

There will be no August general membership meeting.



The Emerald Empire Chapter is on vacation

We look forward to seeing you all on September 9th



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		October
		03 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Birthday
		13 U.S. Navy Birthday

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	Ken Evans	914-6235
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	942-5274
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Michael Pace	636-3745

The picnic was our last general membership meeting until our luncheon on Wednesday, 9 September. Have a great summer.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Submitted by Floyd Bard, Chapter President

This is my 3rd President's Corner Article during my two terms of being your President of the Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. As you are aware, our newsletter expanded to the "Thoughts from the Board" articles so that our Board Members could give their insight of their Board Duties, military experience, and their involvement with serving our Chapter and our local Veterans in need, to include the UoFO Army ROTC. This will continue, but this month I wanted to reflect on our accomplishments and upcoming activities.

This year, the picnic venue changed from Jasper Park to Lively Park in Springfield. LTC Joe Snyder, UO ROTC worked on the change of location after John Toensing was told Jasper Park would not be available. Thanks to Joe and John and everyone else that worked on the picnic.

Again, sounding like a broken record, our Chapter received 5-Star recognition from MOAA National for all three categories, Level of Excellence (LOE), and the Col Marvin J. Harris awards for our website and newsletter. Again, we are the only Chapter in Oregon to receive all three awards, OUTSTANDING!

September 2026 will be the 25th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the UAL 93 crash at Shanksville, PA. Our own Secretary was essential in the post attack of the Twin-towers on Manhattan as the Acting Commander of Coast Guard Activities New York, the Captain of the Port of New York and New Jersey and the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection. Pat Harris was instrumental in the evacuation of over 500,000 people from Manhattan Island, as well as deploying the Coast Guard to provide patrols for the possibility of more attacks from the two ports he was responsible for.

Our Chapter, with the coordination of Ken Evans, has joined VFW Post 293 and American Legion Post 3 with the "Remembrance Ceremony of 9/11" on Saturday, September 12th at 0830 at the Memorial Wall, Skinner Butte Park (see flyer on page 3). Attending this event is highly encouraged, but volunteering to help with the event would be very helpful and show a level of support from our Chapter. To volunteer, you can access the "Volunteer" link at <https://x.gldn.io/TVSYKazDD4b>. If you plan on attending, VFW Post 293 is asking for an RSVP at link <https://forms.gle/ev648BBmhkB2YtSTA>. I hope to see as many members and families at this event as possible. Thank you so much.

TAPS

Jon H Hiltbrand, CAPT, USN (Ret), passed away on July 3, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Randy. Jon served from June 1965 to July 1995.

John R Hackbarth July 18, 2026, COL, USA (Ret), passed away on July 18, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Gaylene. John served from June 5, 1966 to June 5, 1994.

Constance "Connie" Kulick, spouse of CAPT Tom Kulick, USCG, passed away July 17, 2026. Connie was a Navy Nurse when she met Tom. They were married for 54 years.

Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 83 regular and surviving spouse members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. An application to join our local chapter and/or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website: www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US.

"The Emerald Voice"

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PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
Email: EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com
Copy of newsletter available upon email request.

The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is a Eugene-based 501(c)(3) veterans organization that meets regularly at the Veterans' Memorial Building at 1626 Willamette Street. We have 83 regular and associate members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of the uniformed services. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military community, e.g., gathering clothing and personal care items for the patients in the VA Hospital in Roseburg. Other areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. An application to join our local chapter or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website's ABOUT US page.

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY OF 9-11

9/11
25TH ANNIVERSARY

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - 2026

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
HONORING THE HEROES.
COMFORTING THE FALLEN.



Hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 293

Event partners:

- American Legion Post 3
- Military Officers Association of America, Emerald Empire Chapter

Date: September 12th, 2026 Time: 0830 (8:30 a.m.)
Location: Memorial Wall, Skinner Butte Park, Eugene

AN INVITATION TO HONOR AND REFLECT

- Remember the victims of the four crash sites
- Honor Blue & Gold Star Families
- Participant reflections & personal testimonies
- Proper respect for this anniversary

THIS EVENT IS NOT LIMITED TO VETERANS. We welcome Law Enforcement, Fire, Medical professionals, Blue/Gold Star Families, Civilians connected to the attack sites, AND the general public.

We have fought to preserve the many freedoms we have as Americans, please keep remarks politically neutral and respectful of the fallen and their families.



RSVP Appreciated

<https://forms.gle/ev648BBmhkB2YtSTA>

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Lane County Stand Down

Friday, Sept 11, 0700 to 1400, at the Lane Events Center
Set up will be Thursday, Sept 10, between 1000 to 1700
Hours for working the tables on Friday will be 0900 to 1400
There is no charge for having a table at the Stand Down

The Lane County Stand Down is quickly approaching... and we need your help. The Stand Down is for all veterans of Lane County. It offers encouragement to those who are struggling and support for all. This one-day event requires support from many places and organizations, but needs very little from us. They ask for our helping hand in setting up the event on Thursday, 10 September, from 1000 to 1700 or whatever time you can spare: light lifting, some organizational guidance, some straightening and decorating.

On the day of the event, Friday, 11 September, we will have a display table manned by two chapter members, with the goals of letting the veteran community know that there is a local organization of military officers who would welcome them. Last year Ken Evans, Elaine Callahan, and Johathan Landon staffed the table and Floyd Bard provided the handouts. Honorary member Brooks Hayes once again worked in the kitchen to provide meals for the veterans. If you would like to help, drop me a line at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com and I will get you set up. This will help increase our visibility throughout the veteran community.



VSF: Our Chapter's Veterans Service Fund

Over the years, our chapter's Veterans Service Fund has donated to organizations that provide shelter, assure fair treatment for vets going through the justice system or are experiencing mental health emergencies, provide honorary quilts or trips to our nation's capitol to view the honors that have been bestowed there. Our chapter collects funds from recyclable bottles and cans, the sale of flags and Christmas trees and from member donations to fund local organizations that provide services to veterans. The board dishes out the funds at the end of every fiscal year, holding back 25 percent to allocate to any emerging projects.

We would like to expand our search for worthy organizations that fit our local/veteran-oriented model. If you have experienced the value of an organization like that, or just have heard of one that the board can investigate, please contact any board member or drop an email to MOAAofEugene@gmail.com.



Christmas Party **SAVE THE DATE:** The annual Emerald Empire Chapter Christmas party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th. **SAVE THE DATE...**

and it will be in the daytime so everyone can get home by dark.

BRIEFS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026 CALENDAR OF MOAA CHAPTER MEETINGS

September:	9th Luncheon 23rd Board Meeting
October:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting
November:	18th Luncheon (1130-1330) 18th Board Meeting (1330)
December:	9th Christmas Dinner (1330) 16th Board Meeting

Dates in RED have been changed.

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons and dinners will be held in the Colonial Room and Board Meetings will be held in the Veterans' (Board) Room.

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons will start at 11:30 am (serving at noon) and end by 2:00 pm. The Christmas party social hour will start at 1:30 pm and the meal will be served at 2:00 pm. Board meetings will start at noon until 2:00 pm.

Why do we care about your military history? Because it is your legacy and the legacy of all military officers. Think of it as an opportunity to show the next generation that **service** to our country has meaning and is something to be proud of.

Telling our story shows our willingness to **serve** and shows the value of the veteran throughout our communities – no matter what phase of **service** we are in, whether active duty, retired or citizen soldier in the National Guard or Reserves.

The act of service was the key to human civilization.

Ira Byock, American physician and author (born 1951), tells this story:

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

"But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

"A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

The Veterans Memorial Association, VFW Post 293, American Legion Post 3 and the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA held a ceremony in front of the Veterans Memorial Building to raise a flag honoring the 250th birthday of America. The program opened with God Bless America, followed by the National Anthem.

Ken Evans, Dick Kimball, Eric Watkins and Floyd Bard attended the ceremony. Michael Pace was the chaplain, Lance Englet presided and VFW and MOAA member Monique DeSpain was one of the speakers.

The missing man table was explained and several stories were told of soldiers not returning from WWII and Vietnam.

As the flags were raised and Reveille was played, traffic came to a halt on Willamette Street in both directions. The program closed with Taps.



You May Ask: Do we really need to increase our visibility?

The answer is “YES”... before we fade away.

Everyone knows that all organizations are struggling to recruit new members, and we are just like everyone else. Since 2020 we have had 60 members depart. Most either moved or passed away, but some resigned due to health reasons or we simply lost contact with them. That's minus 60 in five years, and we've only been able to recruit 11 new members. It doesn't show a healthy trend. That's why we need to take every opportunity to get our name out there in case an eligible active, retired or former officer strolls by.

For a long time, we relied on National MOAA to provide leads to MOAA members living in our area who were not chapter members. One time this tool was so good that Pat Simpson was able to recruit 17 new members in two years. However, in the past year the pool of candidates has really decreased and we were only able to bring in two new members,

Oregon is not a prime location for retired and former officers, and Eugene is even less so. But they are out there... just look to yourselves to prove it. **With Oregon being 51st on a list of 50 states and Washington DC for desirability for veterans to retire here, it's amazing we're still here at all.**

Visit our website at

www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

MOAA... What We Do

We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of all the uniformed services. Our main areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military and veteran community, e.g., supporting the programs of Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent de Paul targeting the Lane County veteran population.

ROTC Boosters The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. We have zeroed out the 2026 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2027 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2027 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret) Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret) Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)

Booster contact is Dick Kimbell (541) 915-0405. Checks may be given to the Treasurer at meetings or mailed to: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 22 JULY 2026

Excerpts from the Board Meeting Minutes. Full minutes are attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members: Les Cunningham, Ron Lechny and, Jonathan Landon. Former board members Eric Watkins and Frank Balazs were also in attendance. A quorum was not established.

OPENING: President Bard called the meeting to order at 1204 hours, led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 24 June 2026 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, JUNE 24 – JULY 21, 2026

BALANCE ON HAND (July 21, 2026):

Chapter Operations	\$ 5759.32
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 3322.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 2200.00
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2027	\$ 156.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 10810.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 471.20

COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE July 21, 2026 **\$ 22719.41**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Guest Speakers for September (Eugene Police, Veteran's Court) – Ken.

Ken has engaged Eugene Police Department's Chief Skinner to be the speaker at our 9 Sep luncheon.

2. POS Progress – Elaine, Ken.

Though having difficulties tying down the needed technician, Elaine assures us that she will have a full report by the 26 Aug board meeting.

3. Chapter Life Membership: Do we really want to do this? Criteria? – Pat, Dick K.

The possibility of establishing a chapter life membership program, but the board members had no interest in pursuing it for the chapter level, though they supported it for the national level.

4. There will be no "Thoughts from the Board" article for August newsletter.

5. VMA Sep 11th event funding - Floyd.

A. MOAA Treasurer delivered the \$500 check to the VMA. The board will request a refund of any unused funds for this project.

B. VFW, American Legion and MOAA need volunteers for the event to help with parking, escorts and clean-up. Information on how to sign up to help will be forthcoming.

6. Nominating Committee – Floyd, Pat.

President Bard will reach out to the immediate past president, Michael Kennedy, to chair a three-person nominating committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report on VMA flag raising - Floyd.

A. The ceremony to raise the flag honoring the 250th year of America took place on 14 July. MOAA played a major part in the ceremony as members Monica DeSpain and Lance Englet acted as speaker and host.

B. It was reported that when the flags were being raised that traffic on Willamette Street stopped in both directions; a moving moment for all participants.

2. Lane County Stand Down - Floyd.

The Lane County Stand Down will be held on Friday, 11 Sep at the Lane Events Center. As usual, set-up will be the day before. The chapter will have a table and be able to display our banner. Details will be in the August newsletter.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

Emerald Empire Chapter
P.O. Box 767
Eugene, OR. 97440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

E-mail:

MOAAofEugene@gmail.com



*Thank You for
supporting MOAA
with your
membership.*

**It's
never
too late
to
become
a MOAA
Life
Member**



Service, loyalty,
honesty and
integrity

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MOAA is the largest veterans' organization for military officers in the United States, with approximately 364,000 members.

The organization represents those on active duty, former officers, members of the National Guard, Reserve, Retirees and their surviving spouses.

Chapter Mission Statement:

The mission of the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is to advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
U.S. COAST GUARD
August 4th**



**236 years old
and still growing**