



**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

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October 2022

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

What a wonderful way to begin our 2022-2023 program year! I am sorry that more of you could not have attended the September Chapter Dinner Meeting. Our guest speakers were the co-chairs of the *USS Oregon Commissioning Ceremony*, **Mr. Joe Lasher** and **Mr. Arlo V. Gatchel**.

After an excellent joint presentation, **Mr. Gatchel**, a retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Electronic Technician (Submarine Qualified), presented me with a **USS Oregon Honorary Plank Owner Certificate** and **Coin**. We intend to frame the certificate and proudly display it and the coin at future chapter meetings!



(Continued on page 2)

Reminder:

The Chapter Board of Directors Virtual Meeting will be held at 0900 on Thursday, 3 November 2022 via Zoom Video Teleconference

OCTOBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 1 October 2022

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

PROGRAM:

Rear Admiral Chad L. Jacoby, USCG, Director of Acquisition Programs & Program Executive Officer (CG-93), will speak on **“Icebreakers in the Arctic.”**

MENU:

Classic Eggs Benedict
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, 28 September 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 OCTOBER 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 October Brunch Meeting, our guest speaker will be **Rear Admiral Chad L. Jacoby, USCG**, Director of Acquisition Programs & Program Executive Officer (CG-93) who will speak to us on **"Icebreakers in the Arctic."**



Rear Admiral Jacoby currently serves as the U.S. Coast Guard's Director of Acquisition Programs and Program Executive Officer (PEO). His duties include management oversight of all Coast Guard acquisition programs and projects for the modernization and recapitalization of surface, air, command and control, and logistics assets in support of the Coast Guard's multiple maritime missions.

Rear Admiral Jacoby previously served as Chief of Mission Support Integration responsible for integration of logistics, engineering support, training, and personnel support for the Coast Guard's global operations.

Rear Admiral Jacoby's career includes a mix of cutter engineering afloat, cutter support ashore, and new cutter design and acquisition assignments. He served as

Commander, Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) in Curtis Bay, MD, where he headed the single logistics center for the Coast Guard surface fleet providing engineering, maintenance, casualty repair, supply, and technical information services to 242 cutters and over 1,800 boats stationed throughout the United States. A long-time member of the Coast Guard's acquisition workforce, he holds a DHS Level III program management certification and served as Assistant Program Executive Officer (PEO) for C4ISR and Cyber Acquisitions and Deputy Surface Program Manager at Coast Guard Headquarters.

His prior assignments include service as Assistant Engineering Officer aboard CGC SHERMAN (WHEC-720) and Engineering Officer aboard CGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC-722), Engineer Officer at Group Key West, Executive Officer at Naval Engineering Support Unit Honolulu, Logistics Department Head and Commanding Officer of enlisted personnel at Sector St. Petersburg, and Patrol Boat Product Line Manager at Surface Forces Logistics Center.

A native of Corning, New York, he graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor of Engineering and holds a Master of Mechanical Engineering Design and Manufacturing from Old Dominion University and a Master of Engineering Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has been a DHS Level III certified Program Manager since 2006.

Rear Admiral Jacoby's military awards include two Legion of Merit awards, three Meritorious Service Medals, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and multiple unit awards.

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 marvjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell). Remember: "Never Stop Serving!"

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter has not recruited any new members since the September issue of the *Brass Bulletin*:

One of the things I constantly hear is **“Why Do I want to stay a member of the Portland Chapter when I rarely attend the meetings?”** There are a lot of reasons! First and foremost, it is the many efforts and programs that are pursued by the chapter in direct support of the military community.

The Portland Chapter has raised funds to sponsor two MOAA scholarships, provide annual scholarships to two ROTC cadets, support two local JROTC units annually, donate to the commissioning of the USS Portland and the building of the Oregon World War II Memorial in Salem,, and, currently, help sponsor the National Veterans' Wheelchair Games to be held in Portland in July 2023..

Our Surviving Spouse Liaison has provided comfort to the families of deceased members and sent cards and made visits to those members who are sick or are in distress.

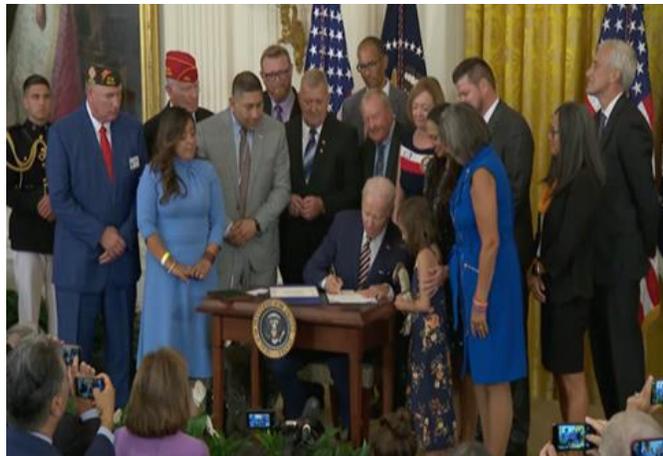
The second reason that you should support the chapter with your membership is the monetary impact your membership has on the chapter as a whole. Believe me, numbers do count when it comes to MOAA National reimbursement. Look at the type of incentives the chapter receives from MOAA Headquarters.

- \$10 for each new incentive qualified chapter membership.
- \$15 for each new Premium Member and \$30 for each new Life Member.
- \$250 retention incentive awarded to chapters that retain 80% or more of its membership.

- \$50 for updated membership rosters submitted by March 1 each year.

I could go on and on about how insignificant \$30 is when one considers what one spends on food, beverages, and entertainment each year. I could list many more activities that the Portland Chapter is involved in. However, I would like to finish with just a simple idea. We, as officers, were not drafted into our nation’s military, but we made the commitment to serve our country out of respect and a sense of honor. Therefore, I conclude with MOAA’s simple motto: **“Never Stop Serving!”** That includes recruiting new members for our chapter, paying your annual dues, and participating in as many chapter activities as you can!

ADVOCACY: President Signs Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation



A signing ceremony at the White House (*see picture above*) on 10 August 2022 marked the end of a long legislative road to comprehensive toxic exposure reform, with the **Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022** set to expand health care coverage to millions of veterans.

The bill’s passage came as part of a combined effort from MOAA and more than 60 other veterans service organizations, alongside veterans and their families, other advocates and advocacy groups, and a bipartisan group of legislators from both chambers.

The bill adds nearly two dozen conditions to a list of ailments presumed connected to toxic exposure by the VA; while the legislation includes a timetable for this change, President Joe Biden announced at the signing the VA will move to make these changes immediately. The bill also expands VA research into burn pit-related illnesses and improves VA's screening process for those illnesses.

The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans in more than 30 years and will:

- Ensure veterans can receive high-quality health care screenings and services related to potential toxic exposures, the PACT Act expands access to VA health care services for veterans exposed during their military service. For post-9/11 combat veterans, the bill extends the period of time they have to enroll in VA health care from five to ten years post-discharge. For those combat veterans who do not fall within that window, the bill also creates a one-year open enrollment period. These expansions mean that more veterans can enroll in VA health care without having to demonstrate a service-connected disability.
- Codify VA's new process for evaluating and determining presumption of exposure and service connection for various chronic conditions when the evidence of a military environmental exposure and the associated health risks are strong in the aggregate but hard to prove on an individual basis. PACT requires VA to seek independent evaluation of this process as well as external input on the conditions it will review using this framework. The new process is evidence-based, transparent, and allows VA to make faster policy decisions on crucial exposure issues. This new process has already fundamentally changed how VA makes decisions on environmental

exposures and ensures more veterans have access to the care they need.

- Remove the need for certain veterans and their survivors to prove service connection if they are diagnosed with one of 23 specific conditions. This greatly reduces the amount of paperwork and need for exams that veterans diagnosed with one of these conditions must complete before being granted access to health care and disability compensation, thereby speeding up their receipt of the benefits they have earned. This list includes 11 respiratory related conditions, along with several forms of cancer, including reproductive cancers, melanoma, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, and brain cancers such as glioblastoma. Survivors of veterans who died due to one of these conditions may now also be eligible for benefits.
- To better understand the impact of toxic exposures, the PACT Act requires VA to conduct new studies of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War and analyses of post-9/11 veterans' health trends. The new law also directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convene a new interagency working group to develop a five-year strategic plan on toxic exposure research.
- Ensure veterans get the care they need includes ensuring that they are screened for toxic exposure and that VA personnel have the appropriate education and training. The PACT Act requires that veterans enrolled in VA health care be screened regularly for toxic exposure related concerns. This new law also requires VA to establish an outreach program for veterans regarding toxic exposure related benefits and supports, and to require additional toxic exposure related education and training for VA personnel.
- Deliver critical resources to VA to ensure it can deliver timely access to services and benefits for all veterans eligible – including those already enrolled. The PACT Act provides VA with mechanisms to enhance claims processing and to increase the workforce. The bill also invests in VA health care facilities by authorizing 31 major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



“Never lose an opportunity of seeing something beautiful, for beauty is God’s handwriting”

With that in mind, our Liaison Committee is in the beginning stages of planning our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Gala Christmas Luncheon**. Planning date, time, and place will be decided soon.

Please remember those in need:

- A Portland VA Medical Center Program started in 2009, **Operation Diaper Bag** was formed to help recognize women Veterans for their service but now includes male Veterans and their families as well. The program provides much-needed delivery of vital supplies for newborn children. If you would like more information, please call: CDCE: Center for Development and Civic Engagement. 503-273-5042.

- We also donate diapers and wipes to **Operation Homefront** and gather old cell phones for the **Cell Phones For Soldiers Program**.

***ODVA SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ITS
VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM***

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 the Veteran Volunteer Coordinator and the accredited local veteran service officer or tribal veteran service officer in their 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.

Volunteers selected must attend scheduled training. Interested persons must fill out the online interest form or contact **Veteran Volunteer Coordinator Mark Newell** by phone or email.

For more information or to register, please visit **oregonvetvolunteer.com** or contact ODVA’s Veteran Volunteer Coordinator at **971-720-8911** or **ODVA_VeteranVolunteer@odva.oregon.gov**



By CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)

What ultimately became Wreaths Across America began in 1992 when Mr. Worcester, a wreathmaker from Maine, found himself with a surplus of wreaths and donated them to be placed at Arlington in one of the older, little visited, sections of the cemetery.

Fast-forward to 2021, Wreaths Across America and its national network of 2 million volunteers placed over 2.4 million veterans' wreaths at 3,136 participating locations in the United States and beyond.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, 17 December 2022. Typically, a brief public ceremony is held at each participating cemetery followed by placement of the wreaths. When the wreath is placed, the person placing the wreath says the name of the veteran aloud thereby ensuring that the veteran is not forgotten.

If you'd like to see a short video about Wreaths Across America, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Dy6PE37g2k&t=81s>.

Please consider sponsoring wreaths through the Multnomah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution websites. They are working to honor all veterans and active military members by placing live wreaths on veterans' graves

both at Willamette National AND River View Cemeteries. Many of you are likely familiar with the large Willamette National Cemetery at SE Mt. Scott Blvd. Predating that, River View Cemetery at S Taylors Ferry Rd. was opened in 1882 on land purchased by Henry Corbett, William Ladd, and Henry Failing--and it remains a non-profit today. Among other veterans, it is the final resting place for 165 largely forgotten veterans from the Spanish-American War buried there together.

To demonstrate their commitment to this cause, Multnomah Chapter, DAR is ensuring a third wreath is placed for every two wreaths sponsored through their websites. They will also place veteran wreaths on specific veterans' graves at either of those cemeteries if the purchase is designated as Grave Specific at the time of purchase and the veteran's information is provided.

Each hand made, fresh, live wreath costs \$15 to sponsor and is made in the United States with Maine balsam. **Orders must be placed by 29 November 2022 for placement this year.**

To sponsor wreaths at:

- Willamette National Cemetery, go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0053
- River View Cemetery, go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0063

Feel free to contact **Sharon Sebbio** at 2retcpts@comcast.net (or text 503-410-1825) with any questions.

If you'd prefer to sponsor wreaths by check or need assistance sponsoring a wreath for another participating location, it can be done through either of the above websites.

Thank you for your consideration of this patriotic cause.

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

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

2022-2023 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

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): 503-710-1825

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

2022-2023 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
Mrs. Jan Brink

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)
Mrs. Nancy Menagh

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

Special Events: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)

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.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

<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 ***November 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **4 October 2022**.