

THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA®

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

2024 ANNUAL MEETING-TIME TO VOTE

Wednesday, November 13th—1130 Social / 1200 Lunch

Vet's Building, 1626 Willamette

Lunch - \$20.00—New Price

MENU

Roasted turkey breast served with cranberries

Mashed potatoes with turkey gravy

Seasoned stuffing

Glazed carrots

Mac's Caesar salad

Grandma's rolls & butter

Pumpkin pie with whipped cream



PROGRAM

**Guest speaker: Steve Yamamori,
CEO and President of Reveille Foundation of Eugene**

Election of Officers and Board Members

Remember: Guests are always invited, but must make a reservation.

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2024

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Tuesday, Nov 5



Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec 5

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MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Michael Kennedy	463-7951
1st Vice Pres	Floyd Bard	688-4172
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	942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

**Time to update the
Chapter Directory
See page 6**

Printing graciously provided by



541-762-8000

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER ELECTION FOR 2025

The 2025 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors Members

The Emerald Empire Chapter nominating committee has completed its selection of candidates for Officer and Board of Director positions for 2025. These names are submitted to you, the general membership, and will be voted on during the Annual Meeting on November 13th. Nominations will still be allowed from the floor during the meeting for any additional chapter members looking to compete and be voted on. You must be present at the meeting to vote.

OFFICERS

President	Floyd Bard
1ST Vice President	John Toensing
2nd Vice President	Dick Kimbell
Secretary	Pat Harris
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

U.S. Army	Jonathan Landon
U.S. Marine Corps	Frank Balazs
U.S. Navy	Scott Sandgathe
U.S. Air Force	Dean Dorsey
U.S. Coast Guard	Tom Kulick
U.S. Public Health Service	Ken Evans
University of Oregon ROTC	LTC Joe Snyder
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Michael Pace
Legislative Affairs	Ken Evans
U.S. Space Force	Vacant
NOAA	Vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Personal Affairs	Michael Pace
Membership	Ken Evans
Programs	John Toensing
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon
Newsletter	Pat Harris
Website	Ginger Banks
House and Calling Committee	Pat Harris
ROTC and Awards	Eric Watkins
Historian	Eric Watkins
Scholarship Fund	Dick Kimbell

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE 1 JAN 2025, \$25.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 23 Oct 2024

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Floyd Bard, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Ken Evans, Jonathan Landon, Frank Balazs, Tom Kulick, Michael Pace and LTC Joe Snyder. Member John Toensing was also present. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jonathan Landon gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 25 Sep 2024 board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT for September 24 – October 22, 2024

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP: JUNE 1 – OCT 22, 2024

Umpqua Account	\$ 692.00
Benton Community Foundation Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL FOR THE 2025 ROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE	\$ 692.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Chapter Operations:

Beginning balance as of September 24, 2024	\$ 6322.72
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ +862.00
Expenses include luncheon, door prizes, plaque	\$ -580.23
Chapter Operations as of October 22, 2024	\$ 6604.49

Veterans Services Fund: added \$25 in donations \$ 4760.05

(Bottle Drop Fund is at \$154.59 see notes)

ROTC Scholarship 2024 Drive: added \$135 in donations \$ 692.00

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund \$ 3478.84

Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$25 in donations \$ 539.30

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of Oct 22, 2024 \$ **16074.68**

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance Forward (July 31,2024)	\$ 58035.41
Change in Value of Investments	\$ 967.44
<u>Administrative Cost</u>	<u>\$ -94.36</u>
BCF Balance (August 31, 2024)	\$ 58908.49

NOTES:

The Bottle Drop Account at the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative currently has \$154.59. These funds are part of the Veterans Services Funds but held thru the Recycling Cooperative and not in the Umpqua Account, thus reported separately.

Mac's Catering has announced that they reluctantly are increasing the cost of the monthly luncheon to \$20 per attendee. They are struggling with the inflationary cost of supplies and labor. They anticipate that the cost will continue to rise.

MINUTES continued on page 4

"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
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 109 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Continued)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ROTC update, Veterans History Project - LTC Joe Snyder
25-27 Oct fall FTX for ROTC cadets at Camp Rilea; includes CH-47 lift to training sites and orientation over Oregon coast, rappelling, obstacle course, land navigation, engagement skills and hand grenade Assault Course.
11 Nov, Veterans Day Ruck. 0900 start at ROTC, ruck to Skinner Butte and return; Ruck weight is to be donated food which will later be donated.
27 Nov CadetGiving event for cadets not going home over Thanksgiving break; 1300 at Agate Auditorium; MOAA invited, bring a holiday-themed dish.
6 Dec annual Chili Cook-Off at Agate Auditorium, 1200.
17 Dec fall Commissioning for Cadet Jacob Cahuantzi; details to follow.
2. Dues deadline and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan and Ken Evens
Only four members have not paid their 2024 annual dues.
3. 501(c)3 status - Eric Watkins and Ken Evens
Eric not available; documents, including MOAA Foundation bylaws, are in progress.
4. Travel reimbursement for 1st VP Floyd Bard to attend Regional Workshop was authorized, but no amount was set. MOTION: That a \$1000 maximum travel allowance be authorized for 1st VP Bard to attend the regional workshop. So moved by Frank Balazs, seconded by Joe Snyder. Passed unanimously.
5. Bottle/can return program update: Ken Evens prepared an instruction sheet which will be attached to the next newsletter distribution email.
6. Stand Down, report - Floyd Bard
Lane County Stand Down was bigger than last year. They spent \$15K. Even though they are well funded, they can always use more money.
7. Electronic payments for chapter dues, meals, donations, etc. - Elaine Callahan and Pat Harris
The idea to use Zelle or Venmo was explored and abandoned as Zelle cannot be used on our bank's business account and Venmo charges fees to use.
8. Veteran Service Fund – Elaine Callahan
Our Treasurer strongly suggested we start spending some of our accumulated funds, keeping at least \$2000 in reserve for emergencies. A request for ideas raised the following possibilities:
Housing Our Veterans: Lorie Perkins states a need to repair/replace the laundry facilities at one of the women's facilities. MOTION: Donate \$1500 to Housing Our Veterans to go toward their laundry facility and other housing incidentals. So moved by Floyd Bard and seconded by Ken Evens. Passed unanimously.
Southern Willamette Valley Honor Flights: Honored Veterans go on the flights for free, but the required "Guardian" must pay \$1200 to accompany them. Though the organization has many volunteer Guardians signed-up, sponsoring one would allow someone to travel who didn't have the necessary funds. MOTION: Donate one Guardian fee of \$1200 to Southern Willamette Valley Honor Flights to allow a person who did not have the funds to travel with a Veteran. So moved by Pat Harris and seconded by Michael Pace.



We use your Veterans Services Funds to comfort and honor our local Veterans

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Continued)

MINUTES continued from page 4

Passed unanimously.

MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Program: Since we had previously donated to this fund, and since it doesn't meet one of our key elements of benefiting local Veterans, the Board declined any action at this time.

Oregon State Military Relief Fund: Since this fund does not meet one of our key elements of benefiting local Veterans or their families, the Board declined any action at this time.

Veterans Memorial Association (VMA) Building Wi-Fi Upgrade: Since the VMA has notoriously weak Wi-Fi throughout the building, it was proposed to donate \$540 to pay Hunter Communications (under contract to maintain the current system) to upgrade and maintain a system that allows Internet access and streaming throughout the VMA property. Ken Evans said he had a working relationship with the company and would explore further before we decide on an amount.

9. MOAA National staff visit to our chapter: President Kennedy is still working on it.

10. MOAA attendance at the 11 Nov Veterans Day parade in Albany – Floyd Bard

The parade is set to have five Veteran units participating, so no formal MOAA contribution is required.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHRISTMAS PARTY THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER

1. Approve 2025 slate of officers and board members:

The following members have been nominated to fill the 2025 slate of officers: President, Floyd Bard; 1st Vice President, John Toensing; 2nd Vice President, Dick Kimbell; Secretary, Pat Harris; and Treasurer, Elaine Callahan.

The following members have been nominated to fill the 2025 slate on the Board of Directors: Army, Jonathan Landon; Marine Corps, Frank Balazs; Navy, Scott Sandgathe; Air Force, Dean Dorsey; Coast Guard, Tom Kulick; Public Health Service, Ken Evans; PMS University of Oregon ROTC, LTC Joe Snyder; Surviving Spouse Liaison, Michael Pace; and Legislative Affairs, Ken Evans. MOTION: That the proposed 2025 slate of Officers and Board of Directors be accepted as written. So moved by Floyd Bard and seconded by Ken Evans. Passed unanimously.

The slate will be published in the November newsletter at least 10 days before the Annual Meeting on 13 November.

2. Yearly picnic: 1st Saturday (7 Jun); 2nd Saturday (14 Jun which is Flag Day and the day before Father's Day); or 2nd Sunday (8 Jun). – Pat Harris
A discussion was held on the merits of a Saturday versus Sunday picnic and Saturday was selected. The Board preferred Saturday, 7 June to ensure no conflicts with families' Fathers Day plans.

3. 2025 meeting dates – Pat Harris

The proposed 2025 calendar of meetings was discussed and agreed upon. It will be published in the November newsletter.

4. Meal prices increase – Pat Harris

Due to rapidly rising food costs, Mac's Custom Catering is forced to raise our luncheon prices from \$18 to \$20. Anecdotal information noted that Mucho Gusto has raised their catered meals to \$23 per person, and the Eugene Elks are now charging \$20 plus an 18% gratuity. Our Christmas dinner price will also increase one dollar to \$36.



Tuesday, Nov 5th

MINUTES continued on page 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Continued)

MINUTES continued on page 5

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT – Floyd Bard Personal Affairs (Health, Welfare, Surviving Spouse), House Committee, Newsletter, Webmaster, Purchasing Projects) – No report

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BFC) – No report

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

HOLIDAY PARTY THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER

John Toensing reports the following:

Dick and Carol Norton have each recently started new medications that seem to have worked well. Dick hopes to re-visit the Board meetings in the future.

John met an Army recruiter who said they can now offer up to \$400,000 in ROTC scholarships.

John will contact the Dublinaires, the Sheldon High School singing group, to invite them to perform at our 5 December Christmas party.

Floyd Bard reported that the first Vets Café event ever held in the Willamette valley will be on 23 November at the Eugene Elks. Details will be in the November newsletter.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday, 13 Nov 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Wednesday, 20 Nov 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1331 hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

November Speaker

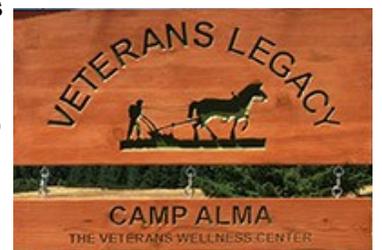
Steve Yamamori, CEO and President of Reveille Foundation

serves our local Veterans in need of housing, medical services, and financial assistance. He and his staff were heavily involved with the Lane County Stand Down for the past two years. This year he was responsible for the food services and the Job Fair.

Reveille came to Eugene over 2 years ago to provide shelter housing by purchasing abandoned lodging for Veterans that require VA medical and mental assistance. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge, energy, and dedication to improve the wellbeing of our Veterans that are homeless, at risk, or underserved in our local community.



The Veterans Legacy at Camp Alma has completed their renovations and is having an open house and celebration for Veterans Day on Friday, November 8th between 1000 and 1400. Camp Alma is at 21600 Siuslaw River Road, Veneta. You are invited to join them for camp tours, food fellowship, camaraderie and to honor the journey of our fellow veterans. The camp is 14 miles from Crow via Wolf Creek Road, or 19 miles from Lorane on Siuslaw River Road.



Eugene Vet Café

Saturday, 23 Nov, 1100-1400 at the Eugene Elks, 2470 W, 11th Ave. A social event for all Veterans, their families and the providers who support them. For details, see the flyer attached to your distribution email.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

Musings from the desk of the Personal Affairs Officer

Hello again from Michael Pace, Personal Affairs Officer. Let me ask you some questions. Are you a teen-ager? In your twenties? 40 years old? 60? 80? Over 90? Are you married? Children? Do you belong to any organizations? A church, perhaps? Still employed? Any hobbies that you are absolutely passionate about? Pets? Ok. Enough of that.

Look at your life and the eras that you have lived through. I propose that you may have not looked at each of these facets with this in mind:

All the questions I have asked should have been thought of one way. Have you lived and seen these benchmarks as a “comma” or a “period?” In our teens, many of us might have thought we were invincible and we would wait for life to turn a page and we would just go where it led us. Perhaps when we reached our 20s or 30s those of us with a bit of foresight might have understood that what we do at the present is going to impact our future. We went to college or joined the military living our lives as a “comma.” Learning a career, preparing for the long term goal of retirement. Some of us might have sat in a corner waiting for life itself to move us and we found that in our 30s we had lived life as a “period.”

As humans we can never live life as a “period.” There is always more to come. We are here, all life is a powerful play, and we must contribute a verse. We destroy a life, a relationship, a job, a marriage, whatever; thinking that we can put it behind us because these are just “periods.” Unfortunately most of the time we are not so lucky, and we realize, too late, that they should have been “commas,” and even a “comma” lived badly can have dire consequences.

It is never too late! Are you a member of MOAA? The Elks, VFW, American Legion, a vintage car club, Rotary...whatever? If you chose to be so, treat those groups as “commas!” Live like you intend to leave a terrific legacy. A good quality pastor knows this and warns his flock! If all of us lived our lives as a “period” there would be no need for churches or religions or pastors. And as you are closing out your earthly existence and you feel your breath is failing know this: After our life is ended there is no “period.” You have to make a choice on how your eternity will fare.

Live fully, love freely, give cheerfully. We at MOAA are here to help. You might be surprised at what we can offer you. Attend a meeting. Enjoy a good meal. Smile and take someone’s hand. In that small, genuine gesture, your time at MOAA and beyond, perhaps your life and the life of your new-found acquaintance will stop being a “period,” and become a “comma!”

TAPS

Maj David C. Baird, USAF (Ret), a former member who moved to Florence more than a decade ago, passed away October 11, 2024. His obituary is attached to the distribution email.

Results of the luncheon and Christmas dinner entrée survey

If you attended our October 9th luncheon/meeting at the Veterans Building, you had a chance to tell the House Committee what your favorite luncheon entrees were... and what you would like to see on the menu for the Christmas dinner scheduled for Thursday, December 5th.

In descending order, your favorite luncheon entrees were: (1) Beef Pot Roast, (2) Meatloaf, (3) Pork Loin with Marsala Mushroom Sauce, (4) Chicken Stroganoff, (5) Chicken Piccata, and (6) Meat and Sausage Lasagna. Those items, plus the turkey dinner in November, will be featured at our luncheon meetings during 2025.

The voting for our Christmas dinner menu this year, which features a choice of two entrees, overwhelmingly chose the Slow-Roasted Beef Tri-Tip with Mushroom Hunter Sauce and the Chicken Cordon Bleu with a Light Dijon Cream Sauce.

BRIEFS AND NOTICES

Elk's Lodge To Again Honor Veterans by Hosting a Dinner

The Eugene Elks Veterans Ceremony and Dinner will be on Friday, 8 Nov with the ceremony starting at 5:30 pm and dinner starting about 6:00 pm.

Dinner will be Pot Roast and Chicken Cordon Bleu. We would appreciate RSVP NLT Wednesday, 6 Nov at 5:00 pm by emailing floydbard@gmail.com with your choice for dinner.

Veterans will eat for free, cost for adults will be \$14.00 and children under 12 will be \$10.00. The bar will be open for coffee, tea, soft drinks, beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

Guest Speaker: Oregon Senator James I. Manning Jr., SGM, USA (Ret)

Invocation: Chaplain Michael Kennedy, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret)

Military/Patriotic Music: Meg Graf and Barry Barreau



Many thanks to Ann Watkins for the clever Halloween-themed centerpieces she made for the October luncheon tables. They were a hit and drew many comments. Ann has been voluntarily decorating our tables for most of the year: depicting a fantasy winter theme at the beginning of the year, a patriotic theme for the ROTC dinner, and a Valentine's theme for February. Though enlisting the help of husband Eric and fellow member Ginger Banks, Ann has been the driving force to keep us well decorated. You have really brighten up the atmosphere. Thank you, Ann.

Update Your Directory Listing

We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2025. To make this edition as accurate as possible, we ask that everyone look at the last edition 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 541-942-5274.

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.

ALSO: With many people dropping their landlines and having two or three cell phones in the house, we've noticed that it may be better to list phone numbers in our directory as either PRIMARY or SECONDARY. So, ask yourself, "What number do I want other MOAA members to call to reach me?"

If the answer to that question is the cell phone listed in the directory, tell me you want that to be your PRIMARY number and I will make that happen. I will list your other number as SECONDARY.

If the answer is the HOME number listed in the directory, you don't have to tell me anything. I will just make that your PRIMARY number and any other number SECONDARY.

If you now only have cell phones and no landline, just tell me which phone you want listed as the PRIMARY; others will be SECONDARY.

If I don't hear from you, your current HOME phone will be listed as PRIMARY and any other phone will be listed as SECONDARY.



2025 MEETING DATES

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER CALENDAR FOR 2025

January:	8th Luncheon 22th Board Meeting	July:	23rd Board Meeting
February:	12th Luncheon 26th Board Meeting	August:	27th Board Meeting
March:	12th Luncheon 26th Board Meeting	September:	10th Luncheon 24th Board Meeting
April:	9th Luncheon 23rd Board Meeting	October:	8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting
May:	14th ROTC Recognition Dinner 28th Board Meeting	November:	12th Luncheon 19th Board Meeting
June:	7th Chapter Picnic 25th Board Meeting	December:	4th Christmas Dinner 17th 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. Board meetings will start at noon until 2:00 pm.

You are invited to CadetsGiving (Thanksgiving for Cadets): Member LTC Joe Snyder, PMS of the U of O ROTC, started a program for cadets who are staying on campus during the short Thanksgiving break. Joe, his staff and the stranded cadets get together the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (27 November) at the Agate Auditorium and share a potluck of traditional family dishes. If you would like to join the festivities and stretch your tummy before the BIG day, just prepare a favorite Thanksgiving Day dish and show up around 1300.

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 2024 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2025 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2025 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Pat Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Dick Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)	Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)
Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)	Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)
Judy Van Scholten, CIV	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (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.

BRIEFS AND NOTICES

Another Very Successful Lane County Stand Down

Floyd Bard and Jim Brann report of another excellent Lane County Stand Down that helped Veterans, focusing on those that are homeless.

The year 2024 saw a +24% increase in attending Veterans, including one WWII Veteran and an +45% increase of female Veterans. While not quite up to the pre-COVID numbers (456), the last three years have all seen increasing attendance (271, 285, and now 352). 2025 should continue this amazing trend.

In addition to the overall numbers, there were 20 employers at the Job Fair who referred five Veterans for employment. Four barbers cut hair for over 65 Veterans. The Dental Van saw ten Veterans for 38 dental procedures at a savings of over \$5,000. Massages were available and thousands of items were available in the "candy store."



Dick and Barbara Heyman flew to Washington DC on Monday, 7 October, where Colonel Richard M. Heyman, USAAF/USAF (Ret), was inducted into the Royal Air Force Hall of Fame for his exploits as a fighter pilot during World War II. Barbara said they spent three days in DC in the "best suite in the hotel."



They flew on Alaska Air on the way home and, once they were at altitude, the Captain came into the cabin and introduced Dick to all the passengers, saying that he flown in three wars and had just been inducted into the Hall of Fame. And as Barbara said, "The crowd went wild."

They took pictures which they plan to share at the 13 November luncheon. Hopefully we will be able to convince Dick to share that experience when we next see him... as if we could stop him.



Don't forget... bring TOYS FOR TOTS to the party 5 December



SAVE THE DATE

The MOAA Christmas Party is now on a Thursday, December 5th.

We have made this change to eliminate the upstairs noise and to make more parking available.



Open Season for 2025 dental and vision insurance through FEDVIP is November 11th through December 9th. 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](#).



VETERANS DAY

★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER 11TH ★ ★ ★

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

- * We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
- * We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
- * We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
- * We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
- * We found new friends and new family.
- * We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.
- * We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
- * We didn't get enough sleep.
- * We smoked and drank too much.
- * We picked up both good and bad habits.
- * We worked hard and played harder.
- * We didn't earn a great wage.
- * We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
- * We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
- * We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
- * We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
- * Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
- * We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
- * We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
- * We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
- * We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
- * We have celebrated and mourned.
- * We lost a few along the way.
- * When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
- * We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
- * We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
- * We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
- * We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
- * Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
- * It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.



I would like to attribute this list properly, but someone sent this to me or I took it off the Internet... I can't remember. However it came to me, I can recognize myself in every line.
Ed.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

Emerald Empire Chapter
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Eugene, OR. 97440

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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 MARINES
NOVEMBER 10TH**