



**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 XLI, Number 1**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**September 2024**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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



**The MOAA Portland Chapter  
Board of Directors and Chapter Membership  
wish long-time Surviving Spouse Member,  
MRS. EDIE D. RIEKEN,  
a Very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on 23 September 2024!**

**Reminder:**

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

**SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 3 September 2024**

Social Time: 1730, Meeting Starts:1830

The Monarch Hotel

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

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Phone: 503-652-1515

**PROGRAM:**

**LTC John P. Toll, USA** and **Col Joseph R. Augustine, USAF**, Commanders of the AROTC and AFROTC Detachments at the University of Portland, will speak to us on **“Recruiting ROTC Cadets in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”**

**MENU:**

Caesar Salad

Bavette Steak with Onions and Peppers

Coconut Lime Rice

Aji Amarillo Sauce

Queso Fresco

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea

**COST: \$44** per person (includes 22% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to **MOAA-PDX**.

**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 August 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 SEPTEMBER 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 Homefront** and **Operation Diaper Bag**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)**

**Program:** Turning to the **Program** for the September Dinner Meeting, our guest speakers will be **LTC John P. Toll, USA** and **Col Joseph R. Augustine, USAF**, Commanders of the AROTC and AFROTC Detachments at the University of Portland, who will speak to us on **“Recruiting ROTC Cadets in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”**

**Lieutenant Colonel John P. Toll** is the Army ROTC Professor of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon. LTC Toll commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2005 and served as a Platoon Leader with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division now located at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.



**LTC John P. Toll, USA**

After Civil Affairs Assessment and Selection and a year of language and cultural training, he was assigned to the Europe aligned 92<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, part of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. He later led two Special Operations Assessment and

Selection Programs at Camp Mackall, North Carolina.

After graduating from the French War College, LTC Toll commanded a unit regionally aligned to the Middle East, and subsequently a Civil Affairs Company ready to deploy globally within 48 hours as part of XVIII Airborne Corps' Immediate Response Force. Prior to his current position, LTC Toll served on the United States Army Special Operations Commanding General's Action Group.

He has led Paratroopers in combat in Iraq, commanded teams of Special Operators across Eastern Europe, and oversaw Civil Affairs Operations globally. LTC Toll has a BA in History from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a graduate of the École de Guerre in Paris and holds an MA in National Security Studies. LTC Toll is married to Katherine Toll, a phenomenal Speech and Language Pathologist, and together they raise three young children who are adept at not following orders.



**Colonel Joseph R. Augustine, USAF**

Before assuming his position as the Professor of Aerospace Studies and the Commander of the AFROTC Detachment at the University of Portland, **Colonel Joseph R. Augustine, USAF** was the Director of Safety for Air Combat Command, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA. He was responsible for implementing the Command's Flight, Occupational, and Weapons Safety Mishap Prevention programs designed

to preserve combat capability by advising the COMACC and providing guidance and directives to all ACC subordinate units including NAFs, Centers, Wings, and Squadrons). He and his staff oversaw safety guidance for 35 Wings, 26 weapon systems, over 1,000 aircraft, and 156,000 personnel.

Previously, Col Augustine was Vice Commander and UH-1N "Huey" Test Pilot, for the 96th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Prior to that, he was the Flight Test Division Chief at Air Force Materiel Command Headquarters, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, and was Chief of Foreign Military Sales at the US Embassy, Amman, Jordan. In this capacity, he managed a \$350M Foreign Military Finance Portfolio and over \$4B in active partner acquisition programs.

Col Augustine graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Mathematics. He earned his master's degree in Engineering from Colorado State University. Following his graduation from the Undergraduate Pilot Training program at Fort Rucker, AL, he completed a tour as a UH-1N Evaluator Pilot at the 76th Helicopter Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, CA. Col Augustine then graduated Test Pilot School as an Exchange Officer at the United Kingdom's Empire Test Pilot School at RAF Boscombe Down, UK. Following Test Pilot School, Col Augustine conducted flight-test programs on the CV-22 and UH-1 variants and was the 46th Operations Group Chief of Training at Eglin AFB, FL, and thereafter, Chief of the Commander's Action Group at the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center. Over the course of his career, he was a Distinguished Graduate of Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL, and a Superior Graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA.

As I close my comments, I would like to wish all of you a very happy and productive fall! And, once again, I would like to see members "step forward" to volunteer with the myriad 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, NC, USN (Ret),  
and Major William J. Tidd, USAF,  
Co-Membership Committee Chairs**

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

**Colonel Frederick Stovel, USAFR (Ret)**  
and wife **Linda**

It'll be nice to see everyone again at our Fall meetings and hear of your summer adventures. I spent a special 3 weeks in Europe with my husband and granddaughter. We were in Paris the week before the opening ceremony. Exciting time to be there, but quite crowded and all of our plans were cancelled due to limitations on getting to the prime tourist attractions in Paris. Everything was quarantined unless you had a special pass to access, which we didn't. We saw lots of the Olympians at the train stations coming and going.

Olympic athletes and military personnel share a profound dedication to their respective fields, although their motivations and experiences differ significantly. Olympic athletes commit years, often decades, to rigorous training, sacrificing personal time, and enduring physical and mental challenges to achieve peak performance. Their dedication is driven by the pursuit of excellence, national pride, and the desire to push the boundaries of human capability. The journey to the Olympics demands resilience, unwavering focus, and an ability to overcome setbacks, all culminating in the pursuit of gold medals and world records.

In contrast, the military's ethos of "never stop serving" reflects a lifelong commitment to duty, honor, and country. Military personnel undergo intense training and face life-threatening situations, driven by a sense of responsibility to protect and serve their nation. This dedication often extends beyond active duty, as

many veterans continue to contribute to their communities through various forms of service. The military instills values of discipline, loyalty, and sacrifice, emphasizing the importance of always being ready to defend and support others. While the arenas of competition and combat differ, both Olympic athletes and military personnel exemplify extraordinary dedication and an unwavering commitment to their goals.

As we return from our family vacations, trips to the beach, or just having a lazy afternoon sipping a glass of your favorite beverage, it is time once more to devote some effort towards expanding our ranks. **The MOAA Portland Chapter must have new members to survive, so let's get started and each of us bring one potential new member to our chapter meetings this fall.**

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

The issues that MOAA has before Congress are the following:

- **Restore Full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):** Presently, service members only receive 95% of what the DoD estimated cost for housing. The other 5% must be covered by the service member.
- **House Resolution 807, The Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act:** This restructures the pay tables to reward junior service members and helps to combat the recruiting crisis.
- **Improvement to the Tricare Dental Program (TDP):** The new TDP would give military

families a choice of dental programs to choose from that would best meet their needs

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO VOICE YOUR CONCERNS?** Go to the MOAA website (www.moaa.org), click on "Advocacy," click on "Legislative Action Center," pick the topic(s) you want to support, and you will get a written letter to your Member of Congress that will be sent with your name attached.

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**SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER**

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



- Labor Day: Sep 2
- Air Force Birthday: Sep 18
- POW/MIA: Recognition Day: Sep 20
- 1956-IBM 305 RAMAC is release Sep 13
- International Country Music Day: Sep 17
- National Read A Book Day: Sep 21

**An Important Documents Kit:** Ensures You Have the Necessary Information to Prove Your Identity. What documents should you include?

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, and immunization records)

- Financial documents (bank accounts info, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates power of attorney)
- Property records (insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items.
- You see stories of natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies that can change a life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you are well prepared is invaluable.
- Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like Everplan or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection.
- Operation Homefront with baby diapers and wipes.
- Operation Diaper Bag gathers many different baby items. A few needed items: bibs, burping cloths, baby clothes, nursing covers, and diaper bags. Call 503-273-5042 for the complete list.
- Did you, or anyone you know, receive a new cell phone recently? Bring the old cell phones to Col Mayer for the: Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

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***MINUTES FROM THE 4 JUNE 2024  
CHAPTER MEETING By Lt Col Anneke Abma,  
USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary***

- **25** 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 last MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting for the 2023-2024 Program Year.
- President Mayer introduced the guest speaker, **Dr. Gordon W. Rudd**, Professor of Strategic Studies, US Marine School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW).
- 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.

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- President Mayer thanked fellow officers, board members, and committee chairs for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of chapter programs and services for the past year.
- The MOAA Portland Chapter Membership Survey was emailed to members in May 2024. President Mayer encouraged all those who had not yet

The **Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses** would like to schedule a **Fall Luncheon** in October 2024, with Halloween pumpkins and colorful leaves. Please e-mail me, **Mrs. Jean Hillman** budjean@aol.com or **Mrs. Jan Brink** at jgbrink@comcast.net with your thoughts and ideas for a luncheon.

The **MOAA Portland Chapter** assists the following organizations throughout the year:

submitted their survey to do so this evening. A final report will be presented at the September chapter meeting.

- President Mayer reminded members of upcoming events:
- **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Meeting**, 5 June 2024 (either at Salem OR or Virtual)
- **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon Meeting**, 13 July 2024 (Virtual)
- Dinner was served.

### GUEST SPEAKER

- After dinner, **MajGen Chris Owens, USMC (Ret)** introduced guest speaker, **Dr. Gordon W. Rudd**, Professor of Strategic Studies, U.S. Marine School of Advanced Warfighting, who spoke on **"The Changing Nature of War."**
- Dr. Rudd discussed the evolution of coalition formations since the Cold War in the European theater. This included geographical changes, military structural changes, and political/cultural issues related to those changes. Coalition coordination and multinational divisions become a challenge--as well as development of a standardization in logistics and weapons. Dr. Rudd briefly discussed the current conflict between Ukraine and Russia as well. This was followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

### BUSINESS SESSION

- **The Special Event Committee. LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** presented a \$400 check to support JROTC Activities to:

- **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, JROTC Detachment Commander at Oregon City High School and
- **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)**, JROTC Detachment Commander at Reynolds High School
  -
- **Fundraising Committee Report: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** commented on the fundraising project with a committed \$5,000 towards the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial on the Capitol Grounds in Salem, OR. He projected us to have the full amount by the end of this calendar year. **CAPT Roberts** announced that this would be his final month as chief fundraiser and that **LTC Gary Battles, USA (Ret)** would take over the responsibilities.
- **Surviving Spouse Report. Mrs. Jean Hillman** commented that a Surviving Spouse Luncheon is being planned for June 19 at the de Fuego Taqueria Restaurant at the Monarch Hotel at noon.
- **Personal Affairs Committee: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**. Since the last meeting, President Mayer noted that **COL Neil Saling Jr., USA (Ret)** passed away 16 December 2023,

### "FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER"

- The wine raffle raised **\$300**. Raffle winners were **Col Rick Gano, USAF (Ret)**, **CDR Mike Seiwald, USN (Ret)**, **LtCol Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret)**, **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret)**, and **Ms. Rita Owens**.
- **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

### CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER

#### PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **Dr. Gordon Rudd**; **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for providing the table decorations, and the staff of The Monarch Hotel for the excellent meal and service.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 3 September 2024** at The Monarch Hotel, Happy

Valley, OR. The invited guest speaker will be **LTC John Toll, USA, Commander, AROTC Detachment** at the University of Portland who will discuss “ROTC.”

- In closing, President Mayer wished all fathers a Happy Father’s Day on 16 June. She also recognized the 249<sup>th</sup> birthday to the **United States Army**, established on 14 June 1775.
- The meeting was adjourned at **2050**.

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### **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

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### **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: 503-936-5896

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:**

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): 503-936-5896

#### **Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

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**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**

September 3, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
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	Christmas/Holiday Party (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2025</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled for January 2025</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>

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