

A large photograph of a turquoise lake with snow-capped mountains in the background and evergreen trees in the foreground. The lake's water is a vibrant blue-green, reflecting the sky. The mountains are rugged and covered in patches of snow. In the foreground, there are dark evergreen trees and a rocky shoreline.

A wide, white sandy beach stretches from the foreground into the distance, meeting the turquoise ocean. The water is shallow and clear, revealing the sandy bottom. In the background, there are green hills and a small structure on the right.

AUGUST 2024

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for 2025 Officers and Board Members

ARE OPEN

Talk to Dick Norton

The picnic was our last general membership meeting until September 11th.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 24 JULY 2024

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Ken Evans, Frank Balazs, Scott Sandgathe, and Jonathan Landon. Members Dick Norton, Eric Watkins and John Toensing were 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 26 Jun 2024 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for June 26 through 23 July, 2024 was approved.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2025 DRIVE

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 150.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2024 –July 23, 2024	\$ 150.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Chapter Operations:

Beginning balance as of June 26, 2024	\$ 6583.52
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 0.00
Expenses include Jasper Park Picnic expenses	\$ 278.98
Chapter Operations as of July 23, 2024	\$ 6304.54

Veterans Services Fund: added \$105 in donations	\$ 4613.05
ROTC Scholarship 2025 Drive: added \$50 in donations	\$ 150.00
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund	\$ 4478.84
(formerly OCCU ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund)	
Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$0 in donations	\$ 434.30
UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total on Jul 23, 2024	\$ 16010.73

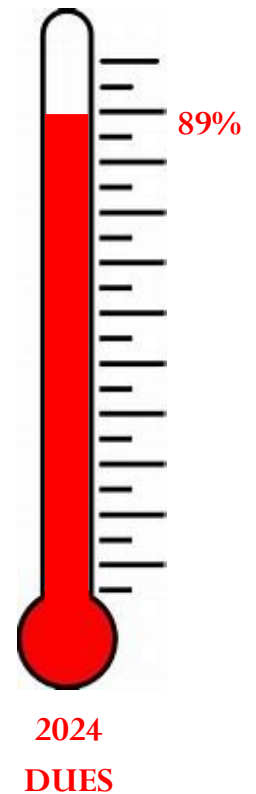
BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance Forward (April 30, 2024)	\$ 54188.98
Change in Value of Investments	\$ 1878.16
Administrative Cost	\$ -87.39
BCF Balance (May 31, 2024)	\$ 55979.75

OLD BUSINESS:

- ROTC update, Veterans History Project - LTC Joe Snyder reports that the Veteran History Project will go forward and will pick back up in the Fall with a new required training and audio/visual equipment purchasing. At that point, the Cadets will start scheduling interviews. When all Cadre and students are back on campus, the personnel and energy from the



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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)

“volunteering” Cadets will return and this project will regain its legs. The best thing that the Emerald Empire members can do is collect a list of members who would like to be interviewed along with their contact information. Jonathan Landon will collect the names.

- Dues deadline and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan, Ken Evans. None collected. The treasurer will contact those members who have not yet paid their 2024 dues.
- Eugene Mission support: Michael Kennedy and Michael Pace. An informational meeting was held with the Mission navigators, but no plans for involvement have yet coalesced.
- Elected board members for 2025 - Dick Norton says the 2025 slate is complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

- An email from the Oregon Council President stated that the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon has set their 2025 state legislative priorities as:
 - suicide prevention,
 - homelessness,
 - property tax exemption with disability over 60% and disabled vet support, and
 - a third veterans' home.
- Senator Thatcher and Senator Manning are both working on bills to exempt some portion of military retirement pay for the next legislative session.
- Email from Frank Michael, MOAA, Council and Chapter Affairs states that the new Committee Module and Near Real Time Reports used for recruiting are still not functioning, but good progress is being made and they expect to give chapter leaders access soon.
- LOE and COMMS Awards – Michael Kennedy. Certificates for the chapter's Levels of Excellence and Communications Awards have been received. A total of 15 stars between them.

1st Vice President Report: Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison, House Committee, Newsletter, Website: Webmaster reports 48 hits on the website last month.

2nd Vice President Report: Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BFC): Dick Kimbell and Ken Evans report some progress on acquiring a 501(c)3 non-profit designation for our chapter. They expect to have the research done in the next two weeks then will contact non-profit legal advisors to determine the cost of going forward.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- John Toensing noted he had four American flags remaining to sell that will mean over \$400 in direct donations to the Chapter. An article will be in the newsletter about items available and costs.
- John further noted that he lost a VA-issued hearing aid but found he couldn't make an appointment for a new one until late October. When he asked about “Veterans Choice” since the VA couldn't supply the service within the required 30 days, the VA contacted their outside contractor, and they also offered an appointment in late October. John will continue to pursue this issue and keep us informed.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday, 11 Sep 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Wednesday, 28 Aug 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

Meeting Adjourned: 1247 hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

Liberty, Honor, Sacrifice, Veteran's Creed

Submitted by Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President, Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA

There are few people who represent liberty, honor, and sacrifice. Together these qualities make up some of the most selfless people in the world. We thank our Veterans who have been protecting everything our country is and everything we have as Americans. But we can never truly understand what these men and women have done for our country until we understand what the words, liberty, honor, and sacrifice mean to them.

You are standing on the battlefields (Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Alamo, Somme, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Khe Sanh, Fallujah, and the Battle of Sangin). You turn to either side and see thousands of men wearing enemy combat uniforms or no uniforms at all. You are holding your Flintlock, M1, M16, or M4 rifle, which begins to feel heavier as the minutes press on. You've seen your comrades and allies wounded in action. Exhausted, you don't think you can press on, but you remember what this is all for. Liberty is the thought of freedom for all. You force yourself to continue, struggling with every step you take. This is what you want for your family, friends, and for yourself. This is what Veterans have fought for, for years, "Liberty and Justice for ALL." Now, your M10 Tank Destroyer has been hit by the Germans and bursts into flames. You order your troops to "Fall back!" You continue to push back the Germans by yourself. Surrounded by six tanks projecting bullets on three sides of you, you continue to fight. You're wounded and out of ammunition. Not thinking anything of it, you rush back to your company. Denying any medical treatment, you assemble a very successful counterattack. Later that year, you received the highest merit a service member can receive, the Medal of Honor. SGT Herbert Burr, United State Army.

It is December of 1941. Your wife and daughter accompany you on the front porch. You have decided to "join the fight." Holding your bags, you begin to say your goodbyes. Your eyes start to burn when your wife gives you an embrace. You can hardly breathe. She is squeezing so tight. She kisses you and says, "Write me every day." You look down to see your six-year-old daughter's eyes begin to swell. You pick her up, giving her a squeeze. She says, "Daddy, please don't go. How can I grow up without you." You must go. This is what you must sacrifice. When we thank our Veterans, we not only thank them for their service, we thank them for being brave enough to display these qualities even when it seems almost impossible.

The Veteran's Creed is an eight-point creed that was established by veterans' organizations to promote camaraderie and public service, help veterans adjust to civilian life, and remind them of the value of their military service, the pursuit of Liberty, Duty, Honor, Country, and accept the physical and mental sacrifice in serving our Country. The Veterans Creed is:

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

When I was enlisted into the United States Naval Reserve on September 2, 1965, I was being drafted and wanted to choose a different course for my life in the military than going to Fort Ord,

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD (Continued)

California. Little did I know how this would direct me to who I am now, a “Veteran” with total service of 42 years, to include 2 years active duty Navy and 18 years full-time service with the Oregon Army National Guard.

My father served in WWII in Southern Italy as a Signal Corps Tech. Sergeant. I knew very little of his service, because he spoke very little of his experience. He did tell me, when I was leaving for my freshman year at Southern Oregon College, that I was going for all the wrong reasons and that I needed to grow up. He said the best way to do that was to enlist into the military. Boy, was he right! I flunked out of college and received my draft notice shortly thereafter.

I did well as I advanced my career. Graduated as the Honor Student of my Disbursing Clerk Class “A” School in San Diego, served at various commands with the Navy (Naval Reserve Headquarters, Naval Security Group, and Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor), and eventually transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard and became a Signal Corps Warrant Officer. There I served as the Manager of the Data Processing Center, USPFO and as the Command Chief Warrant Officer. My last deployment was to Afghanistan from March to May 2007, serving as a Liaison Officer for BG Douglas A. Pritt, Commander, Task Force Phoenix V.

This is who I am, and everyone I volunteer with in the many organizations that I am a member of (MOAA, US Army Warrant Officer Association, NGAUS Association, Association of the United States Army, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks), has similar experiences and shares the values that I have learned from my Military Career and being a Family Member.

Because I am a Veteran through and through and recognize the values of Liberty, Honor, Sacrifice, I have learned to live my life through the Veteran’s Creed.

Honoring our Veterans,

Floyd Bard, CW5, USA, Ret.



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

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

The act of service was the key to human civilization.

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

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

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

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

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

TAPS AND BRIEFS

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 Jonathan Landon either by email at fr.landon@gmail.com or by phone at 541-942-9992.

TAPS Maj Gen James E Paschall, USAF (Ret), passed away on June 17, 2024. He was 101 years old. He served 31 years, was a pilot and engineer with the development of the Minuteman Missile, and his last assignment was as Vice Commander of NORAD. His wife of 76 years, Lelia, predeceased him in December of 2022.

Corrections to the 2023-2024 Directory of Members

Email Address Change:

John Simmons' new email address is: johnsimmons1240@gmail.com.

Use of this Directory

This directory is not to be used for the compilation of mailing lists for commercial or political purposes. It is intended for the private, noncommercial use of the members of this club and is not for distribution without prior consent of the Board of Directors.

TOP QUALITY AMERICAN FLAGS FOR SALE

We still have four American-made U.S. flags for sale and ALL proceeds will go directly to our chapter. These are Allegiance flags, expertly sewn with embroidered stars. We have one 3 X 5 for \$65, one 4 X 6 for \$85 and two 3 X 5 deluxe flag sets that each include a 3 X 5 flag, a six foot Vermont white ash wooden staff, a wall mount and a swivel kit that keeps the flag from "wrapping around the axel." The kits go for \$150 each. To buy one of these beautiful flags, email us at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com.



Christmas Party SAVE THE DATE: The annual Emerald Empire Chapter Christmas party has been moved to Thursday, December 5th. This change will keep us from having another party in the ballroom above us and give us better parking availability. **SAVE THE DATE.**

SAVE THE DATE: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: 2024 Lane County Stand Down will be on Friday, September 27th from 0700 to 1500 hours. Thursday is setup day at the Lane Events Center from 0800 to 1800 hours. Volunteers are always appreciated to help in many areas, serving our Veterans in need of help. More information will be in the September newsletter. Thank you, Floyd Bard, 2024 LCSD Advisor (floydbard@gmail.com or 541-729-7265).



OUR CHAPTER'S AWARDS AND BOOSTERS

National MOAA Awards for 2023

These awards were for our activities during the calendar year 2023 and were awarded to us this year. Congratulations to all who contributed to this stellar effort.



The Emerald Empire Chapter earned five stars for all three awards, even though the webmaster's award only shows four. This is being corrected.



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) Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (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.

**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.



**244 years
and still growing**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
COAST GUARD
August 4th**

