

MOAA®

THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Annual Membership Picnic Sunday, 11 Sep 2022 at Jasper Park 12:00 Noon

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, 6 September so
we know how much to prepare**



**BBQ Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Fresh Corn
on the Cob, Potluck Sides and Desserts**

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 make it happen.

Picnic details on pages 2 and 3

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2022

In this

Cover Page	1
Picnic Map and Details	2-3
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes	4-5
President's Corner	6
5-Star Chapter Award	7
Announcements and Boosters	8
Fundraiser Poster	9
MOAA Articles and Announcements	10-11

HEADS UP for a special joint meeting of our Board of Directors and the General Membership at noon on Wednesday, September 28th at the Vets' Building. Meet CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), the Program Director of Chapter and Council Affairs at national MOAA. See the details on page 8.

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Michael Kennedy	541-463-7951
1st Vice Pres	Dick Norton	541-344-5696
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	541-915-0405
Secretary	Jim Koch	719-440-9036
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	541-968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	541-946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	541-914-6235
Legislative	Ken Evans	541-914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	541-942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	541-484-3336

RSVP for the picnic to:

moafoeugene@gmail.com

**Or respond to your caller by
Tuesday September 6th**

Printing graciously provided by



541-762-8000

Directions to Jasper Park

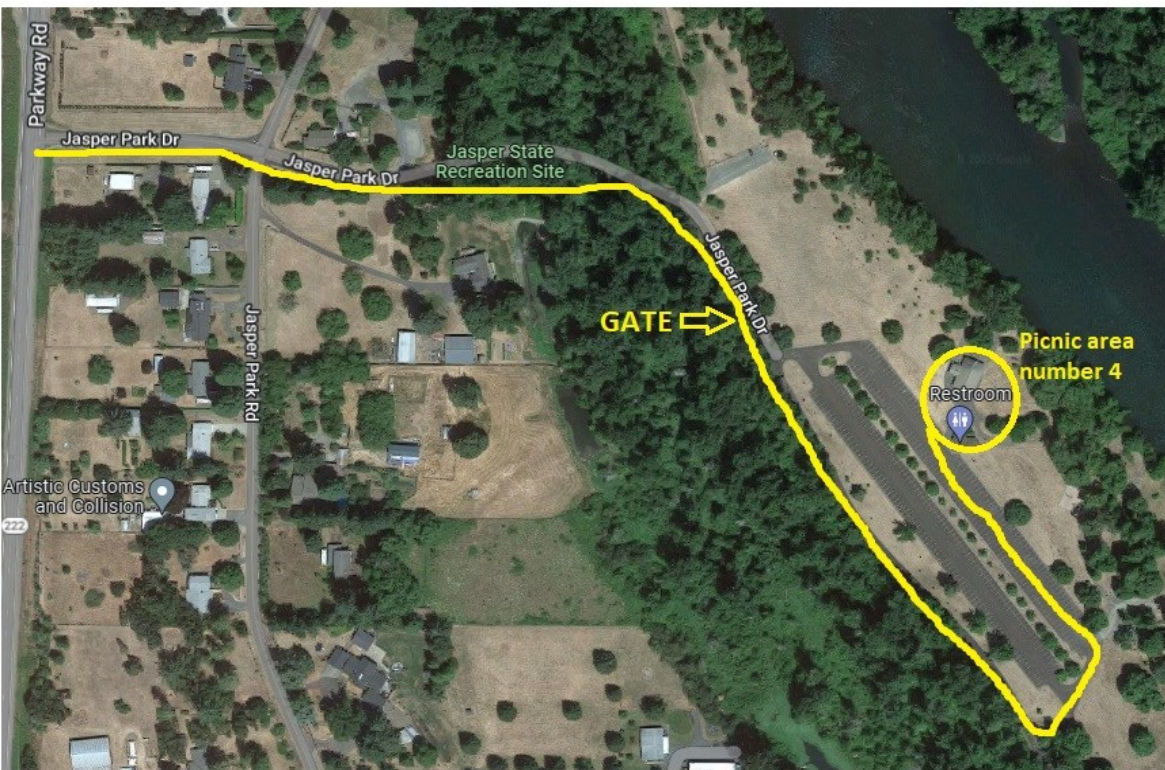
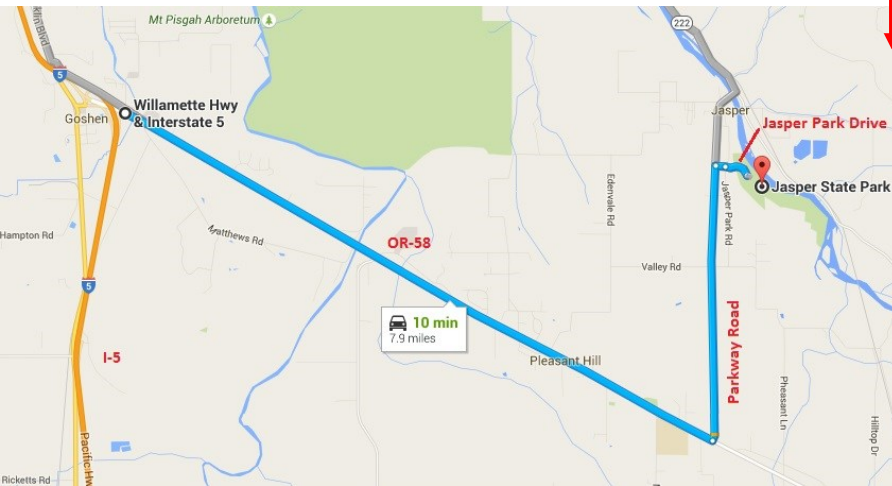
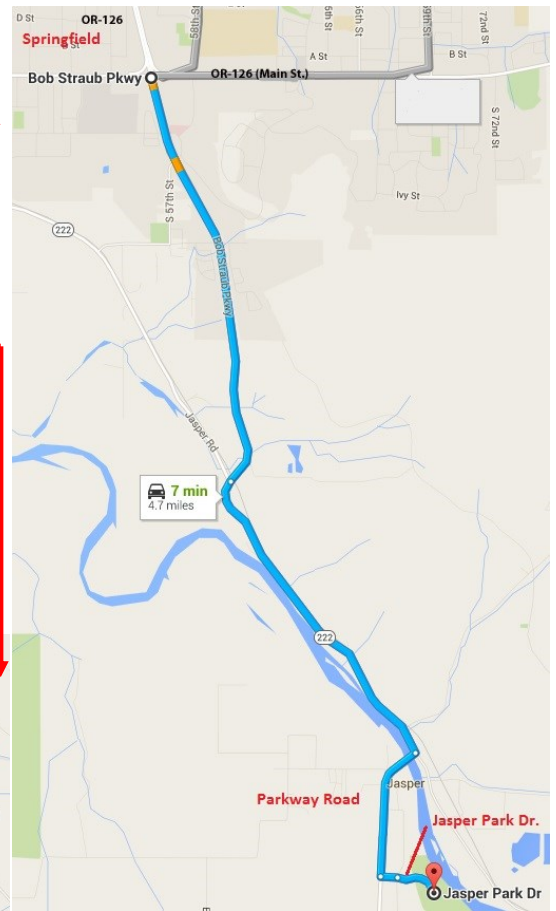
From Springfield:

Take OR-126 to the Bob Straub Parkway, then turn South for 3.7 miles.
Turn right on Parkway Rd, cross the river, then drive 0.6 miles.
Turn left onto Jasper Park Drive.

From I-5 (either north or southbound):

Take Exit 188 to OR-58 toward Oakridge.
After 5.4 miles turn left onto Parkway Rd.
Drive 2.2 miles, then turn right on Jasper Park Drive.

Once in the park find a place to park in the first parking lot. We are in Picnic Area #4, the very first one you come to.



Do Not Forget:

Parking at the picnic is \$5 per car. Parking is free to military veterans with a service connected disability.

Prospective MOAA members eat for free at the picnic.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

Come out to Jasper State Park on **Sunday, September 11th 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, restrooms and a cooking area.

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



Potluck Sides & Desserts



All you need to bring is a potluck dish or dessert, your own paper plates, utensils and napkins, 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-M please bring a salad/ side dish; if N-Z please bring a dessert.

The picnic is free for chapter members and their families, but there is a \$5.00 per vehicle fee to enter the park. If you bring a guest, a \$5.00 donation is requested. This is a good time to introduce prospective members to the chapter and, of course, they are free.

ROTC cadets have been invited to the picnic, so please come to meet and support them.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 24 Aug 2022

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Dick Norton, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan, and Secretary Jim Koch. Board members: Michael Pace, Ken Evans, Eric Watkins, Tom Kulick, Ginger Banks, and Frank Balazs. A quorum was established. Pat Harris, John Toensing, and Joe Snyder were also present.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 12:00 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 27 July 2022 board meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Dick Norton and seconded by Dick Kimbell. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for 28 JULY -24 AUGUST 2022

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 550.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2022 -24 AUGUST 2022	\$ 550.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Club Operations:

Beginning balance as of 27 July 2022	\$ 5641.24
Deposits: to Club Operations	\$ 64.00
Expenses:	\$ -0.00
Club Operations as of 24 August 2022	\$ 5705.24

Special Projects Fund: added \$0 in donations. \$ 3079.05

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$150 in donations \$ 550.00

Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$50 in donations \$ 162.00

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT grand total as of 24 Aug 2022 **\$ 9496.29**

OCCU ROTC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance as of 27 July 2022	\$ 4649.34
Interest	\$ 2.57
OCCU Total Balance as of 24 August 2022	\$ 4651.91

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Previous balance as of 27 July 2022	\$ 44243.37
Member donation	\$ 0.00
*BCF Balance as of 24 August 2022	\$ 46788.21

NOTES:

*BCF gains/losses and fees are not reported as monthly statement was not available at the **time** of this report.

In September, the ROTC Scholarships awarded in May will be sent to the U of O student accounts from the BCF Fund and the OCCU Fund.

"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

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 141 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/>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (CONT.)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Picnic, 11 Sep 2022: John Toensing gave an update. There will be no change in format. Hamburger's, Mariner's Hot Dogs, corn on the cob, several beers, and soft drinks will be provided. John and his wife will shop for those items plus condiments. Ken Evans and Elaine Callahan will bring veggies. Members with last names A – M bring a salad. Those with last names N – Z bring a dessert. Everyone should bring their own plates, napkins, tableware, and table cloths. Rides to picnic will be available for those unable to drive. Eric Watkins will bring a U.S. Flag.
2. Visit from National MOAA: CAPT Frank Mitchell, USN (Ret) will visit during the board meeting on 28 Sep 2022. He requires no special needs or assistance. Dick Kimbell will write up a summary of our chapter's activities to present to him. An appetizer spread for \$ 12.25 per person will be available. Motion made by Dick Kimbell and seconded by Ken Evans that EE-MOAA pay for it. Ken also offered to donate \$ 200. All members are invited to attend the board meeting.
3. VMA Update: No further information is available.
4. Officers for 2023: 2023 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors Nominations – Attached
5. ROTC Update: LTC Joe Snyder reported that Cadet Summer Training is complete and several cadets were ranked at the top of their training. Chapter members are invited to the ROTC Week of Welcoming BBQ on Sep 22nd, 15:00 hours at the ROTC building.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ODVA study of state tax handling of military retirements benefits: Senator Manning is working on this issue in an attempt to ensure that all military retirees are considered when it comes to state tax relief. Sadly, it has a slim chance of passing.
2. Fundraiser: Two Possible fundraisers were discussed. John Toensing gave a presentation about possibly raising funds selling United States Flags. Dick Kimbell recommended that John submit an Agenda Item Submission Form to the board to allow further study. Another way to raise funds would be to collect returnable bottle and cans. The deposit refund would go to EEVAC. Bring any items you have to the picnic on Sep 11th.
3. National MOAA Annual Awards Dinner will be held in Kansas City, MO 27 -28 October 2022. They will pay for two nights at a motel and \$ 200 for travel expenses for one member of our chapter to attend. Motion made by Ginger Banks and seconded by Dick Norton that we fund a member to attend. Motion passed.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

Personal Affairs – No illness or deaths. Newsletter coming out Sep 1st. Website had 41 hits. Ginger Banks and Joe Snyder will coordinate building a ROTC page. We may be taking orders for MOAA shirts.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

New LOE Criteria for 2023 was presented. – Form attached

Next Luncheon Meeting: Picnic – 11 September 2022, 12:00 hours at Jasper State Park

Next Board Meeting: 28 September 2022, 12:00 hours; Veterans' Building

Meeting adjourned 13:26 hours

James Koch, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been pondering lately the relationship between local organizations and the national iteration of those local groups. Many of the organizations that we find in Eugene have national or even international connections. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have local, national, and international structures. Some churches also have local, regional, national, and world-wide gatherings. And many fraternal organizations, such as Masons, Eastern Star, Elks, Lions, and many others, also have structures beyond the local manifestations. We often do not see or even think about the larger context of the groups that we belong to.

MOAA is a perfect example: there is the local chapter (Emerald Empire Chapter), the Councils (Oregon Council), and National MOAA.

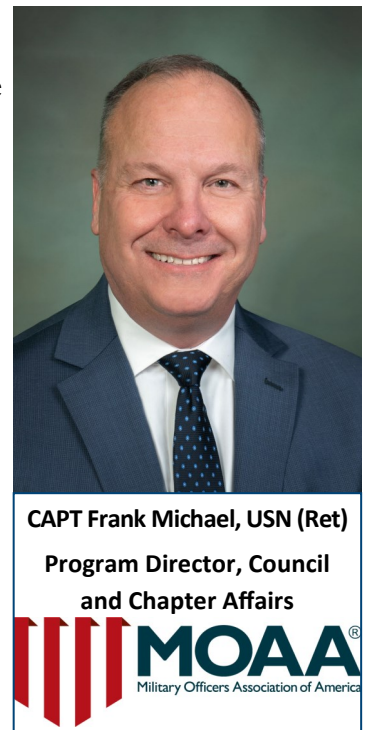
As I was reflecting on this, I recalled that I was aware of National MOAA before I became affiliated with our local chapter. Our son and his wife lived in Alexandria, VA some years ago. In our visits I would wander around downtown and I noticed a large building with just the initials on the wall: MOAA. I had heard about The Retired Officer's Association (TROA) and I had attended several meetings in Eugene right after I retired from active duty in 1996. But I was not aware that a change of names had taken place and did not realize that they were basically the same. When I then came to meetings of MOAA in Eugene, I made that connection. I had seen the National MOAA HQ before I became aware of the local Emerald Empire Chapter, not the usual way of learning about structures beyond the local chapter.

At the end of September, we will be having a special meeting to hear from a representative of National MOAA, CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret). Captain Michael is a 30-year veteran aviator. He had command tours at the squadron and major command-at-sea levels. He commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47 (HSL 47) and led efforts to assist following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. He commanded the USS Boxer (LHD 4) and participated in the 2011 Captain Phillips rescue mission in the Indian Ocean.

Captain Michael joined National MOAA in 2021. His primary responsibility is support of MOAA's robust nationwide network of active and engaged affiliates to influence legislation, serve local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA's brand awareness nationwide.

Our special meeting on September 28, at the Vet's Center, at noon, will be our chance to hear what National MOAA is doing on our behalf and remind ourselves that we are connected to an active national presence in addition to our local activities. I hope to see you there!

Submitted by Michael Kennedy, Chapter President



CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret)

Program Director, Council
and Chapter Affairs



Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

WE ARE A 5-STAR CHAPTER ONCE AGAIN

The Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award is one of MOAA's most prestigious awards. Chapters self-nominate by documenting their programs, initiatives, and successful experiences throughout the 2021 calendar year. National MOAA says, "Only the very, very best councils or chapters receive a five-star award."

What follows are just some of the items that earned the Emerald Empire Chapter the 5-Star award.

Grassroots Advocacy: Chapter Legislative Chair provides an article for the monthly e-bulletin. Members are reminded to utilize the MOAA magazine letters to their congressmen and senators. State Senator James Manning, a retired CSM, U.S. Army, is an honorary member of the Chapter. He relies on the Chapter as a resource for veteran related legislature.

Community Engagement: The Chapter has ongoing support programs with: University of Oregon, Army ROTC; St Vincent de Paul veterans relief, and Habitat for Humanity home repair.

* The Chapter Foundation and member donations annually award three \$1000 scholarships to MSIII cadets. Furthermore we host an awards dinner for the graduating MS IV cadets, spouses and cadre. All commissioned 2nd Lt's receive a set of gold bars upon commissioning. ROTC staff instructors are members of Chapter and board members.

* The Chapter donates cash to the St Vincent de Paul veterans relief fund. This cash donation allows the organization some flexibility in assisting local vets in need of a short term financial solutions.

*The Chapter has partnered with the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity and their home repair service; providing advocacy for vets.

Recruiting and Retention: For the 2021 calendar year, the Chapter gained four new members, 12 basic members (ROTC 2nd Lt's), and eight members passed or relocated. In light of the prolonged covid pandemic and lack of in-person meetings, the Chapter has made efforts to keep the monthly news e-bulletin and website relevant and cogent with local and statewide information. These two modes of communication have been awarded MOAA's four and five star levels of excellence.

Within State and County health regulations, the Chapter met in person on only four occasions. At these meetings new members were introduced and given an opportunity to brief their personal and military history. The Chapter has a "calling committee" to contact members for an RSVP for upcoming in-person meetings.

Leadership Succession Plan: One of our Chapter goals is to establish a viable progression of Chapter members to leadership roles in the organization. We identify chapter members who demonstrate a desire to join in the growth of the Chapter. We encourage all members to consider membership on the Board of Directors or Committee Chairs and successfully fill a nominating slate of officers every year plus the 13 committee chairmanships.

In compliance with State and County health regulations, we found it necessary to suspend most monthly in-person general sessions during the pandemic. To assure that we did not lose continuity with our membership, the Board established supplemental newsletters sent by email to all Chapter members. Through that newsletter we reached out to our most vulnerable members to assure them of our support and to provide phone numbers if the needed to request assistance. Upon resuming in person meetings, our attendance quickly returned to pre-pandemic norms.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BOOSTERS



SPECIAL MEETING FOR ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS:

National MOAA is sending CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Program Director of Chapter and Council Affairs, to visit our chapter on 28 Sep 2022 at noon. The Board has expressed an interest in having him meet with the Board of Directors and the general membership. The chapter will provide light refreshments, so an RSVP is needed. Please email MOAAofEugene@gmail.com or your caller if you would like to attend.

Lane County Stand Down: The Lane County Stand Down scheduled for Friday, September 30, 2022, 0630-1500 is for our local veterans and military families. Volunteers are always welcome because the number of attendees will be large again this year. The day before the Stand Down is for setting up the facilities at the Lane County Fair Grounds (Auditorium and Wheeler Pavilion). MOAA members (4-5) helping with the setup from 0900-1300 would be very helpful and appreciated. If you can help, contact Floyd Bard at floydbard@gmail.com. Thank you.



Our chapter Board of Directors has until the 26 October board meeting to approve a slate of officers to fill all officer and board positions.

NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN

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.

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 2022 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2023 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2023 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Frank Balazs, 1st Lt, USMC (Fmr)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USNR (Ret)	Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Thomas Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Clay Robson, 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.

Do you throw your returnable bottles and cans in the trash?

Do you drag them down to the BottleDrop and stand in line to put them in the machine one-at-a-time?

Wouldn't you rather just take your returnables to your next MOAA meeting and let us take care of them. We will put the funds they generate into our Special Projects Fund for future good use?

Save those cans and bottles and bring them to the annual picnic on September 11th.



**Emerald
Empire
Chapter**

MOAA ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DoD Releases Details on Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal, By: Kevin Lilley

A half-million veterans may be eligible to receive an award honoring their service related to atomic weapon use, testing, and cleanup in the decades after World War II.

The Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal will be available to hand out by year's end, according to a July 5 DoD press release. The creation of the medal was part of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act; the law allowed DoD to establish eligibility criteria with recommendations from House and Senate Armed Services Committee members. Veterans eligible for the award must have performed one of the following actions as part of official military duties from July 1, 1945, to Oct. 1, 1992, according to the news release:

1. Directly participated in the detonation of an atomic weapon or device.
2. Directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from any such atmospheric detonation.
3. Directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from an accident associated with an atomic weapon; or
4. Were exposed to ionizing radiation resulting from the operational use of atomic weapons during World War II.

The next-of-kin of deceased veterans who meet the above criteria may apply for the medal, as well. An online application process will be created "in the near future," per the DoD press release. It's unclear how many veterans participated in such operations. Most reports suggest about 225,000 servicemembers took part in atomic testing and development, but when those who worked in cleanup efforts or suffered other exposure are added, the total figure could eclipse 500,000. The medal's design, also released July 5, includes an eagle and a symbol of an atom on the obverse, and language on the reverse noting the honor was "awarded for unique service in support of nuclear deterrence."



Monday, September 5th

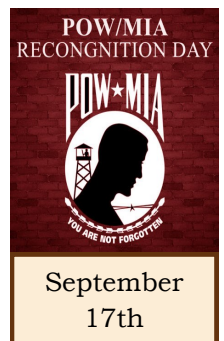
From MOAA's President: There's Still Time to Support MOAA's Day of Giving,

By: Dana Atkins

We established July 4 as MOAA's Day of Giving with the goal to raise \$75,000 to support our veterans, servicemembers, and their families across all branches of service.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to every one of our members who have already joined this year's campaign and helped us surpass our 2021 effort. We know we can move mountains for the uniformed services community when our members stand together, and there is still time to meet our goal in support of our two charities, The MOAA Foundation (TMF) and the MOAA Scholarship Fund.

You can visit our Day of Giving website, MOAA.org/dayofgiving, to make a tax-deductible gift today. You can also show your MOAA spirit with the purchase of our 2022 MOAA Charities "Charitee-shirt" available at this link,



GIVING, continued on page 11

MOAA ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

If you're going to Florence for any reason, make sure you check out the Oregon Coast Military Museum. It is located at 2145 Kingwood St. in Florence. According to their website, They are open Wednesday - Sunday from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Admission is only \$4.00 for veterans and \$5 for others. Their motto is "Honoring our Veterans by Educating our Public" and they do that by offering a place for them to share their personal artifacts, memorabilia and memoirs. Several of our chapter members have been to this museum and state they are very surprised by the depth of the collection.



ROTC Barbecue

Chapter members are invited to the ROTC Week of Welcoming BBQ on 22 Sep, 15:00 hours at the ROTC building, 1672 Agate Street.

GIVING, continued from 10 [MOAA.org/charities](https://www.moaa.org/charities).

Both our charities are GuideStar Platinum-rated and have adapted the programs we provide to those we serve, and I am proud of the progress we have made. Here are a few illustrations of what we have accomplished with the support of generous donors:

- TMF has created a fifth pillar of support to serve uniformed servicemembers and their families when disaster strikes.
- In 2021, almost 900 students received financial assistance for their college education through the MOAA Scholarship Fund.
- The amount of money distributed through Community Outreach Grants has increased over 10% since 2019.
- In 2021, 36% of the financial assistance distributed by the Scholarship Fund was in the form of grants – up from 12% in 2019.

Our development team is constantly speaking with MOAA members, chapters, and beneficiaries across the country to ensure our programs meet the current needs of uniformed servicemembers and their families.

Robert, a Life Member of MOAA, told me recently that he donates to our charities because "MOAA is an officer organization, and we have a leadership responsibility to take care of our own. Donating to the charities gives us a chance to do that."

With so much gratitude, I give thanks again to our members for supporting our association and truly making a difference in the lives of so many veterans, servicemembers and their families.



Constitution Day, 17 Sep

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 356,000 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.

