECTOR  
RECEIVES TOKEN OF  
APPRECIATION FROM THE  
MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER  
By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF  
(Ret), Chapter President***

At our 7 October 2023 Chapter Meeting, the Chapter President made a very special presentation to chapter member, **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, who, after five years as the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) retired on 1 October 2023.

Right before brunch, President Mayer presented a beautiful Army Pin by Ann Hand, a jeweler from the Washington, DC area, to Major Fitzpatrick as a token of appreciation for all she had done over the years. Kelly has been a true friend of the MOAA Portland Chapter and has helped to greatly improve the lives of veterans throughout the State of Oregon.



Here are some highlights of her illustrious career:

Kelly is a decorated Army veteran with a wealth of experience in Oregon veteran and military affairs. She served a trailblazing 16-year career in the United

States Army that included command and staff assignments at Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Stewart, Georgia, and West Point, as well as the Republic of Korea and other places overseas.

Her military awards and decorations include multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Army Parachutist Badge. Prior to joining ODVA, Fitzpatrick served as a senior executive in intelligence and legislative affairs at the Pentagon and a military and veterans constituent services representative for Senator Jeff Merkley's office.

She has served as the head of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs after being appointed by Governor Kate Brown in August 2018. She is the first woman and first LGBTQ+ person to lead the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in its 77-year history.

She lives in Portland with her wife, Joan Sigler. The couple have three children and four grandchildren.

As Kelly begins a new chapter in her life, the MOAA Portland Chapter wishes her only the best – and is delighted that she is going to remain a loyal and active member of our chapter!



***Army Pin by Ann Hand Jewelry***

**2023-2024 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS****President**

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

**First Vice President**

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

**Second Vice President**

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

**Co-Recording Secretaries**

Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret): 503-698-3612

Major Paul Granada, USAF (Ret): 603-290-0232

**Reservations Secretary**

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

**Co-Treasurers**

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

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

**Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):**

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

**2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Army Reps**

COL William R. Crist: 503-705-6886

MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret): 503-309-7458

**Navy Reps**

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

**Air Force Reps**

Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren: 503-780-4735

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

**Marine Corps Rep**

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

**Coast Guard Rep:**

CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

**USPHS Rep:**

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

**NOAA Rep:**

CDR Colin Kliewer: 410-212-3501

**Women in Service Rep**

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

**Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

**Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)**

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

**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:**

**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**

<i>November 1, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
November 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
December 5, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2024</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
February 3, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>February 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
March 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 6, 20234	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)

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

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom at 0800—and ***are open to all members!***

**NOTE 3:** All articles for the **December 2023 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **7 November 2023**.