



**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

September 2022

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 **15th** consecutive year! This is an outstanding achievement, and each of you should be proud to be recognized for all the hard work you have put in to garner this distinction. On 28 October, there will be an in-person Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the MOAA Board of Directors and Annual Meetings in Kansas City, where I will receive the award on behalf of the chapter and bring it back for a presentation at our November chapter meeting.

What a wonderful way to begin our 2022-2023 program year! As your Chapter President, I look forward with pleasure to working with the talented, loyal, and enthusiastic team of officers, board members, committee chairs, and others to continue to navigate our chapter through the various health and financial stresses and keep our chapter engaged, active, growing, and relevant.

We have had a few changes on the Chapter Board of Directors. After many loyal years of service, **MG Curtiss Loop, USA (Ret)** has resigned from the Board. I want to personally thank Curt for all his dedication, hard work, and assistance to the chapter, helping with a myriad of worthwhile projects. He has been an outstanding chapter ambassador, and I know that he will continue in this role. Curt has been replaced by **COL William (Bill) Crist, USA (Ret)** as the Second Army Representative.

(Continued on page 2)

IF YOU ATTEND THE 6 SEPTEMBER 2022 CHAPTER MEETING, THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL ENTER YOU INTO A DRAWING WHERE ONE MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO DINE AT SAYLER’S OLD COUNTRY KITCHEN RESTAURANT

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 6 September 2022

Social Time: 1800, Meeting Starts: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

Mr. Jim Lasher and Mr. Arlo V. Gatchel, USS Oregon (SSN793) Commissioning Ceremony Co-Chairs, will speak on “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Commissioning of the USS Oregon: Soup to Nuts”

MENU:

Caesar Salad

Chicken Skizzle in Apple Brandy Cream Sauce
with Linguica

Whipped Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Chef’s Roasted Vegetables

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, and Hot Tea

COST: \$44 per person (includes 22% 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, 31 August 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 SEPTEMBER 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)

We are very happy to welcome Bill on board as a new chapter member -- as well as a new board member -- and look forward to working with him!

In addition, we welcome **Mrs. Jan Brink** to the Surviving Spouse Committee as **Mrs. Jean Hillman's** Assistant. Among other duties, Jan will be coordinating the Surviving Spouse Luncheons!

At the 4 August 2022 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, the Board thought it would be prudent for us to conduct our chapter meetings in-person this program year! I know how much all of you chapter members like to get together! However, we will keep all the COVID-19 protocols in place to keep us all as safe as possible.

Program: Turning to the **Program** for the September Dinner Meeting, our guest speakers will be the Co-Chairs of the *USS Oregon (SSN793)* Commissioning Ceremony.



Mr. Jim Lasher is a native Portlander who is a retired manager in the forest products industry. He currently keeps busy working for a large commercial property owner, fielding emergency problems. Jim is a retired Navy Commander (Reserve). Being a

Cryptographic Officer, he has commanded a number of attachments and served on the staff of Naval Air Command Pacific and Indo-Pacific Command. He is active with the United States Navy League both at the local (Council) level and at the national level. He currently serves as the Assistant National Corporate Secretary. Jim has been involved with the Navy's Portland Fleet Week for over fifty years, and he has chaired that committee about twelve times. As a Rose Festival Director-Emeritus, he now serves as the Fleet Week Senior Advisor. Jim has been involved with three Navy vessel commissioning and two decommissioning ceremonies. He is the Co-Chair of the *USS Oregon (SSN 793)* Commissioning Committee. The ship was commissioned on May 28, 2022.



Mr. Arlo V. Gatchel, is a retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Electronic Technician (Submarine Qualified) and Co-Chair of the *USS Oregon (SSN793)* Commissioning Committee. He joined the U.S. Navy in November 1969 and retired in January 1991. Senior Chief Gatchel completed Electronics Technician "A" school at Great Lakes Naval Training center in Great Lakes Illinois; Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Maryland; Nuclear Power Prototype training at Ballston Spa, New York; and qualified as a Submariner in December 1973. Arlo served on 4 Fleet ballistic missile nuclear submarines, from SSBN 616 Lafayette-Polaris/Poseidon class to SSBN 726 Ohio-Trident Class submarines. He completed 17 deterrent cold war patrols. While on shore duty, he was assigned to the Navy Recruiting Command/District Portland, Oregon.

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 is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined since the June issue of the *Brass Bulletin*:

Lt Col Adam Winslow, USMC, (Ret)
And wife **Leslie**

Colonel William Crist, USA, (Ret)
And wife **Susan**

Well, folks, it is that time of year when we return to the business of supporting our MOAA Portland Chapter and place some renewed energy into new member recruitment. I have been enjoying the summer playing in multiple softball leagues and tournaments, and I must admit that 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.

I would like to take a moment and 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 has to find that motivational factor that is going to persuade us to walk up to a colleague, friend, family member, or 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 award-winning MOAA Portland Chapter. Remember: **"We never Stop Serving!"**

AN IMPROVED WINE RAFFLE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

We have used wine raffles in our chapter as a means of raising funds for our Chapter Charitable Contributions for a wide range of not-for-profit projects. These projects have included funds for the construction of the Oregon World War II Memorial at the State Capitol, construction of the USO Facility at the Portland International Airport, and Christmas gift cards for the families of junior enlisted personnel at local Air Force and Coast Guard military facilities.

After more than a decade, it is time to **improve our raffles**. So, starting with the September 6, 2022 Chapter Meeting, we will:

- Raffle **4 bottles** of excellent quality wines, rather than our old 3 bottles
- Broaden the selection of wines to choose among **SIX** different offerings to appeal to a broader range of tastes
- Include **one or more "unusual" wines** to the selection from which to choose.
- Continue to add other features to appeal to our membership!

Our current charity raffle goal is to fund another worthy cause: **the manufacture of 700 Challenge Coins** (at a cost of \$3,000) **for the 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games** scheduled to take place in Portland from 4-9 July 2023. Any suggestions or comments can be forwarded to me at **503-722-1897** or Rocketlarry@icloud.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)

As of **31 July 2022**, the MOAA Portland Chapter had overall assets of **\$24,257.64** and a total of **164** members. All 111 regular members have paid chapter dues for 2022, 7 out of 50 Surviving Spouse members have paid dues for 2022 (but are not required). Three Honorary Members have not paid dues for 2022 (but are not required).

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

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Congress May Actually Pass a NDAA Bill on Time: For too many years, Congress has failed dismally to pass a National Defense Authorization Act bill before the beginning of a new fiscal year, October 1st. Miracle of miracles, possibly, the House of Representatives in mid-July actually passed its version of the bill. The Senate is not that far along, but it has made progress; it is possible, if not probable given history, that a bill will be passed by both bodies in time for it to take effect before October 1st.

Just as important as the timing is the fact that the House and, so far, the Senate are both exercising their duty to adjust the budget proposals sent to them by the Administration. The House bill authorizes Defense spending of \$850.3 billion for the coming year, an increase of 7.9% from the Biden Administration budget proposal. In contrast, the Administration proposed spending of \$813 billion, a miserly rise of just 4.5% in a 9% inflation environment and while China is churning out weapons at a prodigious rate.

The current Senate NDAA is sized at a bit more than the House, at \$858.5 billion. Considering the continued conflict in Ukraine and the potential for higher or lengthier inflation, it is possible that the final NDAA will be expanded further.

Of interest, the House bill did not abjectly follow the Administration budget. Good for them!

- The House saved 5 of 9 Littoral Combat Ships from a very early

scrapping as proposed by the Administration.

- The House also funded development of a new nuclear capable cruise missile, which was not supported by the Administration.
- Responding to the rise of inflation, the House included an “inflation bonus” for personnel with less than \$45,000 in compensation. The Administration is opposed to such a bonus program, which primarily benefits lower rated personnel.
- Given the ad hoc way the Administration has financed Ukraine conflict, the House allocated \$1 billion for that effort rather than the minuscule \$300 million proposed by the Administration.

Overall, a good first step on funding the security of the United States. I will keep you informed.

Targeting Prescription Medicine Pricing is Unwarranted: As part of a slimmed down and reconstituted “Build Back Better” legislation, Congress proposes that Medicare “negotiate” prices for higher priced prescription drugs. However, based on comments from Senator Manchin in mid-July, the prospects for passing even a scaled back law, which also proposes a number of tax increases, seems problematic. Still, it is wise to consider the wisdom of such a move. Is high and rising prescription drug pricing fueling the soaring rate of inflation? Well, actually NO! In scouring the most recent monthly CPI data, prescription drug prices are rising more slowly than almost all the sectors in the CPI. Indeed, the price of prescription drugs rose just 0.1% in June and 2.5% year to year. Prices for non-prescription drugs rose 1.2% in the month and 4.7% in a year, still a far cry from 9.1%. And compared with airline fares rising around 25%, medicine is a bargain, especially medicines that almost wipe out diseases such as Hepatitis C.

Politicians like to focus on the higher prices of new prescription drugs, but such criticism ignores the fact that new therapies drive down the usage and prices of older drugs. Indeed, new drugs have a limited time without generic competition, after which generics take to the field. As a result, in the period 2015-2020, spending on new drugs was \$88 billion. This was offset by savings on new generics of \$93 billion. This cycle goes on and on. Today, 90% of my prescription drugs

are generic, reflecting the strength and flexibility of generic manufacturers.

The above data was provided by the U.S. Government, and it was analyzed and reported by the editorial staff of the *Wall Street Journal*. The newspaper concludes that, if such legislation were to become law, that it “would cause drug prices to rise faster by discouraging development of new generics.”

We shall see how this evolves as we come closer to mid-term elections when legislators are less interested in new laws and more interested in retaining their seats.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



September is the month our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses** are looking forward to, as we are planning another luncheon. As our last luncheon on May 24, 2022 was on the West side, with five in attendance, this luncheon will be on the East side of town. The luncheon has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 12:00 Noon at an excellent restaurant: Oswego Grill, 9073 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, OR 97015, 503-303-9525 (Clackamas Town Center). It is easy to find with good parking. If you would like to attend,

please call, text, or e-mail Mrs. Jan Brink at 503-740-3346 or jgbrink@comcast.net.

If you have been purchasing diapers and wipes for Operation Diaper Bag and Operation Homefront and gathering old cell phones for Cell Phones for Soldiers during this past two years, please bring them with you to the luncheon; we will get them to those who need them.

A BOOK REVIEW – “ON TYRANNY: TWENTY LESSONS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY”!

By CAPT Tony Sebbio, MSC, USN (Ret)

Tyranny is on a lot of peoples’ minds these days, both at home and abroad. It’s not hard to understand why: America, which long ago convinced itself that it is the natural home of freedom and democracy, barely dodged the bullet of re-electing a president whose contempt for institutions and the democratic process was palpable, and it has seen the repercussions – an increasingly polarized electorate, growing radicalism, and an insurrection at our nation’s Capital. Timothy Snyder’s *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* is a manifesto: an opinionated and passionate call to action — short, easy to read, and small enough to fit in your pocket, so you can carry it with you wherever you go. In his prologue, Snyder defines “tyranny” in terms of the American experience: In founding a democratic republic upon law and establishing a system of checks and balances, the Founding Fathers sought to avoid the evil that they, like the ancient philosophers, called tyranny. They had in mind the usurpation of power by a single individual or group, or the circumvention of law by rulers for their own benefit. Snyder detects dangerous trends in American politics that may be less visible to most citizens who cannot believe that our country, with its system of checks and balances, could succumb to illiberalism or authoritarianism.

It is precisely this complaisant attitude that Snyder wants to expose as erroneous and anti-historical. In doing so, Snyder offers an affirmation of the value, even necessity, of understanding history. He opens his manifesto with this statement: “History does not repeat, but it does instruct.” The 20 lessons he extracts from the last century provide instructions to help us think more carefully about what we, as individuals and groups, are

doing to influence the political direction of our institutions. At the heart of Snyder's analysis is one hope: that we can learn from the past to protect our future. Many of his lessons focus on what we can do to prevent homegrown authoritarianism. We must defend institutions because they do not protect themselves. After Hitler's Nazis won free federal elections in 1932, many reasonable people did not believe that the budding tyrant would actually create a one-party dictatorship. "The mistake," writes Snyder, "is to assume that rulers who came to power through institutions cannot change or destroy those very institutions — even when that is exactly what they have announced that they will do." In order to prevent this, we must, among other things, support a multiparty system and election rules. In the European context, several democracies that emerged after the World Wars I and II soon collapsed when a single party assumed power — usually by means of some combination of an election, emergency powers, and a coup d'état. We've been taught that checks and balances protect us from one-party rule, but does it?

Several of Snyder's lessons concern personal decisions — little things, but ones that become more significant if more people do them. If you see swastikas or other signs of hatred, "do not look away, and do not get used to them. Remove them yourself and set an example for others to do so." If you are a professional, remember professional ethics: "It's hard to subvert a rule-of-law state without lawyers, or to hold show trials without judges. Authoritarians need obedient civil servants." In the face of authoritarianism, be willing to stand out: "It's easy to follow along. It can seem strange to do or say something different. But without that unease there is no freedom." Investigate: "Figure things out for yourself. Spend more time with long articles. Subsidize investigative journalism by subscribing to print media."

In a lesson called "Believe in truth," Snyder writes that "to abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true then no one can criticize power." Tyranny takes root when reality is renounced — a phenomenon with which we are now all too familiar. Behavior that would have been unacceptable in the past has become normal. The second sign is "shamanistic incantation" and "endless repetition," utilized to make the fictional plausible; think of the constant, meaningless complaints about "fake news," and the mesmerizing "Build the wall!" and "Lock her up!" The third sign is "magical thinking" and an open embrace of mutually contradictory promises — such as health care for all and turning Medicaid over to the states, or huge tax cuts and huge increases in military spending; this requires a blatant abandonment of reason. Of course, one could argue that Snyder's warnings are exaggerated and overdrawn. Perhaps, he is too strongly influenced by European history, as when he urges us to beware of paramilitary power: "When the men with guns who have always claimed to be against the system start wearing uniforms and marching with torches and pictures of a leader, the end is nigh." How many paramilitaries were present at the Capitol on January 6, 2021?

Perhaps, the greatest contribution in Snyder's clarifying and unnerving work is buried in its epilogue, and it shows the slippery intellectual path from freedom to tyranny. After the Cold War, he writes, we were enthralled by the politics of inevitability, the notion that history moved inexorably toward liberal democracy. So, we lowered our defenses. Now, instead, we are careening toward the politics of eternity, in which a leader rewrites our past as "a vast misty courtyard of illegible monuments to national victimhood." "The danger we now face is of a passage from the politics of inevitability to the politics of eternity, from a naive and flawed sort of democratic republic to a confused and cynical sort of fascist oligarchy," Snyder concludes. "The path of least resistance leads directly from inevitability to eternity. Protest can be organized through social media, but nothing is real that does not end on the streets." And since Snyder believes this struggle will be a long one and may involve repression, he closes one of his lessons with another practical piece of advice: "Make sure you and your family have passports."

Snyder's twenty lessons from the twentieth century, adapted to the circumstances of today:

- Do not obey in advance.
- Defend institutions.
- Beware the one-party state.
- Take responsibility for the face of the world.
- Remember professional ethics.
- Be wary of paramilitaries.
- Be reflective if you must be armed.
- Stand out.
- Be kind to our language.
- Believe in truth.
- Investigate.
- Make eye contact and small talk.
- Practice corporeal politics.
- Establish a private life.
- Contribute to good causes.
- Learn from peers in other countries.
- Listen for dangerous words.
- Be calm when the unthinkable arrives.
- Be a patriot.
- Be as courageous as you can.

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

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Coast Guard Rep:

CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

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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)

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.moaaportland.org

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 1, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<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)

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 ***October 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 September 2022**.