



**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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www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2024

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Under the leadership of **CAPT Frank “Tank” Michael, USN (Ret)** and **Dena Kilgore**, the MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Team is working hard for affiliates in the field.

One of the most rewarding forums are the region leadership workshops where council and chapter leaders from various states meet with MOAA staff to discuss successes and challenges in leading the field affiliates. On 15-16 November 2024, the **Western Region Leadership Workshop** will be held in Reno, NV. Attendees will be council and chapter presidents, membership chairs, legislative chairs, and surviving spouse liaisons from AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, and WY. From our chapter, Gary Battles, Bill Tidd, Jean Hillman, Jan Brink, and I are going to the event. I will also represent the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters President.

Each month a **MOAA Leadership Roundtable** is held virtually, and a different topic is discussed. Topics include chapter health and effectiveness, the council and chapter visit program, awards, membership recruiting and retention, MOAA Scholarship & Foundation charities, advocacy—and more.

In addition to geographic chapters such as ours, there are seven **Virtual Chapters** for those members who want to concentrate on certain communities of interest—including Nurse Advocates, Surviving Spouses, USPHS, Chaplains, Judge Advocates, Servicewomen, Public Affairs and Communications Professionals.

Finally, there are two MOAA National Checklists: **New Leader’s Checklist** and **Affiliate (Chapter) Checklist**. Make good use of all these resources—and more—from MOAA!

Reminder:

The Chapter Board of Directors Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800 on Wednesday, 6 November 2024 via Zoom Video Teleconference

OCTOBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 5 October 2024

Social Time: 0830, Meeting Starts: 0930

The Aerie at Eagle Landing

10220 SE Causey Avenue

Happy Valley, Oregon 97086

Phone: 503-698-8020

PROGRAM:

Colonel Michael B. Kosderka, USAF, Wing Commander, has been invited to speak on the **“Mission of the 142d Wing.”**

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 or

online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on**

Wednesday, 2 October 2024. 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.

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER
PRESIDENT SELECTED FOR TOP
AWARD**

**By CAPT Frank “Tank” Michael,
USN (Ret), Senior Director, MOAA
Council and Chapter Affairs**

I am pleased to announce that the **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** has selected **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, the President, MOAA Portland Chapter and Secretary/Treasurer, MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, for the prestigious **Chairman’s Award**, the highest award bestowed “for outstanding leadership and exceptional service in support of MOAA’s objectives and programs.”

The award will be presented by the Chairman of the Board, **General Gary L. North, USAF (Ret)**, on Friday, 25 October 2024 at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Membership in the Embassy Suites by Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. The Annual Meeting starts at 2:00 pm and ends at 3:30 pm.

Colonel Mayer was born and raised in Portland and is a third generation Oregonian. She received her commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1972. Throughout her 30+ year career, she served in a variety of intelligence, personnel policy, administration, contracting, program management, and special duty assignment positions—in the continental United States and overseas in Southeast Asia, Panama (two tours), and Spain. After retiring from the Air Force, she held the position of Senior Director at KBR Government and Infrastructure—responsible for the executive leadership and management of worldwide procurement and supply management operations. Mary holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish/Secondary Education from Marylhurst University and a master’s degree in Human

Resources Management from Central Michigan University.

She is currently making major contributions in support of various veteran and community organizations, which include serving as a commissioner on both the Oregon Governor’s Commission on Senior Services and the Oregon Home Care Commission, Oregon State President for the Air & Space Forces Association, and Chair of the United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon. She recently completed a six-year term on the Military Officers Association of America National Board of Directors and a five-year term as President of the Orchestra Nova Northwest (formerly Portland Columbia Symphony) Board of Directors. In the recent past, she served on the Oregon Governor’s Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). During this assignment, she worked closely with ODVA’s Director of Aging Veterans Services – working to improve conditions for Oregon’s senior veterans. The daughter of a World War II veteran, she served on the Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation Board.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (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*:

Col Joseph R. (Joe) Augustine, USAF
And wife **Floor Rawee**

CDR Douglas Quelch, USN (Ret)
And wife **Mary**

CW3 Michael Newgard, USA
And wife **Jacqueline**

As the crisp air of fall begins to settle in, it's time to generate your resources and seek some new members for our chapter’s new season. The shift in seasons often brings a sense of renewal and excitement, making it an ideal moment to engage with potential members. With people coming back from summer vacations and settling into their routines, a well-timed approach can capture their attention. Focus on promoting the unique

benefits of MOAA membership—whether it's networking opportunities, exclusive resources, or community programs that align with the upcoming season's priorities.

The beginning of fall also marks a time when people naturally seek new connections and communities. As the days grow shorter, there's a collective turn toward more structured, indoor activities, making it a great opportunity to introduce potential new members to our chapter's events, workshops, or social gatherings. With thoughtful messaging and strategic outreach, the potential of recruiting new members is unlimited.

Fall is the perfect time to remind potential members that "nothing ventured, nothing gained." This fall, encourage your contacts to venture out and invest in themselves—because the rewards of chapter membership are waiting for those who take the chance.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

During the month of August and early September, I have contacted staffers for both Oregon Senators and three members of the House of Representatives, Susan Bonamici, Lori Chaves-Deremer, and Andrea Salinas. Items reviewed with the staff were: (1) Four house resolutions that dealt with improving the condition for veterans who need assistance with living outside of veteran homes; (2) Full restoration of basic allowances for housing, and (3) restructured pay for junior enlisted person to help in the recruiting efforts in light of higher paying jobs in the civilian sector. Specifically, a 19.5% one-time pay raise. All items were well received by the staffers, and several Members of Congress have committed to support the requested actions.

Most recently, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) sponsored a bipartisan Senate bill called the Relocation Assistance for Military Families Act. This Senate Bill (SB) would require "best practices guidelines" to ensure military families are getting the most assistance from DoD relocation programs.

Finally, the United States is on the road to another fiscal year without a full federal budget, just like the last two years. Continuing resolutions are a waste of taxpayers' dollars and do not deliver the required real dollars to provide for an adequate defense of our country.

As always, you are encouraged to go to the MOAA Legislative Action Center and use it to send messages to your lawmakers.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



OCTOBER

A little information about our month of October:

- **The U.S. Navy Academy** opened its doors in October 1845
- **Six Presidents** were born in the month of October. Can you name them?
 - **John Adams, Rutherford B. Hayes, Chester A. Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter**
- **Columbus Day**, October 14
- **Women in Military Service for America Memorial**, also known as Military Women's Memorial, is the only major national tribute established by the U.S. federal government which honors women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The memorial is located at

the western end of Memorial Avenue at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington County, Virginia.

The structure that houses the memorial was originally known as the Hemicycle and was built in 1932 to be a ceremonial entrance to the cemetery. It never served this purpose, however, and was in disrepair by 1986. Congress approved the memorial in 1985, and the Hemicycle approved as the site for the memorial on 17 October 1988.

- *Navy Day*, October 27
- A couple days we don't want to forget:
 - *International Coffee Day*, October 1
 - *National Chocolate Day*, October 28

Information from the MOAA Surviving Spouse Corner

By Kathy Thorp

A quote from Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." The importance of each of us taking the time to contact our members of Congress to share our testimonies and stories on current issues relating to surviving spouses as well as other veterans' and military and family issues. MOAA has a valuable resource to make it easier for us to advocate throughout the year: the Legislative Action Center. MOAA posts top issues with descriptions of each. You can pick and choose what affects you the most.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Book Club:

We return to nonfiction for October 21. The book chosen is *CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. The book club does not meet in November or December. Please send ideas so we can compile our reading list for 2025. Any questions, contact Pat

Green, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, at mssvc02@gmail.com

- Surviving Spouse Luncheon: Please e-mail me, **Mrs. Jean Hillman** budjean@aol.com or **Mrs. Jan Brink** at jgbrink@comcast.net. We would like your thoughts and ideas for a Surviving Spouse Luncheon. How about a **Christmas Luncheon?** We can make it special. Maybe even bring a baby gift for **Operation Diaper Bag**. (503-273-5042) Many baby items are needed.
- **Operation Homefront** is just ending their yearly "back to school brigade". **MILITARY KIDS NEED SUPPLIES!** I'm sorry I missed giving information on donating school supplies. **Let's be ready for next year. We could even help fill school backpacks!**
- Has anyone received a new cell phone? Please bring the old cell phone to Col Mayer for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

MINUTES FROM THE 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 CHAPTER MEETING

By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

31 members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **1830**.

President Mayer made opening remarks, noting that this was the first MOAA Portland Chapter meeting for the 2024-2025 Program Year.

President Mayer introduced the guest speakers: **LTC John P. Toll, USA**, Commander of the AROTC Detachment, University of Portland, and **Colonel Joseph R. Augustine, USAF**, newly arrived Commander of the AFROTC Detachment, University of Portland.

Colonel Mayer also introduced MOAA Portland Chapter members at the head table: **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)**, Commander, JROTC Detachment, Reynolds High School, and **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, Commander, JROTC Detachment, Oregon City High School.

Col Mayer announced that she had received the **MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence Award** Medallion and certificate for 2023, commenting that the MOAA Portland Chapter had received this award 17 years in a row.

Finally, members of the chapter sang happy birthday to Surviving Spouse member, **Mrs. Edie Rieken**. Although not able to be present at the meeting, she will celebrate her 100th birthday on 23 September 2024.

President Mayer led the pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem led by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**. **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the Invocation. Dinner was then served.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Col Joseph Augustine, USAF and **LTC John Toll, USA, AFROTC** and AROTC Detachment Commanders at the University of Portland, provided a dynamic discussion on **“Recruiting ROTC Cadets in the 21st Century.”** Discussions included where students came from (within Oregon or out-of-state), how many enter the program, and how many graduate through the program with a commission. Problems with overall retention were identified. Several proposed methods to recruit more individuals into the program in concert with the University were explained to the audience. This was followed by a question-and-answer session. **Col Mayer**

then presented the guest speakers with a memento from the Chapter.

BUSINESS SESSION

Membership Committee: Maj Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) noted that we have three new members in the MOAA Portland Chapter: **Col Frederick Stovel, USAFR (Ret)**, **CDR Douglas Quelch, USN (Ret)**, and **CW3 Mike Newgard, USA**.

Legislative Committee: LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret) commented that MOAA does an excellent job of lobbying with its Advocacy-in-Action (AiA) event every year in April; Congressional members have complimented MOAA that, not only do they identify and rationally discuss issues relating to the military/veterans but include recommended solutions. Members of Congress note that other groups do not include solutions.

Fundraising Committee Report: Col Mayer commented that the chapter has committed \$5,000 to the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial on the Capitol Grounds in Salem, OR. She stated that we are on track to have the full amount by the end of this calendar year.

Surviving Spouse Report. Mrs. Jean Hillman and Mrs. Jan Brink commented that donations for **Operation Homefront** and **Operation Diaper Bag** were very much appreciated. They also asked members to check with family and friends for old cell phones to donate to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers** Program.

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

Since the last meeting, President Mayer noted that there were no notifications of any deaths.

The Special Event Committee. LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret) was unavailable. **Col Mayer** reported that he will soon prepare for the AFROTC and AROTC Banquets and Award/Scholarship presentations at the University of Portland in April/May 2025.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

The wine raffle raised **\$315**. Raffle winners were **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, **Col Mary Mayer**,

USAF (Ret), COL John Richard, USA (Ret), and Mrs. Jan Brink.

CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret) presented a joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) thanked our guest speakers, **LTC John Toll, USA** and **Col Joseph Augustine, USAF**. She also thanked those who attended the meeting, **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for assisting with the A/V requirements, **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for providing the table decorations, and the staff of The Monarch Hotel for the meal and service.

The next chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, 5 October 2024** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing**, Happy Valley, OR. The invited guest speaker is **Col Michael B. Koserka, USAF** who has been asked to speak on the “Mission of the 142nd Wing.”

In closing, **President Mayer** reminded all to fly their flags on these days: 11 September, Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance; 17 September, US Constitution Approved in 1787; 20 September, POW/MIA Recognition Day; and 29 September, Gold Star Remembrance Day. It was noted that Highway 30 would be dedicated as the Gold Star Highway.

Col Mayer also recognized the 77th birthday to the **United States Air Force**, established on 18 September, 1947.

The meeting was adjourned at **2050**.

MEMORIES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING (Picture by **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)**)



Colonel Joseph R. Augustine, USAF, the new AFROTC Detachment Commander at the University of Portland (*left*) shakes hands with his co-guest speaker, **LTC John P. Toll, USA**, AROTC Detachment Commander at the University of Portland, at the 3 September 2024 chapter meeting.



2024-2025 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

2024-2025 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: 503-410-1843

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:

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

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): 503-410-1825

Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

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
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
November 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Tualatin Country Club)
<i>November 6, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
December 3, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2025</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
February 1, 2025	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>February 5, 2025</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
March 1, 2025	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Tualatin County Club)

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 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 October 2024**.