

THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

1130 social, 1200 lunch, \$20

Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street, Eugene

MENU

Tomato and Cucumber Salad

Boneless Chicken Breast with Marsala Mushroom Sauce

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans with Onions

Grandma's Rolls and Butter

A Special Chocolaty Valentines Dessert

PROGRAM

CPT Dakota Olson-Harris, Army National Guard
Speaking on the Reveille and Retreat Project

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not cancel it by Sunday, 8 February, you are responsible for the cost of the meal.

Guests are always welcome, but we must have a reservation.

Valentine's and Presidents' Days

Volume 62, Issue 2

February 2026

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<u>February</u>	
11 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets	
13 National Guard Birthday	
16 Presidents Day	
25 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets	
<u>March</u>	
08 Daylight Saving Time starts	
11 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets	
17 St. Patrick's Day	
25 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets	
<u>April</u>	
05 Easter Sunday	
08 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets	
29 Vietnam Veterans Day	

CALENDAR

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	Ken Evans	914-6235
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	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Michael Pace	636-3745



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THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD by Les Cunningham

I'm a member of the three military organizations that operate out of the Vet's Club. 1) MOAA, 2) American Legion and 3) VFW.

I see the following things that are common to all three organizations: 1) The continual need for new members. 2) The average age of the members is retirement age and older. 3) Younger ex-military members are not beating down our doors to join up. 4) The local Veterans Office says there are 30,000 Veterans living in Lane County. 4) Membership recruitment needs to be done on a regular basis to at least keep up with the attrition of senior members. 5) Potential new members don't see the relevance of participating in Veteran Groups. 6) Membership efforts need to be done by more than just a committee. 7) The more that members get to know each other the higher goes the desire to participate in efforts to improve the existing organization. 8) The organization needs to be run in a more efficient manner. In my experience, people get busier as they get older. 9) We need to answer the question to potential new members as to why it's worth their time to join up. 10) We need to have a steady revenue stream in addition to our dues in order to stay viable, in the same way both profit and not for profit businesses need to generate a profit to cover their mistakes that they engage in as they operate the organization. Not everyone is willing to participate in their organization forever. Not to mention, we wear out for various reasons, and we also move on to different things as we get older.

I certainly don't have all of the answers to the opportunities I've talked about. I do believe that there are answers to the items that I've mentioned. I do know thru my experiences in life that the answers, if there are answers, have to come from the members of the organization. I've found that the first question a new member needs an answer to is "what's in for me?" After they get the answer to that question, then they are willing to maybe help others get what they need to stay being a member.

I believe that the better the members get to know each other, the better the chances of growing a more successful organization. I'm certainly willing to discuss these thoughts with other members, and I look forward to doing so!

MOAA... What We Do

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 all the uniformed services. Our main areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military and veteran community, e.g., supporting the programs of Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent de Paul that target the Lane County veteran population.

Corrections to the 2025-2026 Directory of Members

Address Change:

Darlene Thomasec has moved to South Carolina.

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 chapter and is not for distribution without prior consent of the Board of Directors.

Chapter Dues for 2026: Dues for 2026 are due as of 1 Jan 2026. So far, about 78 percent of our members have paid their \$35 dues. If you have not already paid, please do so soon. Notices were sent out in mid November. Send a check made out to Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA, (or just "MOAA") to P.O. Box 767, Eugene, OR 97440.

2026 CALENDAR (revised) AND BOOSTERS

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER CALENDAR FOR 2026 (AS OF 2-1-2026)

January:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting	July:	22nd Board Meeting
February:	11th Luncheon 25th Board Meeting	August:	26th Board Meeting
March:	11th Luncheon 25th Board Meeting	September:	9th Luncheon 23rd Board Meeting
April:	8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting	October:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting
May:	6th ROTC Recognition Dinner 27th Board Meeting	November:	18th Luncheon (1100-1330) 18th Board Meeting (1330-?)
June:	13th Chapter Picnic 24th Board Meeting	December:	9th Christmas Dinner (1330-1600) 16th Board Meeting

Dates in RED have been changed.

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.

ROTC Boosters

The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. We have zeroed out the 2025 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2026 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)	Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)
Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)	Carole Applegate, Surviving Spouse	Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret)
Richard Heyman, Col, USAF (Ret)	John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse
Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Lance Englet, COL, USA (Ret)
Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) in memory of LTC Patrick Simpson and LTC Edward "Mike" Reuter		
Bert Toepel, Jr., COL, USA (Ret)	Barbara Gunn, Surviving Spouse	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Lynette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Tom Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Les Cunningham, Capt, USAF (Fmr)
Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse
Larry Senn, LT, USN (Fmr)	James Helbling, LTC, USA (Ret)	Erven Kincaid, LCDR, USN (Ret)
William Kellogg, Maj, USMC (Ret)	Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (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.

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, 14 January 2026

We held our chapter remembrance ceremony at the January 14th luncheon meeting to honor those who left us in 2025. President Floyd Bard led the ceremony with the assistance of Chaplain Jonathan Landon.



Remembrance Ceremony Memorial Message

By Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret) Jonathan Landon. Moderately revised from the 2026 MOAA memorial ceremony message.

Today we pay tribute to fallen comrades, to brothers in arms who served life-long, to a departed spouse and to the spouses, partners and families who upheld and supported them, and served alongside them for many years.

We do so, some would say, to bring closure. I prefer, however, to phrase it differently. Our purpose, it seems to me, is more about acknowledging a change... a passage... Not so much an ending as a change in circumstances.

The bond between those who shared the costs of service to our country and community is strong, and it doesn't end in death. The impact of this shared commitment on our lives is permanent and we will be forever influenced by our relationships with these, our comrades. But the nature of the impact has changed.

Now our task is to incorporate our memories of them into our ongoing service. A substantial part of what makes our own service meaningful is that we are mindful of those who performed it before we did, and of those to whom we have entrusted the task of carrying it forward. In formal remembrance of our comrades, we acknowledge this continuity from generation to generation.

And for those of us who believe that the human soul continues after death, it is a way to renew our friendship, to change – if you will – from being neighbors to being the long-distance friends who have moved away but who remain on our hearts and minds, and remain – to a greater or lesser extent, a part of our lives.

In memory of our comrades, and in ongoing friendship. We honor your service.

Those we honored:

LTC Cabot H. Clark, USA (Ret) passed on 3-5-2025, leaving behind his wife Dianna. He served in 1955 and 1956, 1961 through 1966, and 1981 through 1997. Cab's widow was unable to attend the ceremony, but plans to stay with the chapter and attend future meetings.

CPT G. "Wally" Johansen, USA (Fmr) passed 3-23-2025, left behind his wife Sue. He served from 1958 to 1964.

LTC Earl L. Hain, USA (Ret) passed 5-27-2025. He served from 1958 to 1983, and as Chapter President in 1989. Earl's partner, Antonia Lewis, attended the ceremony.

COL Adalbert "Bert" E Toepel, Jr. passed 12-1-2025, leaving behind his wife of 73 years, Mildred. He served from 1952 through 1979 and served as the Chapter President in 2008/2009. Mildred Toepel and daughter Kathryn, attended the ceremony.

Franda Nelson, Surviving Spouse passed in November 2024. She was the spouse of 2nd Lt Michael Nelson, ARNG. who passed away in 2008.

The Passing of the “World’s Greatest Fighter Pilot”

TAWS

COL Richard M Heyman, USA (Ret), MOAA member and Emerald Empire Chapter President in 1977, passed away January 25, 2026. He was due to be awarded the French Legion of Honour on February 23 for his participation in the Invasion of Normandy, where he flew the P-38 Lightning and the P-51 Mustang.

In 2017, when asked the story of his career, Dick Heyman said:

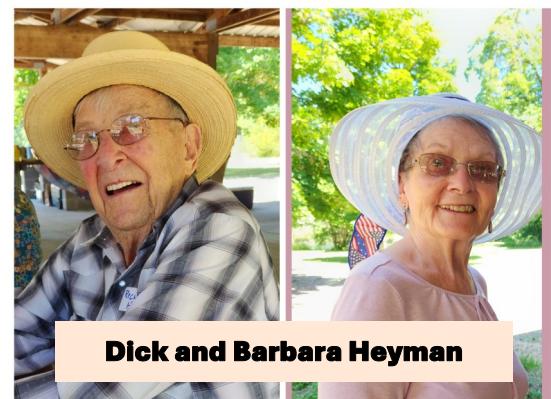
“As a patriotic 18 year old high school kid I enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Army two weeks after graduation, a pre-requisite set by my father even though graduation wasn’t a guaranty at this time in my education. Field Artillery was first assignment. They didn’t need a very light weight 64-inch Private bad enough to keep me, so I was shipped to the Air Corps. I found that with a High School Degree I could take a test designed for two-year college grads, so I took the 100-question guess test and maxed it luckily. Three and a half months later I started pre-flight training. I had to list my preferences: Pilot, Navigator or Bombardier. I put down, Pilot, Pilot and_Pilot. It worked, I graduated nine months later, July, 28, 1943, as a 2nd Lt pilot.



I went to Muroc, CA. for P-38 training, then to my outfit that was completing training for combat. We shipped to England on the Queen Elisabeth the end of 1943. We were in combat within a month. My 2nd mission was to Berlin. Two Enlisted Personnel and I were the youngest members of the 364th Ftr. Group... 19-1/2. I was credited with a couple of aircraft victories, a large cargo ship sunk, numerous trucks and several trains destroyed. Luckily they were all enemy. I returned to Zone of Interior end of 1944, having participated in D-Day and support of other Army tasks.

After the war, I was assigned to the only Fighter Group in US with jets, P-59. Horrible airplane. I separated from Active Duty end of 1945, stayed in the active reserve flying P-51s and also operating my Scrap Metal business (Junk Yard). I was recalled to Active Duty November, 1950, and was in Korea within 4 or 5 months. We flew A-26's at night destroying truck convoys mostly, however I did manage to destroy Bed-Check-Charlie. We called him Piss Call Charlie. It was considered a pretty good thing to shoot down an aircraft while flying a Light Bomber at O-Dark Thirty.

The next 13 or so years were spent in several commands in the US and England, mostly flying fighters and a tour in SAC... B-47s. I happily married Barbara in 1960 after a long courtship. Then again off to combat in 1966 flying the F-105 in Viet-Nam. for two more tours of combat where I commanded two different units. After this episode, Barbara said enough is enough, no more combat. I now had over 400 actual combat sorties, 1200 combat missions and had missiles, cannon and machine gun and rocks thrown at me, and enough hit to last my lifetime. I am sure that on every combat mission I was on an Adrenaline High. We finished 32 years Military Service after a tour in Germany and then Air Defense Command in Colorado. What a career: 18 year old kid to 50 year old Colonel with no College credits. We have been retired 43 years and are still up to mischief.”



Dick and Barbara Heyman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—28 January 2026

Excerpts from the Board Meeting Minutes. Full minutes are attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President Ken Evans, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members: Michael Pace, Jonathan Landon, Les Cunningham, LTC Joe Snyder, Tom Kulick, Scott Sandgathe and Michael Kennedy. Former board members Frank Balazs, John Toensing and Eric Watkins were also in attendance. A quorum was established.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, January 27, 2026

BALANCE ON HAND (January 27, 2026):

Chapter Operations	\$ 6466.09
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 2374.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 2251.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 9329.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 947.40
COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 21368.38

OLD BUSINESS

1. USPHS and USMC Director positions

MOTION: Pat Harris made a motion to install Ron Lehhnyr to the vacant USPHS Director position. It was seconded by Ken Evans and unanimously passed.

MOTION: Floyd Bard made a motion to install Juhn Abele to the vacant USMC Director position. It was seconded by Les Cunningham and unanimously passed.

2. Dates of events at Vets Memorial Bldg for 2026 (Christmas Party – daytime or evening?).

A discussion was held about moving our annual Christmas party to the second week of December and having it start earlier because our members have expressed concern about driving home at night during that time of year. VMA has now set the date for Wednesday, December 9th with social hour starting at 1:30 pm and the meal served at 2:30 pm. The Dublinaires have already stated that they should be able to perform as long as we give them a 30-day notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Establishing a new endowment fund

MOTION: Jonathan Landon made a motion to establish a new endowment fund by opening a Vanguard business account for non-profits. We will then deposit the money from our ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund and use it to fund future scholarships. The motion was seconded by Dick Kimbell and passed unanimously.

2. “Spotlights” ideas (learning about our members)

John Toensing suggested that we take the time during a general membership meeting to have everyone write a short paragraph on something unique they have done during their career. Spouses would be invited to do the same thing. The pages would then be collected and shared with the crowd to learn more about each other.

3. June Picnic: dates, location, joint?

A. We currently have June 21st reserved at Jasper State Park. That is Father's Day and may present a conflict to some of our members.

B. Joe Snyder, the incoming project officer for this year's picnic, suggested using Lively Park in Springfield: good parking, nearby restrooms, shelters and a close dog park. Reservations cannot be made until March 1st, and Joe will coordinate to get them made. It would cost \$183, about \$100 more than Jasper.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Captain Dakota Olson-Harris,

I am currently serving in the Army National Guard and have been for the past 15 years. I started enlisted as a tank mechanic then earned my commission as a Combat Engineer Officer. I have two deployments, Iraq and United Arab Emirates.

On the civilian side I work as a counselor providing readjustment counseling for Veterans, current service members and their families.

I am a wife and a bonus mom to four kiddos. We have recently added to our family with a baby girl, totaling five kids. We also have two dogs, Paco and Elsa.

Our family loves to go on adventures whether it's walks, hiking, camping or just going on a road trip to visit family.



The Project

Through a carefully crafted blend of healing modalities, empowerment workshops, and personalized development sessions, our retreats offer a profound journey of self-discovery and growth specifically for military women.

We understand the unique challenges faced by women in the military community, and our programs are designed to address these challenges, fostering resilience, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Our team of experienced facilitators and mentors creates a supportive and nurturing environment where participants can explore their innermost selves, heal from past traumas, and unlock their full potential.



“Thoughts from the Board” Monthly Column Schedule

What was once our President’s Corner monthly offering will now be authored by a different member of the Board of Directors and will cover a topic of their own choosing.

January	- Floyd Bard	June	- Elaine Callahan
February	- Les Cunningham	September	- Ken Evans
March	- Dick Kimbell	October	- Pat Harris
April	- Michael Pace	November	- Michael Pace
May	- Joe Snyder	December	- Jonathan Landon

Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 81 members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation’s eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. An application to join our local chapter and/or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website: www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US.

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**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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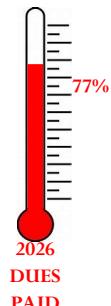


*Thank You for
supporting MOAA
with your
membership.*

**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.

**OUR
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF'S
DAY**

**HAPPY
PRESIDENT'S DAY**

February 16th, 2026