



**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 XXXVI, Number 1**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**September 2019**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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

The 2019-2020 program year has officially begun, and I am extremely pleased to tell you that the **MOAA Portland Chapter** has been awarded the **Five Star Level of Excellence Award** for the **12<sup>th</sup> straight year**. We should be extremely proud of this accomplishment, and I want to congratulate all our hard-working and dedicated chapter leaders and other members who have contributed to making our chapter so successful over the past year!

As Chapter President, I look forward with pleasure to working with the talented, loyal, and enthusiastic team of officers, board members, and committee chairs during this 2019-2020 program year.

There have been quite a few changes in our leadership team over the summer. Due to health issues, **LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret)** has resigned from the Chapter Board of Directors. The chapter owes Bill a huge debt of gratitude for his dedicated service and leadership over the years, most notably as Chapter Second Vice President, Communications Committee Chair, and the second Army Representative on the Board for over 10 years. We will especially miss Bill’s jokes which conclude each chapter meeting! Moving from the Director-at-Large position on the Board, **LTC Gary Battles, USA (Ret)** will replace Bill as the second Army Representative on the Chapter Board. **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** has agreed to serve in the Director-at-Large position on the Board, and we look forward to working with him.

*(continue on page 2)*

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

**LCDR Harold V. Smith, USCG (Ret)**

**Major John S. Bouchard, USAF (Ret)**

**SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 3 September 2019**

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

**PROGRAM:**

**Sergeant Major Gavin Loyd McIlvenna, USA (Ret)**, who will speak on the **“Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.”**

**MENU:**

Tossed Greens with Tomatoes & Cucumber with Ranch Dressing

Roasted Breast of Turkey with Cranberry Relish

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

**COST: \$30.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**

*Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.*

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at [mjseiwald@comcast.net](mailto:mjseiwald@comcast.net) or at **503-381-2620 NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 August 2019. 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 or need transportation to the meeting.*)

**DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Raffle tickets are available for 4 bottles of wine (rating: 90-pts. or more) for scholarships for lodging and gas for first-time attendees at the May 2020 Oregon Women Veterans’ Conference. And please continue to bring in packages of diapers and baby wipe for **Operation Homefront**—and donate your old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)**

We still need a volunteer to take over Bill Kroger's **Communications Committee Chair** role -- which involves working with the website contractor, sending out a notice of the Chapter Meetings to the media, and serving as Chapter Photographer. Luckily, **LTG Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** has volunteered to be one of the photographers to take pictures of chapter meeting events, but he needs another individual to help cover the chapter meetings that he cannot attend.

**Colonel Lynn Guenther, USAF (Ret)** has resigned as the second Air Force Representative on the Chapter Board. The chapter owes Lynn a big "thank you" for serving on the Chapter Board for several years. I am now looking for an individual to fill the second **Air Force Rep** position on the Board.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ASKS FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR "SUMMER STORMING:"** Now is the time of year for our Chapter Legislative Committee members to visit the local offices of our national Senators and Congressmen to lobby against the "Widow's Tax" and the proposed 18,000 billet reduction in the active duty medical personnel. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Gary Battles** at [battlg@aol.com](mailto:battlg@aol.com) or **Larry Roberts** at [rocketlarry@icloud.com](mailto:rocketlarry@icloud.com)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Since January 2019, our chapter membership has grown by **9 new members**, but, unfortunately, we lost **10** for failure to pay their 2019 dues. Our goal this year is **30** new members, while trying not to lose any. So, please contact potential members and **ASK** them to join MOAA and our chapter! Working together, we can reach our goal!

**BOARD MEETING:** At the 1 August 2019 Board meeting, the 2019-2020

balanced budget was passed. And we ended the fiscal year in the black, which allowed us to purchase a new projector and computer to use at our Chapter Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings. As you recall, the Board voted to raise the annual chapter dues to **\$30** (vice \$25) per year last year, and we do not intend to change that dues structure for 2019-2020. (**NOTE:** Surviving Spouses and Honorary Members are still not required to pay dues but are *strongly* encouraged to do so.)

Dues had not been raised since at least 2006, and costs have done nothing but go up. Speaking of, both the Monarch and Hayden's have had to raise their prices for our brunches and dinners; both have sustained two raises in the minimum wage and are doing necessary renovations to keep current in a very competitive market. The Monarch has kept its prices constant since 2015 and could no longer sustain those prices. So, you will notice a few dollars increase in the meal prices. Even so, these rates are very competitive.

**PROGRAM:** Turning to the **Program** for the September dinner meeting, our guest speaker is **Sergeant Major Gavin L. McIlvenna, USA (Ret)**, the 11th President of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS). (*See photo below.*)



He retired from the US Army after nearly 23 years of service, with various peace and contingency operations in Northern Iraq, Bosnia, Baghdad, and Africa. Throughout his career, he has held every key leadership from sniper team leader to operations sergeant major.

His military education includes all levels of the Non-Commissioned Officers Education System--culminating with the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. A decorated combat veteran, he is the recipient the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (7), Army Achievement Medal (10), Air Force Achievement Medal, and (19) other medals and decorations. He also was awarded the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge; both the Combat and Expert Infantryman Badges; Master Parachutist Badge; Pathfinder Badge; Air Assault Badge; numerous foreign parachutist badges; and the German Troop Duty Proficiency Badge in Gold. He was inducted into the parachutists "Order of Saint Michael," is the recipient of the Daughter of the American Revolution "Medal of Honor," and holds a commission as a Kentucky Colonel from the Governor of Kentucky.

In 1999 SGM (RET) McIlvenna was one of four former Tomb Guards who created the non-profit organization Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) where he served as the first Secretary. For the past 20 years he has chaired various committees, served as a member of the Board of Directors, and served on the Executive Council. He previously served as the Vice President. He is also a member of the American Legion, Life Member of the National Infantry Association (NIA), and Life Member of The Old Guard Association (TOGA).

After retiring in 2012, SGM (RET) McIlvenna has continued serve the citizens of the State of Oregon as a Senior Trooper with the Oregon State Police. Primarily assigned to the Patrol Division, he is also a team leader on various OSP Special Operations teams, is a First Responder Instructor, and member of Honor Guard.

SGM (RET) McIlvenna is married to the former **Captain Amy Gilbert, RN** of Indianapolis, Indiana. Both are Life Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). They have two daughters, Alexandra and Kamelia, and one granddaughter, Amaya. CPT McIlvenna still serves in the US Army Reserve and is the PACU Charge Nurse in the Mt. Scott Surgery Center in Portland, Oregon.

**AWARD PRESENTATION:** The **MOAA Field Grade Officer of the Year Award** is given annually to recognize the Field Grade Officers between the ranks of Major and Colonel who best exemplify the Army values of: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

At the September chapter meeting, I will be presenting this MOAA Field Grade Officer of the Year Award to **MAJ Michael J. Mosso, USAR** (*see photo below*) on behalf of MOAA National.



**Major Mosso** was born in Portland, OR on 24 February 1982. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration at Portland State University in 2007 and was commissioned via the ROTC Program at the University of Portland. His current civilian occupation is running his own insurance agency, Mosso Insurance. His present Reserve military assignment is as Executive Officer, 483<sup>rd</sup> Terminal Transportation Battalion in Vallejo, CA. Prior to this assignment, he served in the following Reserve assignments:

Communications Specialist, 396<sup>th</sup> CSH, Vancouver, WA; SMP Cadet, 396<sup>th</sup> CSH, Vancouver, WA; Basic Officer Leader Course Phase I and II; Platoon Leader, 4<sup>th</sup> PLT 909 HR CO, Portland, OR; Battalion S-1 336 CSSB, Buckeye, AZ; Personnel Services Officer, 311 ESC, Los Angeles, CA; Brigade S-1, 364 CA BDE, Clackamas, OR; and Group S-1, 650<sup>th</sup> RSG Sloan, NV.

Active duty Army assignments include: Personnel Services and Manpower Officer, JTF; HR Services Chief, Kandahar, Afghanistan; and Operations Officer, 310<sup>th</sup> HRSC Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

Decorations and badges include: Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserved Medal (with “M” device), Global War on Terrorism Service, Medal Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Reserves Components Achievement Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Army Superior Unit Award, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

### **SPICING UP THE RAFFLE**

**WINES:** Larry Roberts would like everyone to know that this year he plans to add some spice to our wine raffles to fund our philanthropic giving. For September, we will raffle off 4 bottles of wine, each of which sports a rating of 90 points or better. Each of these wines is available currently at Market of Choice. Here are two examples: (1) La Playa Chilean 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon at 91 points and described as “firm and silky, linear, and clean” and (2) Brooks 2018 Pinot Blanc at 91 points and described as “lip smacking delicious with impeccable freshness.”

**VOLUNTEER:** And, I encourage more of you chapter members to

volunteer to serve on one of our chapter committees—or start a new one that piques your interest.

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

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### **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

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

**LTC Margaret A. Walker, USA, (Ret)**

**Major John David Gasa, USAF and wife Jennifer**

**CDR Hubert M. Carmichael, Jr., USN (Former)  
and wife Karensue**

**CAPT David F. Berliner, USCG (Ret)  
and wife Gloria**

**CAPT Brian D. Altman, USN (Ret)  
and wife Jennifer**

Well, folks, it is that time of year when we return to the business of supporting our MOAA chapter and place some renewed energy into the 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. As you can see above, we were pretty successful in recruiting new members prior to our summer break. As of this writing, we have recruited nine new members. Now that summer is slowly waning, it is time for ALL of us to renew our efforts.

I would like to take a moment to 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 must find the motivational factor that is going to persuade us to walk up to a 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 Portland Chapter. Remember: "We Never Stop Serving!"

### ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

***By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)***

As of **31 July 2019**, the MOAA Portland Chapter had overall assets of **over \$24,000** and a total of **190** members. 123 regular members have paid dues through 2019, 19 Surviving Spouse members have paid dues for 2019. There are 33 Surviving Spouses who have not paid (but are not required). Our two Voices for America's Troops have paid their dues for 2019. And, finally, we have three Honorary Members who are not required to pay dues. Ten (10) regular members were dropped at the 1 August 2019 board meeting for lack of paying their dues—after numerous reminders from the Treasurer and Membership Chair; so, we are now at **180 members**.

### ***AN OPINION PIECE: MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS***

***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***

**Holding National Security Hostage Through Funding:** On August 2nd, the 1987 International Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty expired. It was sacked by the Trump Administration after decades of

Russian treaty violations and because the world security situation has changed dramatically over the 32 years of its existence.

While the Treaty specifically calls out nuclear weapons, it banned ALL ground-based missiles, nuclear or conventional, with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

The Treaty did not include China, as one might expect, leaving China free to develop and deploy such missiles. One estimate is that China has over 2,600 missiles that otherwise would have been precluded from development and implementation. These Chinese missiles can target the bases of U.S. forces and our allies.

Naturally, the desire of the United States Armed Forces is to now develop and deploy such missiles, which are more easily and efficiently delivered from ground locations rather than aircraft and ships.

Yet, the House of Representatives recently passed an amendment to the forthcoming National Defense Authorization Bill that in effect forces the military to abide by the restrictions of the defunct INF Treaty. It eliminates funding even for research and development of mid-range systems. The amendment was passed on a party line vote. It next will go to a Conference Committee to iron out the differences between bills passed by the Senate and the House.

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial concluded that establishing such a ban would "vindicate Russia's contempt for its treaty commitments and accelerate China's drive for military dominance in the Pacific." A pretty scary scenario!

The Obama Administration spent 8 years hollowing out the military. The Democrat-led House of Representatives wishes to further constrain the military through banning funding of a source of increased military strength--while the country is increasingly confronted by an expanding Chinese threat and by the adventurism of Putin's Russia.

We will keep you up to date.

**TriMet Westside Express Service (WES) - Another Waste of Our Money:** Recently, Cascade Policy Institute published a paper reviewing expectations

versus results on the WES. Cascade is a public policy research organization, without a political leaning. It publishes on many topics, including education, health care transportation, and the like. I find it a refreshing source of information and am on their distribution list.

I am often offended by Oregon governmental and quasi-governmental organizations that spend our money apparently without regard for efficient use of funds. Or maybe they are just unable to plan and implement large projects and programs. Items that come to mind include the hundreds of millions of dollars absolutely wasted in the Cover Oregon disaster. Or, how about the years and hundreds of millions spent on the Columbia River Crossing, without moving a single pile of dirt. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. Clean energy credits? Adopting an expanded Medicaid program that we now must raise taxes to pay for?

The WES is another example of poor planning, poor operations, poor forecasting, and no visible means of correcting the situation. It is a 15-mile line from Wilsonville to Beaverton, running just 8 one or two car trains both ways in the morning and in the afternoon.

WES broke ground in 2007. At the groundbreaking ceremony, one speaker predicted that “the train will be full both ways...morning and afternoon.”

Well, ridership peaked at 1964 average daily boardings in 2014, and has been in a steady decline ever since. Boardings were planned to rise to 2,500 per day, but in 2019 that figure is just 1,505 per day. That misses the mark by 21% and is down 23% in the past 5 years.

The cost of WES is enormous. First, it took \$161 million to build out instead of the original estimate of \$65 million. Then the operating cost is \$18.21 per ride,

compared with a \$4 per ride cost of a bus up and down I-5, a 4.5% difference. Indeed, Cascade recommends mothballing WES, selling the rolling stock, and shifting the ridership to buses. Instead, TriMet spent 1/2 million dollars 2 years ago to buy and refurbish 2 train cars. This was to respond to some imaginary increase in ridership that has not, and probably will not ever, occur.

Additionally, TriMet originally forecast that building WES would take 5,000 vehicles off the road. Instead, Cascade calculates that WES has increased congestion as it crosses 18 east/west arterial highways and stops at 5 stations.

TriMet is now focused on a light rail extension from Portland to Bridgeport Shopping Center. Although we do not get a chance to vote on these projects, watch your wallets!

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

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

Our June 18, 2019 the MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant was most enjoyable, as usual. We never experience a lull in conversation, and, of course, chocolate candy was at each place setting; this is “getting to be a habit” which, of course, we all love. We had nine in attendance, including our special guest, **COL Ramona Lewis, USAR (Ret).**

Our next luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland 97232. If you would like to attend, please call **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or e-mail her at: **[jymbo@earthlink.net](mailto:jymbo@earthlink.net)** Chapter wives are always welcome. If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina's at **503-231-0216** two days before the luncheon to arrange for a personalized meal.

Remember to bring diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront and old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program.

We hope you are enjoying this beautiful Oregon summer.

***PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS*****President**

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

**First Vice President**

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

**Second Vice President**

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

**Recording Secretary**

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

**Reservations Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Immediate Past President:** *Vacant*

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***BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297  
LTC Gary Battles: 503-739-3334

**Navy Reps**

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896  
CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

**Air Force Reps**

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253  
*Vacant*

**Marine Corps Rep**

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

**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): 503-936-5896

**Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

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

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret): 503-951-1805

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***CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS***

**Program:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)  
CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

**Membership:** Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

**Legislative:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)  
LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

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

**Communications:** *Vacant*

**Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman  
Mrs. Carol Patrick

**Decorations:** Mrs. Betty Richard

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

**Special Events:** Capt Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm)

**ESGR Outreach:** COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)  
COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

**Chaplains:** LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)  
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.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  
Mark your calendars!**

October 5, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
November 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>November 7, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
December 3, 2019	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2020</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
February 1, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 6, 2020</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
March 7, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

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

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0945**—and **are open to all members!** Location is indicated.

**NOTE 3:** All articles for the **October 2019 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **6 September 2019**.