



**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 2**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**October 2023**

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM**

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

Congratulations to the MOAA Portland Chapter for being awarded the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for the 16th consecutive year! This is an outstanding achievement, and each of you should be immensely proud to be recognized for all the hard work you have put in to garner this distinction.

I am pleased to announce that **Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren, USAF (Ret)** has accepted my invitation to become the second Air Force Representative on the Chapter Board of Directors. Thanks so much for volunteering, Dan!

After five years as Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)** will be departing the agency. We wish her only the best in her new endeavor; she has been a true friend of the MOAA Portland Chapter and has improved the lives of veterans throughout the State of Oregon. I hope many of you can attend the **Recognition Ceremony** for her on **21 September 2023**; see *page 7* for details.

At the 2 August 2023 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, the Board selected a new chapter charity, the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** to be built on the grounds of the Capitol in Salem, Oregon. We have committed to raising/donating **\$5,000** for the memorial by June 2024. Please read more details in an article written by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, our Fundraising Chair, on *page 3*.  
*(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**

**OCTOBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 7 October 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:**

**Mr. Steve Bates**, President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund, will speak on the "**Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial.**"

**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, 4 October 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 OCTOBER 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 October Brunch Meeting, our guest speaker will be **Mr. Steve Bates**, President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund, who will speak on the **“Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial.”**



**Mr. Steve Bates**

A retired executive, Steve Bates had a forty-year career that included selling and delivering fire engines all over the western United States.

He served as the Chair of the Boring Community Planning Organization for three years and is currently a founding director of the Boring, Oregon Foundation, the community chest for the greater Boring area.

As a Life Member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, he has served as Chair of the Committee on Memorials and Remembrance over the past eight years. In 2020, the Vietnam Veterans of America awarded Steve an Honorary Life Membership in their organization.

The Committee on Memorials and Remembrance formed the Vietnam War Memorial Fund in 2017, and Steve Bates was elected President.

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has an expressed mission of funding the design and construction of a Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds.

Steve has been active with the Oregon Legislature over the past several years, advocating for his community and our Veterans. Over 20 pieces of legislation have been introduced at his request, and over half were passed in a bi-partisan fashion.

He was in Salem for the 2023 Legislative Session seeking additional support for the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds and other Veterans issues. These efforts brought forth a 1-million-dollar allocation for the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds.

Married to his wife Betty for fifty years, they have two married children and three grandchildren, have lived in Boring, Oregon for forty-seven years, and are active in their community.

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**

It was so wonderful to see everyone again at our September Dinner Meeting after a short summer break! And now it’s time to get back to the business of supporting our MOAA Portland Chapter and place some renewed energy into new member recruitment.

As you may recall, we put out a challenge for every member to recruit a new member over the summer. It’s been a busy, unique summer for most folks. I had two prospective members lined up to come to the September meeting. One ended up with a knee injury and had difficulty walking so didn’t want to come; the other decided he was going to slow down and not get involved with any new organizations.

So, life happens, and we must push forward. I’m sure many of you have had similar experiences. Don’t get

discouraged, just keep on recruiting with your resilient spirit.

Members are the lifeblood of an organization, and our chapter is no exception. No one can do it alone, and we need everyone's assistance! We need your help to educate your eligible friends and colleagues about the benefits of being a MOAA Portland Chapter member. Explore what they're passionate about. We have so many different avenues they can pursue depending on their interests. To promote our chapter, refresh yourself on the good work our various committees have done – our Legislative Committee, our Personal Affairs Committee, our Special Events Committee, and our Fundraising Committee. Bring potential members with you to every meeting! And don't forget to use our award-winning website and newsletter as recruiting tools, as well.

So, we continue to challenge all of you – bring at least one guest (potential member) to our next chapter meeting in October!

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***SUPPORTING THE OREGON  
CAPITOL VIETNAM VETERANS  
MEMORIAL AS IT APPROACHES  
CONSTRUCTION***

***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR  
(Ret), Fundraising Committee Chair***

You may recall that the MOAA Portland Chapter supported construction of the World War II Memorial built on Capitol Grounds in Salem close to a decade ago. The contribution was memorialized by a permanent listing of the chapter on the Memorial at that time.

We now have a similar opportunity to contribute to the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial, also to be located on the Capitol Grounds in Salem in proximity to the World War II Memorial.

Our contribution will again be noted for visitors to view in perpetuity.

The new memorial has been significantly affected by COVID but is accelerating its progress and hopes to have a groundbreaking in March 2024 and commence construction in May 2024. Construction is supported by a \$1 million contribution by the State of Oregon, slated for November, and an active campaign fundraising. In each of the counties in the state.

The Memorial leadership has responded to the significant delays experienced earlier and the escalating cost of construction by adopting a phased opening of the Memorial. They are making progress on getting architectural plans approved and verbiage created. Indeed, the large granite cornerstones are already in storage, and inscribing the names of fallen personnel should commence shortly.

This project is right up our alley, and we expect to fund the activity through our wine raffles throughout the year. We will keep everyone apprised.

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***LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT***

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

During the month of August, the Legislative Committee, along with chapter volunteers, made appointments with two Members of Congress (MOCs) and their staffs to keep the momentum going on the messages we delivered in April during the MOAA Advocacy in Action event held in Washington, DC.

We met with the staff members of Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer. Thus far, we have been unable to schedule meetings with the staff of Representative Suzanne Bonamici and Representative Blumenauer.

This is what we reviewed with the MOC staffers that we spoke to:

- Urged our MOCs to pay full housing cost to service members. Currently, service members who live on base/post get 100% of the Basic Allowance for Subsistence. Service members who live off base/post only get 95% of their BAS. This is a severe loss of income over a career in the military and can have an impact on recruitment and retention.

• Urged our MOCs to cut cost to the Tricare Pharmacy Network. The Tricare Pharmacy Network was cut nearly 25% this year. This cost cutting creates serious difficulties for those who live in rural areas, the elderly, and individuals with serious or complex medical difficulties.

Overall, some good news! Both staffers felt that their bosses would go along with the concerns.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Log on to the **MOAA.org** website. Click on the **Legislative Action Center**. You will be given the opportunity to send a pre-written letter to both Senators and your district House member.

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### ***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***

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



While reading the August edition of the *MOAA Surviving Spouse Newsletter*, I came across an article on the virtual chapters that MOAA has formed since 2018. These virtual chapters allow MOAA members to meet others who are interested in various topics and who live too far from each other to meet on a regular basis without the use of virtual technology.

One of those virtual chapters is the **MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter**: The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter was founded in 2018. Surviving spouses of military members across the country are connected virtually in a group that aims to solve problems and shape future legislation.

“The purpose is to provide a forum for surviving spouses across the United States to come together,” said Gail Joyce, one of the group's founding members. “We want to find solutions to problems we might be having. “The group started with 13 members and has grown to more than 200. It is open to any MOAA surviving spouse. The group holds hour-long virtual meetings every month.”

“One of the group's top goals is to connect with younger spouses. Since the group meets virtually, it makes it convenient for spouses to participate without leaving home, which can be a challenge for young spouses with children or jobs,” Joyce stated. “The group also bridges the gap for surviving spouses that live in areas that don't have local MOAA chapters.”

The monthly virtual meeting provides a wealth of guest speakers; every other month is more informal. This offers the opportunity to share resources and cultivate friendships. There are no meetings in November and December. An online application also is available. Also, please find us on the MOAA website at MOAA.org under “Surviving Spouses section.”

As your Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons, **Jan Brink and I** have both joined the Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter Meetings and find them very informative and fun! If you wish to join, please email **mssvc02@gmail.com** or call or text: Jan Brink: 503-740-3346, jgbrink@comcast.net or Jean Hillman: 503-819- 1042, budjean@aol.com

Eight of us had a wonderful time at the de Fuego Taqueria Restaurant at The Monarch Hotel on 12 September 2023. The food was wonderful, conversation was animated, and the weather was perfect (we ate al fresco!). **A follow-on Surviving Spouse Luncheon has not been planned!** We would like to hear some suggestions for restaurants from our Surviving Spouse members.

Also, now that the Chapter Program Year has officially started, we should remember those we

generously need to help with a donation:

(1) **Operation Homefront** needs baby diapers and wipes. If it is easier to give through the website, use the following: **donate.operationhomefront.org**;

(2) **Operation Diaper Bag** is a local program sponsored by the Portland Veterans Administration for new military families. To know what items are needed please call: **503-273-5042**; and

(3) Be sure to ask family and friends to save their old cell phones and bring them to Col Mayer at our chapter meetings so she can send them to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

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***INVITATION TO RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY IN HONOR OF  
KELLY FITZPATRICK, ODVA  
DIRECTOR***

***By Matthew Castleman, ODVA***



**Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)** has been a dedicated and exemplary leader, tirelessly championing the cause of veterans and their families.

Under her guidance, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has achieved remarkable milestones and made a profound impact on the lives of countless veterans in our great state.

This **Recognition Ceremony** is an opportunity for us to express our gratitude and appreciation for her five years of service and leadership at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

We will reflect on her achievements, hear from esteemed colleagues, and celebrate her unwavering commitment to the veteran community.

We kindly request your presence at this event to honor Director Fitzpatrick's contributions and bid her a fond farewell as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

- **Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Auditorium, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301
- **Parking:** will be available in the Green Lot at 586 Winter St NE, and free of charge during this ceremony.
- **RSVPs** are appreciated but not mandatory.
- If able, please RSVP by Sept. 19, 2023 to **Matthew Castleman** at [matthew.castleman@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:matthew.castleman@odva.oregon.gov).

We look forward to your participation in this special occasion as we come together to recognize Director Kelly Fitzpatrick's outstanding service to our veterans and the State of Oregon.



**MEMORIES OF THE  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING**

*Pictures by LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)*



**Captain J. Pearce Beissinger, ORANG, Assistant Medical Director, Portland Mountain Rescue spoke on “Military Operations and Collaboration in Mount Hood Rescues”**



**Special Events Chair, LCDR Chris Gale, USCG (Ret) (right) presents LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret) (left) and MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret) (center), JROTC Commanders for Reynolds and Oregon City High Schools respectively, each with a donation of \$400 from the MOAA Portland Chapter for JROTC Leadership Activities.**



**Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Mrs. Edie Rieken, first Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison**



**Mrs. Edie Rieken blows out the candle held by LCDR Chris Gale, USCG (Ret) in honor of her 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Celebration at The Monarch Hotel**

**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

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**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**

October 7, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<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)

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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 **November 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 **9 October 2023**.