THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

CHRISTMAS PARTY, 9 DECEMBER 2026

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 – 1:00 Social / 2:00 Dinner



Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette
A No-Host Bar Will Be Available
Dinner - $38.00 per person
MENU



First Course

Mixed Greens with Candied Walnuts, Feta Cheese, Dried Cranberries and Balsamic Vinaigrette
Grandma's Rolls and Butter



Second Course (Choice of one entree)

Chicken Cordon Bleu with a Light Dijon Cream Sauce
OR
Beef Shoulder Tender with Mushroom Hunter Sauce
Twice Baked Potatoes and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables



Third Course

Dark Chocolate Mousse Flavored with Myers Dark Rum
Beverages
No-Host Bar Service Available

Let us know your choice of entrée

Make your reservation by Friday, December 4th.

Program

The Dublinaires
Installation of 2027 Officers
Holiday Raffle
Business Dress; Uniforms Encouraged
As always, guests are invited, but they must have a reservation.

DECEMBER 2026, VOLUME 62, ISSUE 12

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CALENDAR

December
09 MOAA Christmas Party, 1300, Vets
13 National Guard Birthday
16 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets
17 Aviation's Birthday
25 Christmas Day

January 2027
01 New Years Day
04 USPHS Commission Corps Birthday
13 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
18 MLK, Jr. Day
27 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

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



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 18 NOV 2026

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

PRESENT: Officers: 1st Vice President Ken Evans, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members: Jonathan Landon, Les Cunningham, Scott Sandgathe and Michael Kennedy. Former board members Eric Watkins and Ginger Banks, and incoming board member Rich Cheney were also in attendance. A quorum was established.

OPENING 1st Vice President Evans called the meeting to order at 1314 hours. The pledge and invocation from the preceding general membership meeting were still in effect.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 28 October 2026 board meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Pat Harris and seconded by Jonathan Landon. It was passed unanimously.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 17, 2026

BALANCE ON HAND (November 17, 2026):

Chapter Operations	$ 6063.18	
Veterans Services Fund	$ 3122.05	
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2027	$ 340.00	
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	$ 12310.84	
Cadet Dinner Fund	$ 471.20	
COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE Nov. 17, 2026	**$ 22307.27**	**$ 22307.27**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **The progress of the Point of Sale (POS)** was discussed. Email invoices went out at the beginning of the week and many members paid their dues during meeting registration.
2. **Thoughts from the Board articles**
   The following will provide articles for the newsletters: December, Jonathan Landon; January, Dick Kimbell; February, Ken Evans; March, Les Cunningham; April, Scott Sandgathe; May, LTC Ryon Skiles and June, Ginger Banks.
3. **There were no suggested changes for the 2027 calendar of meetings.**
4. **Awarding donations from the Veterans Service Fund (VSF):**
   A. A spreadsheet list of existing, operating nonprofits in the Eugene/Lane County area with a veteran focus had been emailed to officers and member of the Board prior to the meeting along with a one-page list of potential considerations for review and awarding VSF funds. These items were presented for purposes of generating discussion at the meeting. During the meeting a list of some of the nonprofits was provided that contained a description of their activities or stated their mission.
   B. A lengthy discussion on how and when to award the donations. What criteria for who would get our support, process for evaluating possible recipients and follow-up to assure the funds are properly used were among the topics.
   C. As we had previously set down that VSF funds would be distributed at the end of each calendar year, holding back 25 percent of the funds for exigent circumstances, a new motion was needed if we were going to change that.
   D. MOTION: Les Cunningham moved that a committee build a process that codifies the board's concerns by March 2027. Then hold subsequent meetings with the board to review applicants with the goal to dispense grants by June 2027. Pat Harris seconded the motion, and it was passed with only one in opposition. Les Cunningham, Ken Evans and Ginger Banks will form the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: Pat Harris moved to give a check for $200 from our Chapter Operations fund to the Dublinaires when they perform at our 9 December general membership meeting and Holiday Party. Ken Evans seconded and the motion passe unanimously.

SEASONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Have you ever had an earworm? That is, a song that you just can't get out of your head? I was deployed to Iraq from October of 2005 to October of 2006. My earworm that year, from November until about May, was "I'll Be Home for Christmas." It was ironic. There are two times you can guarantee a Christian chaplain will not be on R&R: Christmas and Easter. Every time I caught myself singing or humming that song, I tried to think of the servicemembers who *could* go home for Christmas and be happy for them.

That year, Christmas Eve was on a Sunday. After my usual Sunday service and hospital rounds, I returned to my office. In the early afternoon, two soldiers came into my office and asked whether there would be a midnight Mass at the chapel. I explained that there couldn't be, because the Roman Catholic chaplain was a circuit rider. He would preside at Sunday morning mass at our FOB, and shortly after would take off to perform a series of Masses at other bases, not returning until Thursday every week.

These two young women pleaded with me to ensure there was a midnight service. I pointed out that it wouldn't be a Mass as I'm not Roman Catholic. Also, it really was too late to get the word out. I finally yielded to their pleas. Maybe my heart grew three sizes that day. I told them I would lead the service, if they would go out and spread the word, and they enthusiastically accepted the mission.

So, at 11:15 PM Christmas Eve, 2005, there I was in the chapel with my chaplain assistant, and … I think … there were six in the congregation. I wrapped up the service just a few minutes before midnight and received the copious thanks of the two young women. I couldn't give them the midnight Mass they craved, but I had given them what I could, and – for that night at least - it was enough.

Afterward, I went back to my office and couldn't help thinking of the importance of familiar traditions in keeping us grounded and centered when we were away from all the places and people who were most important to us. On those crucial days, we knew that our families would be at midnight Mass, or a candlelight service, or breaking the Ramadan fast at sunset, lighting the Sabbath candles, toasting the bridal party, or chasing mortarboards across the field. We couldn't be there, but we grasped at the bits of those traditions that we could reproduce and looked forward to the day when we'd return to normalcy.

Yeah. Return to normalcy. That never happened. That never will. But at least, we returned to hearths and homes, and familiar houses of worship. Most of us did.

It would be too on-the-nose to say that evening was when I realized how true that song really was. It probably wasn't, but sometime during that deployment I realized I had always sung or hummed that song about plans to be home for Christmas and rarely had the attention to finish the song. Remember the last lines?

I'll be home for Christmas,

If only in my dreams.

I don't ever face the winter holiday season anymore without thinking at least a few times about men and women far away, pleading for a scrap of familiar traditions to remind them of their homes, their families and their faiths.

As you keep your holiday this year, please, keep them in your hearts and minds. Please, keep them in your prayers.

Submitted by Chaplain (MAJ) Jonathan Landon, USA (Ret)

BRIEFS AND CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF AVIATION

Update Your Directory Listing... NOW



We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2027. To make this edition as accurate as possible, we ask that everyone look at the last edition (yellow) and make sure your information is complete and accurate. New members who have changed address, any phone numbers, spousal status or email address since joining should also respond. If anything needs to be added or corrected, please contact Pat Harris, at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com or call at 541-290-0814.

If you do not have access to an old directory and have changed any contact info in the last couple of years, please send that info to Pat.

Veterans Breakfast at Campbell Community Center

A breakfast honoring those who served was held at the Campbell Community Center on the morning of November 12th. The Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA elected to donate $250.00 to the Campbell Center to purchase the food for the breakfast as it was a meaningful day that honored veterans from the local area. The attendance at the breakfast was 41 persons, which exceeded previous year's attendance which has averaged 25 to 30 persons.

The initial introduction highlighted the EEMOAA chapter contribution to the meal and mentioned the purpose and mission of the MOAA. The chapter was represented by Michael and Connie Kennedy, John and Lynne Toensing and Ken Evans and Elaine Callahan. The Kennedys somehow managed to sit at a table that were all Navy vets, while the Toensings found the Army table, all by coincidence I'm sure. The depth and breadth of each person's service was quite variable and very interesting from medical corps to intelligence. Conversations were easy to start and carry on with attendees staying well past the serving of breakfast. It was a very nice breakfast with fruit, a tasty vegetarian potato hash, scrambled eggs, sausages and cheese. Coffee was hot and ready with plenty of orange juice to go around. The staff was exceedingly friendly and helpful and full of information. The room gave a round of applause to them in support of their effort.

The Sheldon High Dublinaires, Our Christmas Party Entertainment

The Sheldon High School Dublinaires are an elite a cappella and vocal jazz choir from Sheldon High School in Eugene, Oregon. "The Dubs" help students build the skills and confidence to create, perform, and enjoy a wide range of music both on their own and as a team. The Dublinaires have performed both nationally and internationally, always committed to performing music with integrity while supporting their community and each singer's personal and musical growth.

Director: Megan Perdue

The Birth of Military (and other) Aviation

On December 17th, 1903, Orville Wright took the first flight in their Wright Flyer. It lasted 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet. Later that same day Wilbur Wright flew 59 seconds, the longest flight of the day, and traveled 852 feet.

At that rate of travel, it would take the Wright Flyer 102 flights to get from the Creswell Airport (where the World's Greatest Fighter Pilot had lived) to the Eugene Airport.



2026 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

18 November 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1205 on 18 Nov 2026, by 1st Vice President Ken Evans who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jonathan Landon gave the invocation.

1st Vice President Evans introduced the slate of 2027 officers and board members and opened the floor for further nominations. None were received and the nominations were closed. A motion was made by Pat Harris and seconded by Dick Kimbell to accept the slate and voted on by the general membership. The following members were unanimously elected to the following positions:

OFFICERS: President, Floyd Bard; 1st Vice-President, Ken Evans; 2nd Vice-President, Les Cunningham; Secretary, Pat Harris; Treasurer, Elaine Callahan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, representing: Jonathan Landon, USA; Michael Kennedy, USMC and USCG; Ron Lechnyr, USPHS; Rich Cheney, USAF; and Scott Sandgathe, USN. No representatives of NOAA or USSF were nominated.

The new officers and board members were congratulated. They will be sworn in at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1208.

Patrick Harris, Secretary

2027 CALENDAR OF MOAA CHAPTER MEETINGS

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER CALENDAR FOR 2027

January:	13th Luncheon, Remembrance 27th Board Meeting	July:	28th Board Meeting
February:	10th Luncheon 24th Board Meeting	August:	25th Board Meeting
March:	10th Luncheon 24th Board Meeting	September:	8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting
April:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting	October:	13th Luncheon 27th Board Meeting
May:	5th ROTC Recognition Dinner 26th Board Meeting	November:	10th Luncheon 17th Board Meeting
June:	12th Chapter Picnic 23rd Board Meeting	December:	8th Christmas Dinner 15th Board Meeting

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. Dinners will start at 6:00 pm (serving at 7:00 pm) and end by 9:00 pm. The Christmas Party will start at 1:00 pm this year. Board meetings will start at noon until 2:00 pm.

Chapter Dues for 2027: Dues of $35.00 are due on 1 January 2027 (separate from national MOAA dues). Several members have already paid for next year; **early payments will be graciously received and will receive a $5.00 discount.**

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE. 1 JAN 2027, $35

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

Briefs:

Be sure when making your reservation for the Christmas Dinner that you indicate which entree you want: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Beef Shoulder Tender.

Reservations must be received by noon on Friday, 4 December. Reach out to your caller, or send an email to MOAAofEugene@gmail.com. If you commit to attend the Christmas Dinner you are expected to pay even if you cannot attend. The cost of a dinner is too much for the Chapter to absorb.

Don't forget… TOYS FOR TOTS



There are two ways to donate:

Bring new, unwrapped toys **(no bicycles or other large objects, please)** to the Christmas Dinner for the Marines' "Toys for Tots" drive, OR, make out a check to LANE COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS, and give it to our Treasurer when you pay for your meals. She will give them to Rebecca of the Veterans Memorial Association, who will make sure they get to Toys for Tots.

Do you or your significant other need a name tag? Wouldn't this be an ideal Christmas present?

We can get you one for $5.00. Just let Michael Pace know the name you want on the name tag and your service affiliation. You can use something like "Army Spouse" for that very significant other.

In case you're wondering, Michael's phone number is on the front page of this newsletter.



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)

Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret) Frank Balazs, 1stLT, USMC (Fmr) Howard Watkins, Jr., LTC, USA (Ret)

Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret) Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (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.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

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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 86 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.

BRIEFS AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Open Season for 2027

dental and vision insurance through FEDVIP is November 10th through December 8th. Go to benefeds.com and choose Shop FEDVIP Plans near the top of the page, then select Dental or Vision and follow the prompts to get to the Plan Compare Tool.

Columbia Sportswear invites all Active, Retired, Reserves and Veterans to have year-round access to their Columbia Sportswear Employee Store. Your military ID gets you and 4 guests in the door.

Address: *14100 NW Science Park Drive, Portland, OR 97229.*

Hours: M-F 10am to 8pm; Sat and Sun 9am to 8pm (Check Yelp for holiday hours). Questions? Email: PortlandEmployeeStore@columbia.com

Christmas dinner reservations and entrée selection must be received by Friday, December 4th OR your choice of entrée will not be guaranteed



DATE CHANGE

MOAA Holiday Party

Wednesday, 9 December

1:00 pm Social

2:00 pm Dinner



We Still Have a Recycling Program... and it makes money for the chapter

We are continuing to ask you to save your returnable bottles and cans, bring them to a general membership meeting, and help us raise money for the Special Projects Fund. Ken Evans has the special blue bags to keep your collection in until you can bring them to us. We won't be collecting at the Holiday Party (too much other stuff moving around, like Toys for Tots, raffle prizes, poinsettias, etc.), but we will be looking for them in January.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Website:
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

United States Sp ce Force
20 December 2019