



THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Annual Membership Picnic

**Saturday, 7 Jun 2025 at Jasper Park
12:00 Noon**

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, 4 June so we
know how much to prepare**



**The Chapter Provides:
BBQ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Corn on the Cob
and beer, soda and water**

**You Bring Potluck:
A-J Salads and Sides; K-Z Desserts**

Picnic details on pages 2 and 3

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JUNE 2025

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**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 try to
make it happen.**

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS (all 541-)

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	John Toensing	345-7535
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	290-0814
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	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

**The picnic is our last general member-
ship meeting until our luncheon on
Wednesday, 10 September. Have a
good summer.**

Printing graciously provided by

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541-762-8000

Directions to Jasper State Park

From Springfield:

Take OR-126 to the intersection of Main and 126, then continue south on Bob

Straub Parkway and Jasper Rd. for 3.7 miles.

Turn right on Parkway Rd, cross the river, then drive 0.6 miles.

Turn left onto Jasper Park Drive.

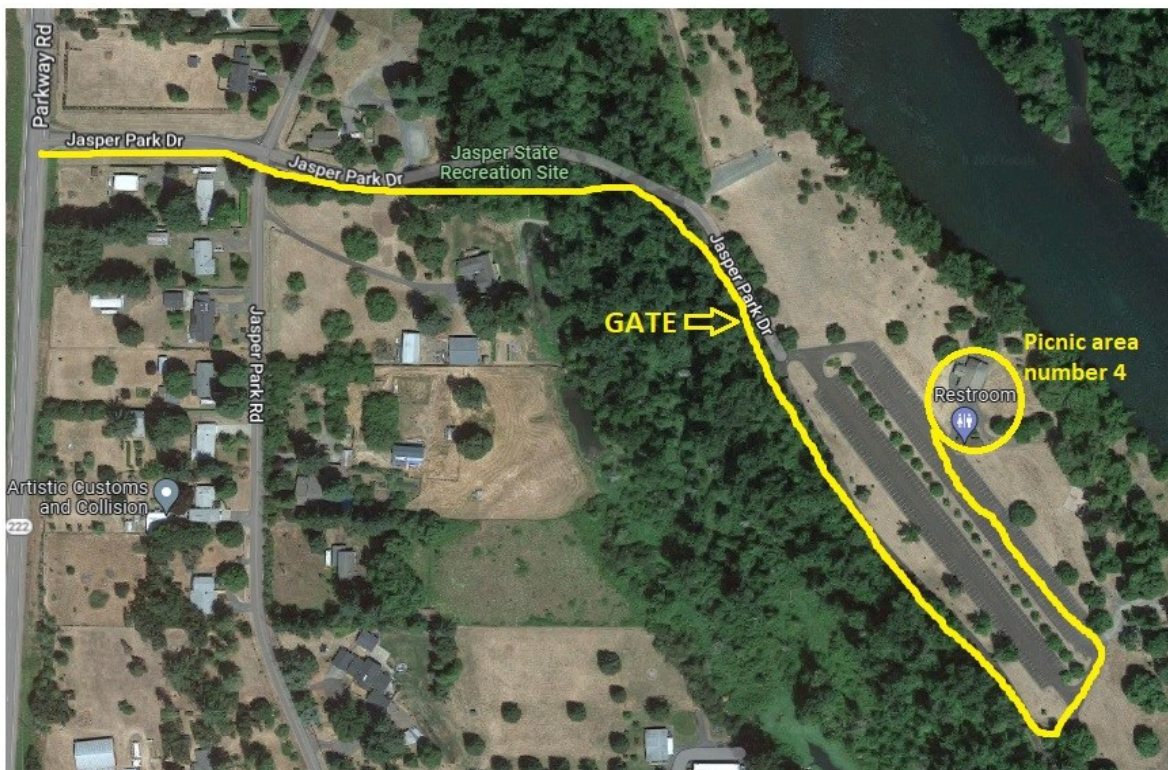
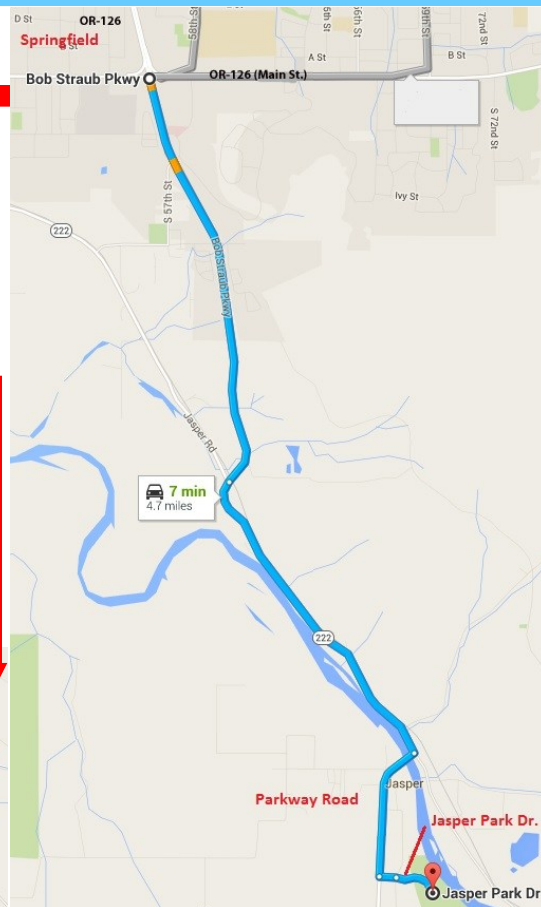
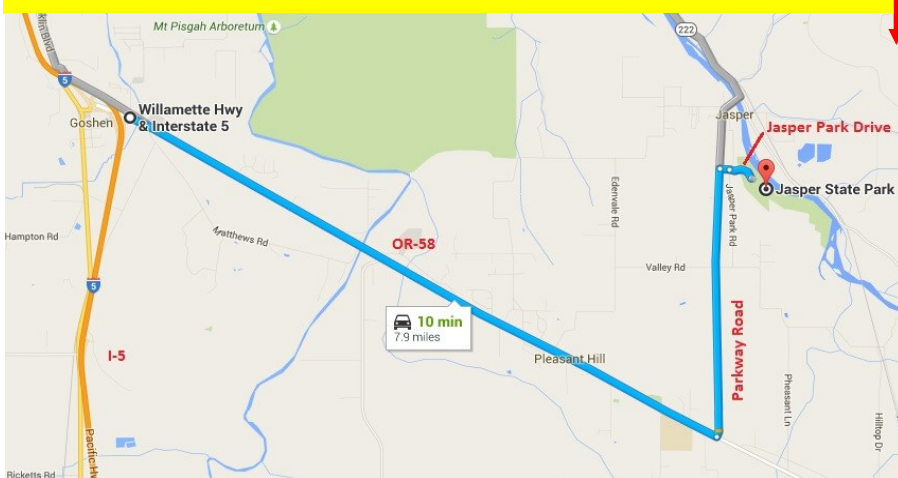
From I-5 (either north or southbound):

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 this year is free because our event is on Oregon State Parks Day.

Usually, 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 **Saturday, June 7th 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, a cooking area and restrooms.

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



All you need to bring is a potluck dish or dessert, 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-J please bring a salad or side dish; if K-Z, bring a dessert.

The picnic is free for chapter members and their families. If you bring a guest, a \$5.00 donation is requested. However, if your guest is a prospective member, they, of course, eat free. There is no charge for parking this year as our picnic falls on Oregon State Parks Day... how's that for great planning?

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

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.

REMEMBER to bring your returnable bottles and cans for our fundraiser.

"Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." - Adlai Stevenson
"A man may climb Everest for himself, but at the summit he plants his country's flag." - Margaret Thatcher



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 28 May 2025

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President John Toensing, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Frank Balazs, Scott Sandgathe, Michael Kennedy, Ken Evans and Tom Kulick. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Bard called the meeting to order at 1201 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Michael Kennedy gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 17 April 2025 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for April 17 – May 27, 2025

(Full Treasurer's Report will be filed and attached to the newsletter distribution email)

Chapter Operations as of May 27, 2025 **\$ 4632.91**

Veterans Services Fund: added \$0 in donations **\$ 2534.05**

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund **\$ 3478.84**

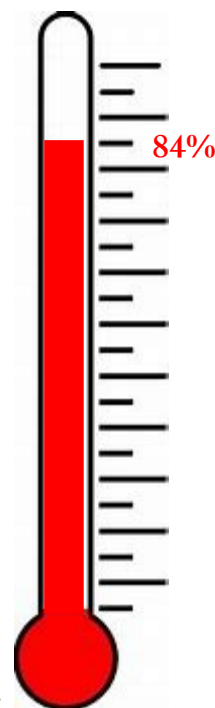
Cadet Dinner Fund: **\$ 187.40**

NOTES: The Bottle Drop Account (Veterans Services Fund) is \$1110.39 as of May 26, 2025.

May 31, 2025, will mark the end of the ROTC 2025 Fund Drive. \$1000 is committed to a Cadet and will be dispersed in September. The remaining funds will be moved to the ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund, and the 2026 ROTC Scholarship Drive will begin on June 1, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 501(c)(3) progress: LOD received yet? The Letter of Determination has not yet been received. The Chapter will continue conducting daily operations in current accounts.
2. Picnic preparations: The Chapter still needs to find a replacement project head for John Toensing. This year Ken will bring two barbecues, Floyd will bring iced beverages in coolers, Dick will help John load groceries and corn cooker, Scott will bring tablecloths for potluck line, and Eric Watkins will bring the flag. We still need to find who will prepare and bring tomatoes, lettuce and onions.
3. ROTC dinner recap: A great party. Thanks to all those who brought gifts for the door prizes, to Joe Snyder for having the cadets spread out through all the tables, to the cadets who kept their table-mates entertained, to the members who presented the gold bars during self-introductions and to Mac's for the great meal.
4. BottleDrop report from Earth Week: We submitted 49 bags of returnables during the EarthWeek event, scoring an additional \$87 over and above the normal payments.
5. Guest Speakers for Sep – Nov, BG Hoffman will assist with military-themed speakers: The board prefers a 50-50 mix of military and community speakers. John will work with Floyd and Norm to identify them.
6. "Thoughts from the Board" schedule: Elaine has already submitted the article for the June newsletter. Floyd will fill in with "President's Corner" articles when the board has no offerings.



**2025
DUES
PAID**

"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 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/>. 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)

7. MOAA Database, Committee Module access update: 52 changes need to be made to the national MOAA database. Ken and Pat will be working on it and should show significant progress by the next board meeting.
8. MOAA table at UO Spring Football game: John and Ken spent three hours in the cold wind with very little to show for it. The light traffic only brought three eligible people to the table, but all were from out of town. Ken thinks that with a better location, and the end of entrance construction next year, that we should have better luck. Using an “easy-up” canopy would assure a dry spot in case it rains.
9. Luncheon attendance issues and cost increase: Mac’s has told us that their minimum attendance to put on a luncheon is 25. If we have less members making reservations, we will have to make up the difference or cancel the luncheon. The board thought if the issue comes up again, we should make up the difference then discuss whether this is a trend that we will have to make a policy on.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Membership Issues, advertising, attending Veteran Events: John thought that advertising in the Register-Guard, print and online, could help us find eligible members within the community. He worked with R-G advertising and found we could place a small ad three times for less than \$300. R-G could help with the layout for no extra cost. The board decided to discuss it further at the next meeting with the thought of possibly preparing something around Veterans Day using all local newspapers.
2. The board will have a MOAA table at the Flag Day event at Eugene Elks on 14 June (see below).

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: John Toensing - Personal Affairs (Health, Welfare, Surviving Spouse), House Committee, Newsletter, Webmaster, Purchasing Projects):

National MOAA provided feedback on our award nominations for the Comms and Levels of Excellence awards. Though we consistently win 5-Star ratings on all the awards, the judges stated that “Failure to take action on guidance provided could impact the level of award received.” So noted.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Dick Kimbell - Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BCF)

See 1st Vice President report above.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Lawanda Manning Memorial Sickie Cell Blood Drive, Eugene Elks, June 19th, 1000 to 1400. Some slots are still available. To make reservations call 1-800-733-2767, 1,1 and ask for the Eugene Elks blood drive on June 19th.
2. Eugene Elks will be hosting a “Hot Dog Barbecue” on Flag Day, 14 June. Times and details will be posted in the June newsletter. Entertainment and military displays. Free for all.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC: Saturday, 7 Jun 2025, noon; Jasper State Park

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, 25 Jun 2025, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1333 hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

TAPS

Earl L Hain, LTC, USA (Ret), passed away on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, after a long illness. Earl served from June 1958 through September 1983. He was predeceased by his wife, Carol Gemmell-Hain on November 16, 2013.

2025 ROTC RECOGNITION DINNER

This year's ROTC Recognition Dinner was a great success. The cadets were all turned out in their Army greens, bringing back a few memories in our older members about the brown-shoe Army. Several members also wore their uniforms.



MSIV Gisela Rivera

At the start of the program we noticed that we had no Chaplains in attendance. Who was going to give our invocation? Just then MSIV Gisela Rivera, soon to enter the Army Chaplain Corps upon graduation, stepped forward and did a commendable job of preparing us for the meal and the events of the evening.

In a new twist during self-introductions, chapter members introduced the graduating seniors seated at their tables and presented them with their "first" gold second lieutenant bars.

After a fine meal of very tasty beef pot roast, the Professor of Military Science, LTC Joe Snyder, said a few words about this year's ROTC program highlights. Then Chapter 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell presented the three MOAA scholarship winners with their medals, certificates and presentation checks for their \$1,000 scholarships... reminding them, of course, that "the

check was in the mail." Actual funds are sent to their student accounts when they re-enroll in September.

Joe Snyder then called up the ten graduating MS IV cadets and BG Hoffman presented them with the chapter's MOAA medallions. The General then charged the soon-to-



2025 University of Oregon ROTC Graduating Class and Scholarship Winners

(Front row, from left to right) Jamie Spiegel, MSIII Ivy Fleury, Gisela Rivera, Lydia Emory, MSII Eden Fisher, Hailey Lewetag, Khaner Swanson. (Back row) Jamie Waldemar, Evan Holland, Treben Webb, Jackson Callahan, Kevin Hughes, MSII Nicholas Walker



2025 ROTC RECOGNITION DINNER (continued)

be-commissioned officers to make “Integrity” their key to everything they did in the service.

Then it was time for Jim Koch to take over and dispense with the more than 50 raffle prizes, ranging from ROTC and National Guard swag to restaurant gift certificates. Jim made sure that every cadet had an opportunity to grab a prize from the table. Many thanks go to the members who gathered prizes from our local vendors, and especially to those members who bought and furnished prizes themselves.

As usual at these gatherings, both the cadets and the members seemed to really appreciate the opportunity to share their experiences. As LTC Snyder said, the military science program has really started to grow again and they expect to have larger graduating classes every year.



MS II Nicholas Walker

Nicholas Walker is an MS2 Cadet at the University of Oregon. He is currently studying Business. Nicholas is from San Diego, CA and the son of an Australian immigrant. Upon graduation he hopes to branch Aviation and serve in the Ranger Battalion. In his free time, he focuses on bodybuilding and everything fitness related.



MS II Eden Fisher

Eden Fisher is a ROTC cadet at the University of Oregon. She is currently a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her preferred branch is to become a Medical Services officer in the Army. Eden is from Henderson, Nevada, but spent most of her life growing up in the Bay Area of California. In her free time, she enjoys playing piano, cooking, and spending time with friends.



MS III Ivy Fleury

Ivy Fleury is a MS3 Cadet studying Psychology at the University of Oregon. She is also currently enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard. Ivy is an Oregon native and when she graduates and commissions, she hopes to branch Aviation to fly Blackhawks in the National Guard. She enjoys hiking and skiing in her free time.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

What is the Chapter Operations Fund? Is it just Dues?

The Chapter Operations (CO) Fund is one of four designated funds within the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA and is the one that serves as the administrative backbone to support our mission to provide scholarships for ROTC cadets and assist local veterans service organizations. The fund is composed of the annual member dues, currently set at \$25, and member donations specifically targeted to Chapter Operations. Additionally, any donations to the Emerald Chapter that are not specified, are allocated to Chapter Operations, allowing us the flexibility to direct those resources where they are most needed. By maintaining a robust CO Fund, we ensure that our administrative costs are covered, enabling us to focus on our core mission of supporting future leaders and those who have served our country.

Within the CO Fund, dues are meant to cover the basic administrative costs, (facility use, office supplies, mail box fees, chapter and state registration fees, insurance, website maintenance). Also included is the Jasper Park Annual Picnic, which has been an annual event for many years, and is entirely paid for by the Chapter. The monthly luncheons are meant to be self-paying. We use the modest income from the door prizes to pay for our speaker gifts.

Unfortunately, with decreasing membership and an inflationary economy, the dues no longer cover these expenses. In 2024, we were \$500 short and this year, we anticipate being \$700-\$900 short. The options are increasing our membership and/or increase the dues. This will be an ongoing discussion at our board meetings. Please feel free to give us your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Callahan, Treasurer

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OUR CHAPTER'S FUTURE

The Emerald Empire Chapter has a lot to be proud of as we have ascended to become a chapter that gives donations, manages a robust scholarship program, and has an enthusiastic membership with an award winning newsletter and website. This is what many chapters strive to achieve. All of this is only possible with a strong Board of Directors that possesses leadership qualities and integrity. Looking forward, we do not want to lose momentum. We can only prevent this from happening with a list of competent candidates that will replace outgoing board members and officers. We have until October to develop that list. Some of our Board Members have been in place for a number of years and now intend on stepping down. I will be in contact with many of you this summer, or you may make contact with me. I appeal to you to consider becoming a new Officer, Board Member, or volunteering to serve on a Committee.

Thanks....Dick Norton, Past President and Chairman, Chapter Nominating Committee



ShredFest 2025

The Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU) is once again putting on their annual ShredFest, but instead of in May as they usually do, they have chosen to have it on Saturday, June 7th... the day of our annual picnic. However, since it runs from 9:00am to 2:00pm, you can stop by on your way to the picnic... it takes less than five minutes. Drive into the parking area at 2880 Chad Drive (next door to COSTCO). You can bring up to four banker-size boxes of stuff per person. OCCU recommends you shred old bank statements, tax records, receipts and files, bills or invoices, or any other documents containing personal information. There is no cost for this service, but OCCU is collecting non-perishable goods for Food for Lane County if you would like to donate.



BOOSTERS

5-Star Winners Yet Again

The Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Awards
NEWSLETTER



Pat Harris

Levels of Excellence
Award



You, the members of
The Emerald Empire Chapter

The Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Awards
WEBSITE



Ginger Banks



Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 96 regular and surviving spouse 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.

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 will now have zeroed out the 2025 Booster Fund and start accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2025 ROTC Booster Fund. Thank you.

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)
Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)
Judy Van Scholten, CIV	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Lynette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Cabot Clark, LTC, USA (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret)	John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ) USA (Ret)
Michele Mort, LCDR, USN (Ret)	Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)	Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret)
Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) in memory of Patrick Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) and "Mike" Reuter, LTC, USA (Ret)		
Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)
Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	Michael Lee, COL, USA (Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Dale Offet, CPT, USA (Ret)		Wilson "Bo" Muhlheim, CPT, USA (Fmr)

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

ROTC Commissioning: The University of Oregon ROTC graduating cadets will be commissioned on Tuesday, 17 June at 1400 at the Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E. 13th Avenue, Eugene.

Thank YOU: A special thank you goes out to all who responded to our call for help with raffle prizes for the ROTC Recognition Dinner. You were very generous and the smiles on the cadets' faces after the dust settled was very gratifying. Thank you again.

Our State Legislature in Action

When asked about the progress of Senate Bill 225, Oregon State Senator James Manning, a honorary chapter member, said, "So far so good." The bill, which states, "There shall be subtracted from federal taxable income for a taxpayer who has attained 63 years of age before the close of the taxable year and whose federal taxable income includes federal retirement pay or pension for service in the Armed Forces of the United States up to \$17,500 in federal retirement pay or pension received for service in the Armed Forces of the United States."

The bill is currently in the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue, and is scheduled for a work session on Wednesday, 28 May at 8:00am. Senator Manning promises to update us soon.



Flag Day Ceremony, Flag Retirement, US Army 250th Birthday, and Father's Day Bar-B-Que

Please join us on Saturday June 14, 2025

Flag Day Ceremony Starts at 11:00am

Followed By:

Flag Retirement Ceremony
Presented by: Boy Scouts
&

Father's Day BBQ at 12:30pm
Hot Dogs and all the Fixing's

COST: Free for Father's, Active & Retired Military & ALL

PLEASE RSVP BY: Wednesday June 11th, 2025

~~~~~ Eugene Elks Lodge #357 | 2470 W 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene, 97402 | 541-345-8416 ~~~~~

## New Members Welcome

If you know someone who is eligible to join MOAA, just ask them to come out and have lunch with us. What can it hurt? First meal is free to prospective members. The picnic will be the last chance to bring a prospective member to lunch until the next meeting on Wednesday, September 10th.

# D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

Some lesser known facts about D-Day:

- In October 1941, Winston Churchill told Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten to start thinking about an invasion of Europe: "Unless we can go on land and fight Hitler and beat his forces on land, we shall never win this war."
- On 7 December 1943, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with US General Dwight D. Eisenhower in Tunis and told him he would be commanding the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe.
- Eisenhower smoked up to four packets of Camel cigarettes a day in the months running up to D-Day. In contrast, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery was completely sober; he did not smoke or drink.
- The basic pay for a British infantryman was 3 pounds and 15 shillings a month. Unskilled laborers could earn 6 pounds per month. On the other hand, US soldiers earned in the region of £12 per month. As a result, they were very popular with young British women, and 70,000 British women married American servicemen during the war. Approximately 9,000 children were born out of wedlock to American GI fathers.
- On the eve of D-Day, the Allies had 15,766 aircraft available, and by June 1944, Luftwaffe aircraft were outnumbered by more than 30-to-1 in the western theatre of the war.
- The Allies didn't lose a single plane to the Luftwaffe, although anti-aircraft fire did shoot down 113 planes.
- Around 7,000 vessels of all shapes and sizes were used by the Allies on D-Day, including 139 major warships, 221 smaller combat vessels, more than 1,000 minesweepers and auxiliary vessels, 805 merchant ships, 59 blockships and 300 miscellaneous small craft. Over 4,000 landing craft were used to transport the invasion force onto the beaches of Normandy.
- Shortly after midnight on 6 June, around 24,000 US, British and Canadian airborne troops began landing in France. Just one-in-six landed in the correct place.
- In order to continue supplying fuel to the invasion armies, the so-called "PipeLine Under The Ocean" (PLUTO) was laid. This delivered Allied fuel directly from England to France. US tanks were consuming an average 8,000 gallons of fuel per week at that time.
- Although the Allied forces who took part in the D-Day operation were primarily from Britain, the US and Canada, they also had Australian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, New Zealand, Norwegian, Rhodesian and Polish naval, air and ground support.



## MOAA... What We Do

We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters 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 targeting the Lane County veteran population.



**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**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.

**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  
JUNE 14TH**

**U.S. ARMY**

