

**General Membership Luncheon Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 11 Sep 2024, 11:30 social, Noon lunch, \$18**

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

**Speaker: Pat Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)**  
**An Inside Look at the Coast Guard's Response to 9-11**

SEPTEMBER 2024

Program Announcement	<b>1</b>
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes	<b>2-3,7</b>
Thoughts from the Board	<b>4</b>
Briefs and Boosters	<b>5</b>
Briefs	<b>6-7</b>
MOAA Articles of Interest	<b>8-9</b>



## 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		

**Labor Day Weekend  
August 31st through  
September 2nd**

Printing graciously provided by  
**Hayes**  
 Insurance Group  
 541-762-8000

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 28 Aug 2024

**PRESENT:** Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Floyd Bard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Ken Evans, Frank Balazs, Scott Sandgathe, Tom Kulick and Jonathan Landon. Member Dick Norton was also present. A quorum was established.

**OPENING:** President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1201 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jonathan Landon gave an opening prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 24 Jul 2024 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** for July 24 through 27 Aug, 2024 was approved.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2025 DRIVE**

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 200.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
<b>CONTRIBUTION TOTAL JUNE 1, 2024 – AUGUST 27, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>

## **UMPQUA ACCOUNT**

### **Chapter Operations:**

Beginning balance as of July 23, 2024	\$ 6304.54
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 25.00
Expenses (no expenses this month)	\$ -0.00
<b>Chapter Operations as of August 27, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 6329.54</b>

<b>Veterans Services Fund:</b> added \$ 12 in donations	\$ 4625.05
<b>ROTC Scholarship 2025 Drive:</b> added \$ 50 in donations	\$ 200.00
<b>ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund</b>	<b>\$ 4478.84</b>
<b>(formerly OCCU ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund)</b>	
<b>Cadet Dinner Fund:</b> added \$ 25 in donations	\$ 489.30
<b>UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of Aug 27, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 16122.73</b>

## **BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)**

### **EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance Forward (May 31, 2024)	\$ 55979.75
Change in Value of Investments	\$ +749.86
Administrative Cost	\$ -90.97
<b>BCF Balance (June 30, 2024)</b>	<b>\$ 56638.64</b>

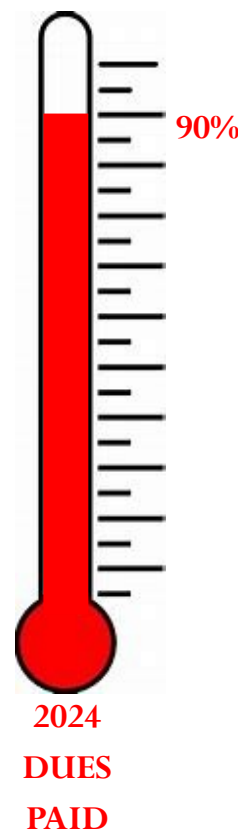
### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. ROTC update, Veterans History Project - Pat Harris
  - Pat Harris reported that there will be a ROTC Welcome Barbecue on 29 Sep to which MOAA will be invited. Details to follow.
  - Jonathan Landon is still taking sign-ups for the Library of Congress Veterans History inter-

#### **"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 (CONT.)

views. So far he has three signed-up, but hopes to have more once we present the idea at the next general membership meeting.

2. Dues deadline and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan and Ken Evens
  - The chapter received one new dues payment bringing us to 90 percent paid.
3. Eugene Mission Support - Michael Kennedy and Michael Pace
  - No change. Awaiting the Mission's next move on a Veteran Bible Study program.
4. Elected board members for 2025 - Dick Norton
  - The slate is still full for 2025 officers and board members.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Email from "Tank" Michael - Important parts - Michael Kennedy and Pat Harris
  - President Kennedy reported an email from MOAA Chapters chief reminding all members to vote for the national MOAA board by 31 Aug.
  - He further announced a virtual Leadership Roundtable on 29 Aug that he will attend, but that others may attend as well.
  - Also announced were some minor revisions to the LOE and Communications award criteria which we should see in the next few weeks.
2. Non-profit status update - Dick Kimbell and Ken Evans
  - Progress has been made on changing our 501(c)19 non-profit designation to 501(c)3 to facilitate the acceptance of donations from financial organizations that don't understand the 501(c)19 Veteran tax-exempt status.
  - The committee hopes to have the 501(c)3 designation in place by the end of the year to help members who wish to contribute through their financial organizations.
3. Discussion on sending/sponsoring President-elect Floyd Bard to November Regional Workshop held in Reno, NV - Michael Kennedy
  - This item will be placed on the September agenda to discuss; (1) paying for two attendees to maximize attendance at various workshops, and (2) paying for airfare.
4. Last year, at the September luncheon, we held a "bring your spouse" program. It was a lot of work, but it was well received. Do we do it again? Does it conflict with the regular program? In years past we had our picnic to open the year; this spouse recognition program was seen as a new way to begin the year. - Michael Kennedy
  - Last year's event was not intended to be the start of an annual event, and, with only two weeks before the next meeting, it was decided to look for another opportunity on a future date.

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

- Guest speakers for October and November have been identified: Richard Grover from Goodwill and Steven Yamamori from the Reveille Foundation, who both serve our Veterans.
- 1VP Bard stated that the Lane County Stand Down will be on Friday, 27 Sep with set-up the day before. Volunteers are always needed, especially for set-up. See the announcement in the September newsletter.
- Oregon National Guard's 41<sup>st</sup> Combat Infantry Brigade will be deploying to the Balkans within two months. Almost 90 percent of the unit, 2700, will be gone for six-to-nine months. That eliminates the largest military/veteran contingent of the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi on 11 November. Though four Elks Lodges have promised to appear

---

## THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD: 9-11

---

**Where were you on 9-11? Almost anybody can tell you what they were doing when they first heard that news.**

I was the acting Captain of the Port of New York and New Jersey on September 11th, 2001, when airliners struck the World Trade Center towers in downtown Manhattan.

I was wrapping up a routine daily staff meeting when the duty officer came in and announced that one of the World Trade Center towers was on fire. When I walked into the Operations Center, I saw that the controllers had trained 12 of our Vessel Traffic Center cameras on the fire and were taking radio calls from witnesses who had seen a plane hit the tower. I told the duty officer to send the ready search and rescue boat toward the scene in case the FDNY requested assistance, then went back and briefed the staff that was still assembled. As I left them to discuss what else we might want to do, I called my boss, the Commander of all Coast Guard activities in New York harbor, to let him know what he was missing. I reached him near Fredericksburg, VA, headed south on I-95 toward a Florida vacation.



I finished the call and was watching the local TV coverage of the fire when I saw the second plane hit the South Tower. I told the duty officer to launch everything that would float and to start repairing everything that wouldn't. I then returned to my staff meeting to discuss our next moves. Within minutes we had a rudimentary action plan, then broke up the meeting to start taking action. I decided to call my boss again and suggest that he turn around but found that he had seen the second plane hit on a portable TV and was already heading north.

Our mission at this point was simple: to stop the possibility of another attack from the water and to assist other agencies as requested. The execution of these goals was far from simple. The only way to control the heavy commercial and recreational vessel traffic in the port was to shut down the port to all vessels except those engaged in the emergency. So, we did.

Then the buildings fell and everyone on Manhattan wanted to leave the island... and the city had just closed all the bridges, tunnels and subways. If you were north of the disaster, you could walk north until you reached clear air. But if you were south of the World Trade Center, you had no place to go but into the water. So, we put out a call for all available boats and put a crew on a borrowed yacht to direct traffic. We sent Marine Safety people to the south end of the island to help marshal people to the loading areas, and had Marine Inspectors determine the emergency capacities of the participating vessels. All in all, we recruited over 120 vessels and carried approximately 500,000 people from lower Manhattan to New Jersey, Brooklyn and Staten Island for the next ten hours.

Until the return of my CO more than six hours later, I directed the actions that changed the Coast Guard's focus from search and rescue and marine safety to the mission of maritime security. Where we had once performed a port security patrol for 3-4 hours a couple of times a week, we would now maintain security 24/7 in 12 sectors throughout the Port of New York for six weeks. We grew from a force of 300 people spread from Sandy Hook, NJ to the Canadian border to a force of over 1700, mainly in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

NOTE: This story is very long and is well documented in three books, (1) *Rogue Wave, the U.S. Coast Guard On and After 9/11* (2013), (2) *Dust and Deliverance, Untold Stories from the Maritime Evacuation on September 11* (2017), and (3) *All Available Boats: The Evacuation of Manhattan Island on September 11, 2001* (2002).

Submitted by Pat Harris, Secretary



## BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

**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, September 26th is the set up day at the Lane Events Center from 0800 to 1800 hours. Volunteers are always appreciated to help in many areas in serving our Veterans in need of our help. Any volunteers can just show up or I can be contacted by email or cell phone. Thank you, Floyd Bard, 2024 LCSD Advisor (floydbard@gmail.com or 541-729-7265).



## ROTC Barbecue

Chapter members are invited to the ROTC Week of Welcoming BBQ on 29 September. Times and location information to follow.

**Our chapter Board of Directors has until the October 23rd board meeting to approve a slate of officers to fill all officer and board positions for 2025.** So, you have more than a month to decide

NOMINATIONS

ARE OPEN

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.

Visit our website at [www.emeraldempiremoaa.org](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org)

## 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)

David Cooper, Maj, 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

# Constitution Day 17 September

On September 17, 1787, the framers signed the most influential document in American history, the U.S. Constitution. Constitution Day, also recognized as Citizenship Day, commemorates the signing of the Constitution and recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens.

POW/MIA  
RECOGNITION DAY



September 20th

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.

## Personal Affairs Officer Activity

Member Bo Muhlheim recently underwent some medical procedures and spent some time in a rehabilitation facility. When he knew he would be going home soon, he realized he would need a ride that could accommodate his wheel chair and other luggage. Our Personal Affairs Officer, Michael Pace, arranged through the VA to get Bo a ride home, as well as follow-up transportation to physical therapy. Michael says that this kind of service is available for all veterans who need transportation for medical purposes. You just need to call the following numbers and provide your name, date of birth and the last four numbers of your social security number to verify your veteran status.

If you are mobile (walkers, canes and crutches count as mobile), call: 541-440-1293.

If you use a wheel chair, call: 541-440-1222.

Plan ahead and try to give a three-day notice.

## 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](mailto:fr.landon@gmail.com) or by phone at 541-942-9992.



**Go to MOAA.org, then ADVOCACY, then  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER  
Take the tutorial and sign up**



**CLOSE OUT SALE ON AMERICAN FLAGS**—Pure profit for our Chapter: John Toensing reports that he still has four flags for sale... and ALL the proceeds go to our MOAA chapter. These are the Allegiance flags... all made in America. He has 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.



in the parade, the 1VP is wondering if MOAA would like to participate in some fashion. He will broach the subject with the general membership at the 11 September meeting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report:** Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BFC):

- The Benton Community Foundation will soon be starting their scholarship selection process. On 10 Oct between 4-6pm, they will be hosting an event to show their newly renovated facility.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- A new member of the VA staff is hoping to establish a “Veterans Café” as a way to have Veterans serve Veterans. He will be looking for volunteers and donors in the coming months.

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

**NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** Wednesday, 25 Sep 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Building

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1308 hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

---

# NATIONAL MOAA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

---

## 5 Reasons Why Short-Term Budget Fixes Are Failing Our Military and Our Nation

By: Mark Belinsky

We are on the road to another fiscal year without a full federal budget ... just like last year, and the year before, and every year since 1997.

In the absence of a signed budget at the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year, Congress has two options: Letting appropriations lapse, resulting in a shutdown, or passing a stopgap spending measure known as a continuing resolution (CR). A CR provides temporary government funding at current-year levels while lawmakers work on a budget for the remainder of the new fiscal year.

CRs are, to be blunt, awful. Ask any lawmaker and they will agree. Yet Congress can't seem to find the intestinal fortitude to set partisan politics aside and keep to the schedule.

Why are these resolutions so bad for our nation in general, and our national defense in particular? Here are MOAA's top five reasons:

1. **Wasted Tax Dollars.** Every CR costs taxpayers billions in misaligned money, stalled or delayed projects, and unnecessary planning to combat the shutdown threat and ever-changing funding availability. The top Pentagon official estimated the 2019 CR, for example, cost DoD \$19 billion.
2. **A Poor Example.** Servicemembers are trained to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and to uphold high standards of property accountability through inspections and measures enforced through the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We have all stood in formation and heard a leader state: "No one is going home until we find this lost piece of property." Maybe Congress needs to have a formation on our budget.
3. **Major Disruptions.** CRs force changes to training schedules. They delay operations, construction, maintenance, and congressionally mandated modernization projects. They cause civilian hiring freezes, and they increase contracting costs. As one DoD official put it: "The longer a CR lasts, the more damage it does."
4. **Erosion of Trust.** Placing the importance of good governance over political issues is warranted, especially when CRs add to our national debt. We would never run our own personal finances by paying late fees over and over to avoid dealing with our bills. Congress can restore some trust in the institution by sticking to the schedule.
5. **Simple Scheduling.** Speaking of the schedule: Congress never misses its summer August recess. It's reasonable to expect them to stick to their whole schedule, which includes passing a full budget before Oct. 1.

### Budget Basics

Here's a look at how the budget process is supposed to work:

- **January or February:** The president outlines White House priorities in the State of the Union address. This is often late, no matter which party controls the White House.
- **First Monday in February:** This is the "due date" for the administration to submit its budget request to Congress, but the release varies each year. Delays impact subsequent actions by Congress.
- **Mid-March:** Congressional committees submit "views and estimates" to the House and Senate Budget committees in response to the administration's request. Committee leaders indicate preferences on budget matters for which they're responsible.
- **April 15:** Congress passes a budget resolution, committing itself to broad spending levels.
- **May to July:** Congressional committees hold budget hearings for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **August:** Congress goes on summer recess.
- **Sept. 30:** Congress completes its work on appropriations bills for the upcoming year.



---

## MOAA ARTICLES (Continued)

---

### Making a Difference

MOAA's Government Relations team has raised the CR issue to key lawmakers, but every legislator needs to hear about it from their constituents this election year.

Consider [joining our Legislative Action Center](#), where you can find contact information for your lawmakers and send pre-written messages in support of MOAA's advocacy priorities. Or use MOAA's Capitol Hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622), a toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard – to connect with your legislators' offices and ask to speak with the military legislative assistant.

Let them know the status quo of costly CRs isn't acceptable – not when we need to invest in the quality of life for our all-volunteer force, and when our national debt is mounting.

Keep up with the ongoing budget process and other key legislative issues at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#)



### **Report Shows Spike in Scam Type That Frequently Targets Veterans, Servicemembers**

By: Kevin Lilley

Scammers posing as government officials collected nearly twice the cash from victims in 2023 as they did the previous year, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and stats for 2024 show the disturbing trend isn't letting up.

Government impersonation scams disproportionately target servicemembers, veterans, and others who regularly deal with federal entities – from TRICARE to the VA to any number of other departments and providers. TRICARE For Life beneficiaries recently saw an uptick in fake text messages from scammers posing as a health care provider, for example.

Scammers posing as government officials seeking cash payments have scored big in recent months, according to FTC data: Victims reported losing \$76 million in cash in 2023, up from \$40 million in 2022. Fraudsters collected another \$20 million in the first quarter of 2024.

The cash-payment portion of these scams is a small one – government impersonation fraud cost victims \$618 million in 2023, per the FTC – but cash-scam victims report losing more per incident than victims who use any other form of payment. The average cash-payment victim lost \$14,470 in the first quarter of 2024, the FTC reported.

Impostors seeking cash payment will gain the trust of their victim before presenting an urgent situation that requires immediate attention, often posing a threat to a loved one. The pitch is designed to make the victim act rashly – before considering that government agencies will not demand a cash payment, nor will they seek personal information via text, phone call, or social media post.

If you've been targeted by this type of fraud, you can report it to the FTC [via its website](#) or by visiting the website of the relevant federal agency:

VA: [Protecting Veterans From Fraud](#)

TRICARE: [Report Fraud and Abuse](#)

Medicare: [Reporting Medicare Fraud and Abuse](#)

MOAA Premium and Life members can access recorded webinars with tips to avoid fraud of all types: [An Overview of Scams and Frauds](#) | [Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud](#) | [Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams](#)

MOAA also is a partner in the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Get more resources from that organization [at this link](#).

**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Website:**

[www.emeraldempiremoaa.org](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org)

**E-mail:**

[MOAAofEugene@gmail.com](mailto: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 77th Birthday Air Force**

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