

General Membership Meeting, September 10



Summer is over
and
Fall is in the air

Wednesday, 10 Sep
11:30 social, noon
lunch, \$20

MENU

Beef and Sausage
Lasagna
Caesar Salad
Fruit Salad
Sauteed Vegetables
Garlic Bread

SPEAKER

Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr
Will speak on the general state of Lane County.
Read his bio on page 3

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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September

01 Labor Day
10 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
11 Stand Down set-up, 10-6
12 Lane County Stand Down, 9-2
18 USAF Birthday
24 Board meeting, 1200, Vets
October
08 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
13 USN Birthday and Columbus Day
22 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

CALENDAR

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS (all 541-)

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	John Toensing	345-7535
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	290-0814
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	942-9992
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		



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541-762-8000

THE VETERANS OF LANE COUNTY NEED YOUR HELP

Set-up is Thursday, 11 Sep from 10 am to 6 pm

We will be manning a MOAA table on Friday, 12 Sep from 9 am to 2 pm

If you can help, just show up on Thursday and find Floyd Bard, or find Eric Watkins and Jonathan Landon at the MOAA table on Friday.



We Are Inviting
All Veterans, National Guard,
Reservists, Active Duty Personnel,
and Military Family Members
To Be Our Guests

Friday, September 12 * 7 am - 2 pm
Lane Events Center Performance Hall

796 W 13th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon

Lane County Stand Down

Enjoy Free Meals

Breakfast: 7 am - 10 am

Lunch: 11:30 am - 1 pm

Free On-Site Services

Haircuts * Massages
Flu & Covid Vaccinations
Hearing & Vision Tests
Limited Dental Care

Some services may not be available on
the day of the Stand Down

Connect With Service Providers For Help With

Food * Housing
Health Care
Mental Health Care
Legal Issues
Child Support Issues
Domestic Violence
Senior & Disability Services
And more...

*A Hand Up.
Not A Handout.*



Learn more at
lanecountystanddown.org

**Free Transportation To
The Stand Down
Provided by LTD**

Tell the driver you are coming to
the Lane County Stand Down

*** Job Fair ***

Local Employers
Private Companies and
Government Agencies

Also Learn About
Training Opportunities
and
Military-to-Civilian
Job Transition Programs

Free Goods For Men, Women, and Children

Clothing, Shoes,
Accessories, Linens,
Personal Care Items,
Cold Weather Gear,
Pet Food & Supplies

**DOD Gear For
Homeless Veterans**

OUR 10 SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr

Pat Farr has a long history of service in Lane County and in Oregon, having held executive management positions in private, nonprofit and public sectors.

Pat and his wife Debi recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, having met while both were students at the University of Oregon. They have three sons: Paddy Farr, a behavioral health therapist; Dr. Evan Farr, a curriculum director for U of O students; and Loukas, a business manager in private industry in San Francisco.

He served in the Oregon Army National Guard as a commissioned officer in the 2nd Battalion 162d Infantry.

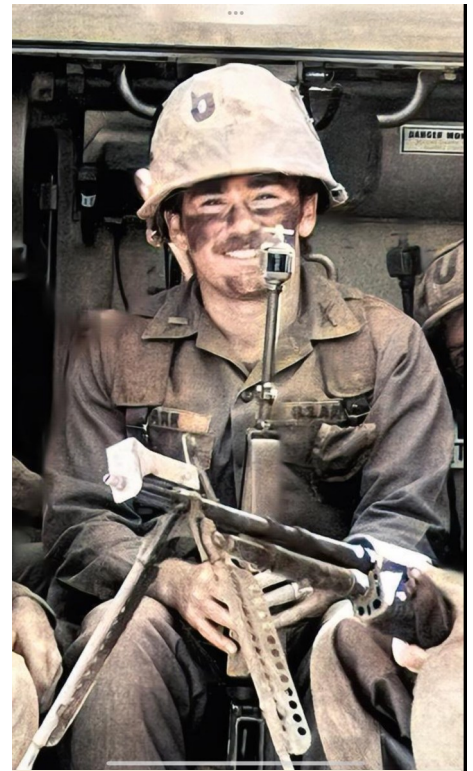
He is serving in his fourth term as Lane County Commissioner from North Eugene. With the distinction of being one of only two Commissioners to have also served on the Eugene City Council

(ten years) and one of only two Commissioners to have served in the Oregon Legislature (House of Representatives, District 14) and having served on the Bethel School Board, Farr brings a broad range of experience and multi-jurisdictional public service to his work.

He left the Oregon Legislature in 2005 to become Executive Director of FOOD for Lane County, a strong local nonprofit that was suffering from diminished public image and fundraising ability following a series of management issues. Under his guidance the nonprofit retained valuable staff and regained its powerful position in service to vulnerable populations. In his first year FFLC distributed over 6 million pounds of food to Lane County families and households. In October 2006 he received Congressional acclamation and was recognized on the Floor of the US Senate for "Having dedicated himself to bettering the lives of Oregonians."

His private industry work includes nearly two decades of executive management with Jerry's Home Improvement Centers, where he helped the small hardware store become an industry

giant. He was General Manager of the All-In-One True Value chain of Hardware Stores and of Gray's Garden Centers.



Pat Farr... then.



Pat Farr... now.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 23 Aug 2025

Excerpts from the Board meeting minutes. Full minutes attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President John Toensing, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Michael Kennedy, Scott Sandgathe, Ken Evans, Michael Pace and Tom Kulick. Member Eric Watkins was also present. A quorum was established.

TREASURER'S REPORTS, July 23 – August 26, 2025

Chapter Operations	\$ 4209.82
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 2719.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 700.00
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund	\$ 6829.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 187.40

NOTES: The BottleDrop Account contains \$1333.66 as of August 26, 2025. We will withdraw \$1200.00 and deposit it in our Veteran Services Fund.

1. Nominating committee progress

John Toensing, Michael Kennedy and Jim Brann (if available) will meet to determine which officer and board member positions need to be filled for 2026, then start soliciting members to fill them. The committee has until 12 October to build the slate.

2. Discounted annual dues if paid before 1 January 2026 (i.e., \$30, \$25)

A motion was made by Scott Sandgathe to offer a five-dollar (\$5.00) discount on the 2026 annual dues of \$35.00 for anyone paying before 1 January 2026. 2nd VP Dick Kimbell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Luncheon leftovers; we provide to go boxes – Pat.

Mac's says that our members can take home any leftovers from the buffet at the end of our meetings, but only if we provide the boxes. The Board directed the House Committee to provide take-away boxes.

4. Website issues

A. The website has had significant increase in visits in the last part of the summer. From 7/23 through 8/23 we had 180 visits. I can only attribute this to the new rolling slides of members that support our community section on the "About Us" page (see article page 6).

B. Finally, in review of the data for the website I see that there are hits from MOAA headquarters (just 2)... nonetheless we are being visited by a number of folks for a variety of reasons. We continue to see requests from organizations to include a link on our Veteran Resource page that offer "resources for veterans" which end up being For Profit Businesses or Attorney-based websites that capture visitors information in hopes to bring business their way rather than offering unbiased help. My focus for the Resource page is that we DO NOT offer any resources that are out of our local area; only verified government-related sites or for organizations that serve our veterans as non-profits. As Pat Harris can attest, I am non-negotiable with this requirement.

5. Seven members of the Board volunteered to help at the Lane County Stand Down on 11 and 12 Sep. More volunteers would be appreciated. See poster on page 2.

"The Emerald Voice"

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
Email: MOAA of Eugene@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 93 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., helping veterans and their families fund emergency residential repairs through local nonprofits. 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.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



**Go to MOAA.org, then ADVOCACY, then
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER**



Greetings from MOAA Government Relations:

Thank you for being a part of MOAA's advocacy network. We need your help bringing a critical issue to the attention of your lawmakers in support of the veteran community and current and future combat-injured veterans: the Major Richard Star Act.

Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are prevented from receiving both the retirement pay they earned through service and the disability compensation they need from the VA. This unfair offset denies them the full recognition of their sacrifices. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282 / S. 344) would fix this inequity by allowing combat-injured servicemembers medically retired with fewer than 20 years of service to receive both their retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

You've already shown your commitment to supporting our nation's servicemembers and their families. Please take one more step today and urge your lawmakers to cosponsor the Major Richard Star Act.

Remember to Check Out the Rest of MOAA's Take Action Center

Join the 364,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America in supporting MOAA's advocacy efforts. It's because of people like us that MOAA is as successful as it is on Capitol Hill. With your support, you become the embodiment of MOAA's commitment to Never Stop Serving.

Many important issues require your immediate attention. They are listed and explained on the following web pages: **<https://takeaction.moaa.org/>**

Selecting a title will lead you to a page with a more in-depth explanation of the issue and offer a form to easily send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message.

OREGON INCOME TAX EXEMPTION UPDATE: Though the Senate and House bills floundered during the 2025 legislative session, Senator Manning still plans to reintroduce the \$17,500 tax exemption for military retirement in the next long session; 2027. With federal funding in flux, the senator is looking to revise the number of Oregon Veteran Retirees to exclude those retirees who already have their military pay exempt.

Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 93 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.



Monday, September 1st

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

You were an officer once. You can be an officer again.

Our chapter's Board of Directors has until the October 22nd board meeting to approve a slate of officers to fill all officer and board

positions for 2026. So, you have more than a month to decide which position you would like to hold. Membership in the Board of Directors is usually a good place to start as it gives you access to the conversations that determine the chapter's policies, prosecute its purposes and determine how its funds should be disbursed. Membership on the Board can lead to one of the five Officer positions. You've all been officers before, so nothing new there. Put your hand in the air.

NOMINATIONS

ARE OPEN

A PLEA FROM OUR WEBMASTER

I continue to receive pictures for our Wall of Community Support display in our website's ABOUT US page... but I know there are many more out there. We have room for 250 pictures in this display. If you have a picture of you supporting another organization, or just a head shot with a list of activities you support, I will be happy to add them to the display. This display illustrates the value of the veteran to the community as a whole, bolsters our own Levels of Excellence award nomination and demonstrates to the state legislature that veterans are an important segment of the population... a key to passing legislation that benefits veterans.

ROTC Barbecue

Chapter members are invited to the ROTC Week of Welcoming BBQ on Sunday, September 28th at the Agate Auditorium parking. Further details to follow.

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 2025 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2026 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)

Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)

Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)

Booster contact is John Toensing (541) 345-7535. Checks may be given to the Treasurer at meetings or mailed to: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767.

9/11 by the Numbers; New York Magazine, 6 Sep 2002

The initial numbers are indelible: 8:46 a.m. and 9:02 a.m. Time the burning towers stood: 56 minutes and 102 minutes. Time they took to fall: 12 seconds. From there, they ripple out.

(Additional information from other sources.)

- Total number killed in attacks (official figure as of 9/5/02): **2,819**
- Number of firefighters and paramedics killed: **343**
- Number of NYPD officers: **23**
- Number of Port Authority police officers: **37**
- Number of WTC companies that lost people: **60** (128)
- Number of employees who died in Tower One: **1,402**
- Number of employees who died in Tower Two: **614**
- Number of employees lost at Cantor Fitzgerald: **658**
- Number of U.S. troops killed in Operation Enduring Freedom: **22**
(Total military deaths from hostile and non-hostile action as of 4 Aug 2025: 2,350)
- Number of nations whose citizens were killed in attacks: **115**
- Ratio of men to women who died: **3:1**
- Age of the greatest number who died: **between 35 and 39**
- Bodies found "intact": **289** (291)
- Body parts found: **19,858** (21,744)
- Number of families who got no remains: **1,717**
- Estimated units of blood donated to the New York Blood Center: **36,000**
- Total units of donated blood actually used: **258**
- Number of people who lost a spouse or partner in the attacks: **1,609**
- Estimated number of children who lost a parent: **3,051**
- Percentage of Americans who knew someone hurt or killed in the attacks: **20**
- FDNY retirements, January–July 2001: **274**
- FDNY retirements, January–July 2002: **661**
- Number of firefighters on leave for respiratory problems by January 2002: **300**
- Number of funerals attended by Rudy Giuliani in 2001: **200**
- Number of FDNY vehicles destroyed: **98**
- Tons of debris removed from site: **1,506,124**
- Days fires continued to burn after the attack: **99**
- Jobs lost in New York owing to the attacks: **146,100**
- Days the New York Stock Exchange was closed: **6**
- Point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average when the NYSE reopened: **684.81**
- Days after 9/11 that the U.S. began bombing Afghanistan: **26**
- Total number of hate crimes reported to the Council on American-Islamic Relations nationwide since 9/11: **1,714**
- Economic loss to New York in month following the attacks: **\$105 billion**



9/11 by the Numbers (continued)

NUMBERS, continued from page 7

- Estimated cost of cleanup: **\$600 million**
- Total FEMA money spent on the emergency: **\$970 million**
- Estimated amount donated to 9/11 charities: **\$1.4 billion**
- Estimated amount of insurance paid worldwide related to 9/11: **\$40.2 billion**
- Estimated amount of money needed to overhaul lower-Manhattan subways: **\$7.5 billion**
- Amount of money recently granted by U.S. government to overhaul lower-Manhattan subways: **\$4.55 billion**
- Estimated amount of money raised for funds dedicated to NYPD and FDNY families: **\$500 million**
- Percentage of total charity money raised going to FDNY and NYPD families: **25**
- Average benefit already received by each FDNY and NYPD widow: **\$1 million**
- Percentage increase in law-school applications from 2001 to 2002: **17.9** Percentage increase in Peace Corps applications from 2001 to 2002: **40**
- Percentage increase in CIA applications from 2001 to 2002: **50**
- Number of songs Clear Channel Radio considered “inappropriate” to play after 9/11: **150**
- Number of mentions of 9/11 at the Oscars: **26**
- Apartments in lower Manhattan eligible for asbestos cleanup: **30,000**
- Number of apartments whose residents have requested cleanup and testing: **4,110**
- Number of Americans who changed their 2001 holiday-travel plans from plane to train or car: **1.4 million**
- Estimated number of New Yorkers suffering from post-traumatic-stress disorder as a result of 9/11: **422,000**



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https://nymag.com/nymetro/news/sept11/features/n_7692/

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks AND the 250th celebration of the birth of our nation.

More than 1.3 million Americans have died to keep this nation secure. The nearly 3,000 people who died on 9/11 emphasizes the importance of our continued commitment.



BRIEFS

Constitution Day 17 September

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or who by naturalization, have become citizens.

The links to the signers' biographies can be found at <https://www.constitutionday.com/>

Veterans History Project

The Library of Congress has instituted a program to capture the recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. These personal stories will then be curated and available to anyone, either by visiting the Library of Congress or by accessing the collection online.

The process of conducting the interviews and collecting and submitting the documents and photos (optional) is not overly complicated, but can be so much simpler if someone walks you through it. Hence, Chapter Board member LTC Joe Snyder, PMS of the U of O ROTC, will rouse his Cadets to master the process and help Lane County Veterans prepare their stories for inclusion in the collection. Interviews will start this fall.

To get your name on the list to be part of this program, contact the chapter at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com and we will put you on the list.

POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY



September 19th

The Defense Department remembers and honors those Americans who were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home. DOD's POW/MIA Accounting Agency continues the search for the missing, fulfilling the nation's promise to leave no service member behind.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

**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. Other areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>.

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. An application to join our local chapter or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website's ABOUT US page.



Happy 78th Birthday Air Force

Unless you count the 40 years the Army spent preparing for the birth of the Air Force