

**Annual Membership Picnic**  
**Saturday, 13 Jun 2026 at Lively Park**  
**12:00 Noon**

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, 9 June so we know how much to prepare**



**The Chapter Provides:**  
**BBQ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Corn on the Cob**  
**and beer, soda and water**

**You Bring Potluck:**  
**A-J Desserts; K-Z Salads and Sides**

**Picnic details on pages 2 and 3**

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**Do you need a ride to and from the picnic?**

**Either email**  
**MOAAofEugene@gmail.com OR**  
**call one of the officers listed below and we will try to make it happen.**

**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 is our last general membership meeting until our luncheon on Wednesday, 9 September. Have a good summer.**

Printing graciously provided by  
  
**541-762-8000**

## Directions to Lively Park

### From I-5 and Oregon

#### Hwy 126:

- Take OR-126 east toward Springfield for 5.7 miles.
- Turn left at 52nd Street (that signal before Springfield's Main Street).
- 52nd will make a sharp right turn and become High Banks Road, which 1.1 miles later will make another right turn and become 58th Street,
- Continue on 58th to the roundabout (traffic circle) and take the third exit onto Thurston Road.
- 1000 feet later, turn left onto 61st Street into the entrance of Lively Park.
- Turn left into the parking area just past the Splash building and continue to the pavilions. We are in Pavilion A, the one on the left.



OR

- Just put 6100 Thurston Road, Springfield in your GPS.

We are in the pavilion on the left.



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

Come out to Lively Park in Springfield on **Saturday, June 13th at noon** for our annual Membership Picnic. Just a 15-minutes drive from Eugene to our paved and sheltered, ADA-compliant picnic area, fully equipped with picnic tables, a cooking area with a built-in gas grill, restrooms and a near-by dog park.

The chapter furnishes hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob , beverages (beer, sodas and water), picnic supplies, condiments, etc.



All you need to bring is a potluck dish or dessert, and if you wish, a tablecloth just for your eating area. Also, feel free to bring your own wine.

If your last name starts with A-J please bring a dessert; if K-Z, bring a salad or side dish.

The picnic is free for chapter members and their families. If you bring a guest, a \$5.00 donation is requested. However, if your guest is a prospective member, they, of course, eat free. There is no charge for parking.

**REMEMBER** to bring your returnable bottles and cans for our fundraiser.

## PICNIC HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED

If you would like to help set up at the annual picnic, show up around 11:00 AM. Of course, help breaking down everything after the picnic will also be greatly appreciated.

## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OUR CHAPTER'S FUTURE

The Emerald Empire Chapter has a lot to be proud of as we have ascended to become a chapter that gives donations, manages a robust scholarship program, and has an enthusiastic membership with an award winning newsletter and website. This is what many chapters strive to achieve. All of this is only possible with a strong Board of Directors that possesses leadership qualities and integrity. Looking forward, we do not want to lose momentum. We can only prevent this from happening with a list of competent candidates that will replace outgoing board members and officers. We have until October to develop that list. Some of our Board Members have been in place for a number of years and now intend on stepping down. I appeal to you to consider becoming a new Officer, Board Member, or volunteering to serve on a Committee.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 27 May 2026

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

**PRESENT:** Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ken Evans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members: Michael Pace, Les Cunningham, Ron Lechnyr and Michael Kennedy. Former board member Eric Watkins was also in attendance. A quorum was established.

**OPENING:** President Bard called the meeting to order at 1202 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Michael Kennedy gave an opening prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 22 Apr 2026 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

## **EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, APRIL 22 – MAY 26, 2026**

### **BALANCE ON HAND (May 26, 2026):**

Chapter Operations	\$ 6216.73
*Veterans Services Fund	\$ 2122.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 3681.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 9329.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 471.20

**COLUMBIA CHECKING BALANCE May 26, 2026 \$ 21820.82**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on Legislative Action Center – Ken Evans
  - A. President Bard said he followed the instructions on our website and logged into MOAA's Legislative Action Center. He chose a topic and sent letters to his three legislators and immediately received acknowledgement from two of them. It was a satisfactory experience which he encourages others to try.
  - B. Ken said he will work with our webmaster to see if there is a way to determine how many people have "pushed the button" to access the Legislative Action Center web page.
2. Accepting credit cards/donations page for website – Ken Eans, Floyd Bard.
  - A. Ken briefed that Square charges 2.6% and 0.15 per transaction to process credit card purchases; cheaper than banks when the "back-end fees" are totaled in.
  - B. The Board discussed and agreed to charge one dollar extra for luncheons since the meal charge goes directly to the caterer. Any other transaction fees will be absorbed by the Chapter.
  - C. If we use Square to do online purchases, the fee would be 3.3% plus \$0.30 to cover the addition security risk.
  - D. The Board decided we had talked about it enough and directed Ken to get it started.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Bylaws Amendment – Pat Harris, Floyd Bard and Eric Watkins

A discussion was held to determine if we needed a bylaw change to allow electronic meetings/voting, e.g., Zoom, email or conference call. Since state statutes already allow such meetings, no further action was needed by the Board.

Visit our website at [www.emeraldempiremoaa.org](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org)

Another great resource for veterans.

#### **"The Emerald Voice"**

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),  
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767  
Email: [EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com](mailto:EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com)  
Copy of newsletter available upon email request.

The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is a Eugene-based 501(c)(19) veterans organization that meets regularly at the Veterans' Memorial Building at 1626 Willamette Street. We have 85 regular and associate members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's seven 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.

# SO, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THOSE OLD UNIFORMS?

Last month we had an inquiry from one of our Surviving Spouses asking what to do with old uniforms, so I asked the membership.

- Joelle Goodwin looked through the Internet and found these Best Options for Old Dress Uniforms:
  - Donate to Veteran Organizations: VFW posts, American Legion posts, or organizations like the Combat Paper Project often accept uniforms. Military Thrift Stores: Donate to on-base "Airman's Attic" or similar programs, which help new service members. Museums and Historical Societies: local museums may accept uniforms with strong local ties.
  - Repurpose/Upcycle: Convert uniforms into personal items like quilts, teddy bears, or throw pillows. Non-profits like Celebrate Fatigues and Re-Form transform them into new goods.
  - Theater/Drama Departments: Local high school or community theaters often need authentic costumes.
- John Toensing suggested the Soaring by the Sea Foundation air museum at the Eugene airport.
- Dick Kimbell suggested contacting the American Legion Post #3 or VFW in Eugene.,
- Michael Pace! said, The Air Force Auxiliary is leading the charge to have a directory of members who can assemble when necessary for honor guards and funeral services. I am a member and I fold and present flags and play TAPS. All members of the armed forces, officers and enlisted can be part of this! Dress uniforms are the highest priority but we will take anything. Salem, Portland, and Roseburg do this and I/we are trying to get this going in our area. My cell/text is 541 326 2840. We are basically trying to save and restore our pageantry!

\*\*\*\*\*

## 3 Ways to Rid Your Closet of Old Military Uniforms

By: Joseph Eisenmann, reprinted from MOAA's Military Officer Magazine

You might cherish your old military uniforms given all the memories they hold. Or maybe you — or your spouse — are tired of them taking up space in the closet. When the time comes to unclutter, what should you do with those uniforms?

**Dispose:** The easiest way to get rid of any uniforms is to dispose of them, and there are a handful of ways to do this. The first is to simply throw them in the trash. It is cautioned that if you decide to trash the uniforms, you should remove any insignia and names on them. Some individuals even go as far as cutting or ripping the uniforms to avoid any reuse. Others have found it best to burn their old uniforms to avoid any possible stolen valor. Another option is to check with a local base, as some military installations have shredding programs for old uniforms.

**Donate:** If you aren't comfortable with trashing a uniform, consider donating it. As with disposal, you should remove any insignia and names when donating. One of the more convenient places to donate uniforms is at a thrift store. Though thousands of uniforms end up in thrift stores every year, it might be best to donate them to a military thrift store or one close to a base. If you're looking for your donation to go a little further, you can give your uniforms to organizations that help veterans, such as [Sword & Plough](#) or your local Airman's Attic. Other options include school drama departments, local museums, or VFW or American Legion posts.

**Repurpose:** Maybe you'll want to put the old uniforms to use. Some individuals prefer to keep their uniforms intact and put them on display in a shadow box along with their awards. Others repurpose their uniforms to craft a wide array of projects, including turning the uniforms into bags, aprons, and even wreaths for the holidays. But others choose to get an active use out of them. You can wear them when doing household work such as working on the car or cleaning out the attic or when going paintballing, mudding, or hunting. Be aware some services have stringent restrictions on when you should and should not wear a uniform, so even if your service is in your past, it might be best to consider those rules.

# 2026 ROTC RECOGNITION DINNER

This year's ROTC Recognition Dinner was a great success. The cadets were all turned out in their Army greens, bringing back a few memories in our older members about the brown-shoe Army. Several members also wore their uniforms. This year our President found a string and keyboard



sextet, the Cascade Kids, to entertain during the social hour. The Colonial Room of the Veterans Memorial Building was all dressed up thanks to Ann Watkins and Geri Harris.

After a fine meal of very tasty beef pot roast, MAJ Jesse DeBoest, filling in for the Professor of Military Science



**The Cascade Kids, a sextet from Creswell, played military music during the social hour and led us in the National Anthem.**



**LTC Ryon Skiles, incoming University of Oregon Professor of Military Science, and his wife, Jamie.**

(PMS), gave an excellent talk about the quality of the training and the men

and women of the cadet corps. Then Chapter President Floyd Bard presented the three MOAA scholarship winners with their medals, certificates and presentation checks for their \$1,400 scholarships... reminding them, of course, that "the check was in the mail." Actual funds are sent to their student accounts when they re-enroll in September.

As you might notice, the scholarships were for \$1,400 each this year versus our normal checks of \$1,000, thanks to a generous, last-minute donation from Tom and Susan Stewart to express their appreciation for the hard work the cadets had to perform to compete for these scholarships.

Dinner, continued on page 7

## 2026 ROTC RECOGNITION DINNER (continued)

Dinner, continued from page 6

MAJ DeBoest then called up the six graduating MS IV cadets and BG Hoffman presented them with the chapter's MOAA medallions. The General then charged the soon-to-be-commissioned officers to make "Integrity" their key to everything they do in the service.

When all the cadets had returned to their seats, MAJ DeBoest introduced LTC Ryon Skiles who will assume the duties of the PMS this summer. All we can do is wish him luck.

Then it was time for Jim Koch to take over and distribute the more than \$600 worth of door (raffle) prizes, ranging from ROTC and National Guard swag to restaurant gift certificates. Jim made sure that every cadet had an opportunity to grab a prize from the table. Many thanks go to the members who gathered prizes from our local vendors, and especially to those members who bought and furnished prizes themselves.



### 2026 Recipients of MOAA ROTC Medal and Certificates for Leadership and Academic Achievement and \$1,400 Scholarships

(From left to right) With MAJ Jesse DeBoest (UofO) and CPT Anthony Hess (SOU): MSIII Samuel Haag of Southern Oregon University and MSIII Eva Schluth and MSIII Molly Cobbs of the University of Oregon. Also pictured LTC Ryon Skiles and CW5 Floyd Bard, Chapter President.



### 2026 University of Oregon ROTC Graduating Class

(From left to right) With BG Norm Hoffman: MSIV Carlos De Prado, MSIV Nicole Morales Lopez, MSIV Jeremy Jackson, MSIV Ivy Fleury, MSIV Josie Bohman and MSIV Christian Ash. CW5 Floyd Bard, Chapter President.

As usual at these gatherings, both the cadets and the members seemed to really appreciate the opportunity to share their experiences.



# THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

## MEMORIAL DAY: Memories Made and Memories to Keep

This past weekend, I walked through a small pioneer cemetery near my home. The winter's debris had been cleared away, and the grass freshly mowed. Quietly and with dignity, volunteers had placed American flags by the veterans' tombstones in preparation for Memorial Day. About twenty-seven flags marked the graves in this small, rural cemetery. I paused to thank them silently for their service—in the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and in peacetime. "What was your story?" I wondered, but only silence answered.

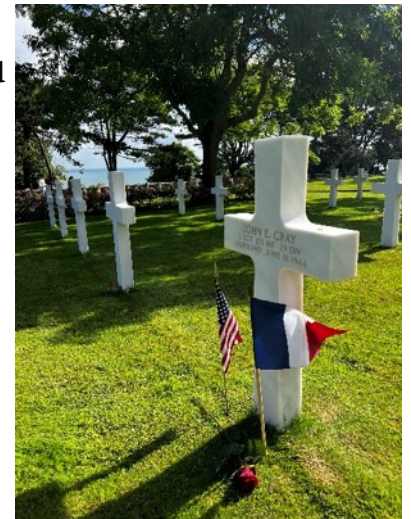
In 2024, I visited the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer and paid my respects to my uncle, who has rested there since 1944. It is a profoundly beautiful and moving place. I thought I knew Sgt. John Edward Grey's story—he was lost on D-Day at Omaha Beach. I heard it many times at our kitchen table.

John served with the 175th Infantry, 29th Division. His gravestone read "Died June 18, 1944." Stephanie, the gracious cemetery attendant who escorted me, offered more information. He did not fall on D-Day itself, but during the hedgerow fighting that followed. The 175th did not land until June 7 but then suffered heavy casualties during the liberation of Isigny-sur-Mer—Stephanie's own village—and Saint-Lô.

Does it matter? We still lost John in the Normandy Campaign. Yet I felt a flash of irritation that I hadn't known the truth, followed by relief at finally understanding a little more. Memories are fluid. Even when we try to hold onto them, they shift—especially when passed from one person to another.

What is your story? Please, consider writing it down. A **Military Biography Form** is available in the Emerald Empire May Bulletin or from any EEMOAA Board member. Or record it verbally through the University of Oregon's ROTC cadets **Veterans History Project**. And thank you for your service.

Elaine Callahan, Treasurer



**TAPS** Lt Col Mark Schibler, USAF (Ret), passed away on April 22, 2026. Mark served from November 1962 to October 1990. Mark was one of our callers for many years. He leaves behind his wife, Lois.

### 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.

"The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."  
— General George S. Patton Jr.



# BOOSTERS

## 5-Star Winners Once Again

The Col. Marvin J. Harris  
Communications Awards  
NEWSLETTER



Pat Harris

Levels of Excellence  
Award



You, the members of  
The Emerald Empire Chapter

The Col. Marvin J. Harris  
Communications Awards  
WEBSITE



Ginger Banks



14 June

### **Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are**

We have 85 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](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US).

**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 will now zero out the 2026 Booster Fund and start accepting donations for the 2027 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2026 ROTC Booster Fund:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)	Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)
Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)	Carole Applegate, Surviving Spouse	Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret)
Richard Heyman, Col, USAF (Ret)	John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse
Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Lance Englet, COL, USA (Ret)
Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) in memory of LTC Patrick Simpson and LTC Edward "Mike" Reuter		
Bert Toepel, Jr., COL, USA (Ret)	Barbara Gunn, Surviving Spouse	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Lynette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Tom Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Les Cunningham, Capt, USAF (Fmr)
Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse
Larry Senn, LT, USN (Fmr)	James Helbling, LTC, USA (Ret)	Erven Kincaid, LCDR, USN (Ret)
William Gutheim, COL, USA (Ret)	Michael Lee, COL, USA (Ret)	James Koch, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (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.**

# HISTORY OF FLAG DAY AND THE AMERICAN FLAG

Flag Day, observed annually on June 14, commemorates the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially adopted the "Stars and Stripes" as the national flag of the United States.

Before Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes, there was no single American flag. Patriots and military units flew a variety of handmade banners. The most prominent early flags included:



- **The Continental Colors (Grand Union Flag):**

The first unofficial national flag, featuring 13 alternating red and white stripes with the British Union Jack in the canton. First flown by the Continental Navy in December 1775 and raised by George Washington on January 1, 1776.

- **Pine Tree Flag:** Flown in New England, this flag featured a green pine tree on a white background with the motto "An Appeal to Heaven", which was also flown by George Washington's fleet of schooners.

- **The Gadsden Flag:** A yellow banner featuring a coiled rattlesnake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me," used by the Continental Navy.

These flags are honored today during many Flag Day Ceremonies.

Throughout U.S. history, there have been **27 official versions** of the American flag. Each time a new state joined the union, the flag was updated to include an additional star, with the stripes permanently reverting to the original 13 in 1818. Each American Flag was authorized by the United States Congress on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July following the date the State was accepted into the United States of America. This is why many flags were only official for 2 years, with the 49-star flag (Alaska) only flown for 1 year (July 4, 1959 to July 3, 1960). The 15-star, 15-stripe American flag is the iconic "Star Spangled Banner" that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814. Officially used from 1795 to 1818, this unique design—the only U.S. flag with more than 13 stripes—was created to welcome Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. It was determined that adding a strip for each State would be impossible to manage.

"Old Glory" is a famous nickname for the United States flag with 24 stars. It originated in 1824 when American sea captain William Driver was gifted a custom U.S. flag. He named it "Old Glory", and it survived the American Civil War by being hidden inside a quilt. Since its conception in 1824, the American Flag is commonly referred to as "Old Glory".

Afghanistan holds the world record for the most national flag changes, having gone through more than 20 distinct design revisions since the early 20th century, closely reflecting its shifting political regimes. The United States is another prominent example, having officially updated its flag design 26 times to incorporate new states since its original adoption in 1777. Denmark is the only country that has never changed its flag design.

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the U.S. flag on June 14, 1777. It was founded by Wisconsin schoolteacher Bernard J. Cigrand, who held the first formal observance at Stony Hill School on June 14, 1885.

## FLAG DAY (CONTINUED)

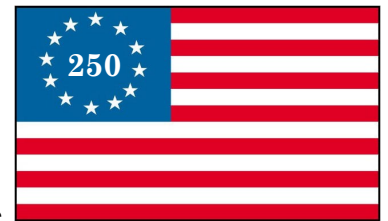
The evolution of the holiday occurred in several stages:

- **The Founder:** Cigrand is celebrated as the "Father of Flag Day" for his decades-long effort to get the patriotic birthday recognized.
- **National Recognition:** Following years of localized school and civic celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation on May 30, 1916, establishing June 14th as Flag Day.
- **Federal Law:** It became a permanent national observance on August 3, 1949, when President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating the day.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the only major fraternal organization that mandates an annual, formal observance of Flag Day. In 1907, the Elks designated June 14 as Flag Day, and in 1911, the Grand Lodge made this observance mandatory for all local lodges nationwide.

- **1907:** The Elks became the first national fraternal body to adopt a resolution designating June 14 as Flag Day.
- **1911:** The Elks' Grand Lodge made the observance of Flag Day mandatory for all subordinate lodges, a requirement still practiced today.
- **1949:** President Harry S. Truman, a proud Elks member, signed an act of Congress permanently establishing June 14 as Flag Day, inspired by his local lodge in Independence, Missouri.

There have been many versions of the American Flag over the years, which was never authorized as an official flag of the United States of America. Currently there is a version being flown to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America. This flag consists of

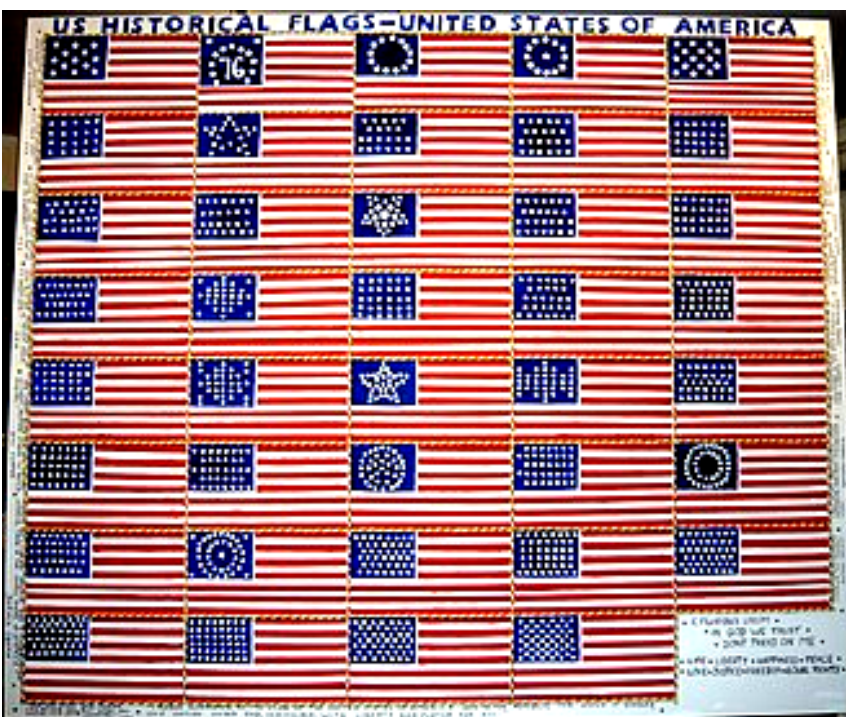


13 stripes, 13 stars, and the number 250 in the field of stars.

To the left is a display of the common commemorative flags that have been flown or displayed since 1777. It is not illegal to display these flags, but it is inappropriate to honor these flags by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or singing the National Anthem.

“And now you know the rest of the story!”

Floyd Bard, President,  
Emerald Empire  
Chapter and Eugene  
Elks Flag Day Chair-



**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

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

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*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  
JUNE 14TH**

**U.S. ARMY**

