



The Bugle



The 5 Star Award Winning newsletter for the members and friends of Olympia Area Chapter (WA 04) of the Military Officers Association of America, a 501(c)(3) organization,
 P.O. Box 5957, Lacey, Washington 98509-5957
 Number 09, September, 2022

Greetings Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Members,

Let me begin with the great news that the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter has been recognized for its hard work in 2021 as a Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter for the twelfth straight year! This latest recognition is in addition to our Five Star Newsletter and Four Star Website Communications Awards received earlier this year. We are in the process of migrating to a new website listed at the top of page two. It is not fully populated yet, but there is a contact feature, so you can take a look at the site then use that feature to send in any suggestions you have for additional content that would be useful.

My thanks to those who attended our August meeting. We gathered at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel again, which went well. With a coordinated bus from Panorama, it is the next best thing to being there for our Panorama resident members until we can arrange a return. We received an excellent brief on current USO Northwest programs. They are definitely putting our donations to good use! They have lost a lot of their pre-COVID volunteer force, particularly at SEATAC, so if you feel moved to volunteer, or know people who live closer who might be interested, go to www.volunteers.uso.org to find out how to get started.

I do hope I will see many of you at our September meeting. We will meet at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel again on 21 September. Slots has scheduled a brief about Medic One from Kurt Hardin, Director, Thurston County Emergency Services Department. Come on out for some good food, an important presentation, and mostly for the chance to visit with your fellow MOAA chapter members!

I was honored to participate in three events in August. The first was the very exciting 100th birthday party for chapter member Barbara Nichols, retired Army Nurse Corps LTC. Barb has led such an amazing life of service, building Flying Fortresses and serving as an Army Nurse in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. What an inspiration! Her Daughters of the American Revolution chapters put on an impressive party with numerous organizations paying tribute, including MOAA, Army Nurse Corps, DAR, WDVA and more. I was also moved to attend the memorial service for Woody Williams, Medal of Honor recipient and creator of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. His was also an amazing life of service. The fundraiser for the memorial held that same day was also an impressive event and I look forward to the unveiling of the monument later this year at the Lacey Civic Plaza.

I am blown away by our successful fundraising for Fisher House! Let's see if we can achieve similar success for Santa's Castle this quarter. If you are interested in learning more about the Castle, they will be holding an open house September 22 from 4-7pm. Of course we will also continue to collect funds for our scholarship year round. Before you know it, it will be time to start soliciting scholarship applications and collecting balls for our Santa's Castle sports ball drive.

Stay safe and stay well.

Carrie Nielson, Chapter President

02 Sep – VJ Day WWII
 05 Sep – Labor Day
 11 Sep – 911 Remembrance

17 Sep – Citizenship and Constitution Days
 22 Sep – Autumn Equinox, Fall Begins
 Sep – Hispanic Heritage Month



Be sure to add the new chapter web page, <https://olympiamoaa.org> and its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MOAAOlympiaAreaChapter/> to your favorite sites.

2022 Officers

President: CAPT Carrie Nielson, USN,
also Newsletter Editor, 847-361-7917,
candrnielson@comcast.net

1st VP: COL Dave Slotwinski, USA,
Programs, 360-292-3624

2nd VP: CWO3 Jim Richards, USA,
Membership, 360-459-2217, slimrjc@aol.com

Secretary: CPT Ro Marcus, USA
360-561-7451

Treasurer: Col Bill Moseley, USAF
360-688-7626

Immediate Past President: COL
Dave Slotwinski, USA

2022 Board of Directors

Ruth Brigden, SSP, Surviving Spouse
Liaison, 360-438-5786

CWO4 Bryon Burgess, WANG, 360-
459-2717

Col Sam Cagle, USAF, Newsletter Co-
Editor, 360-456- 8509, caglels@comcast.net

LtCol DeFrance Clarke, USAF, 360-438-5520
Maj Chris Dearing, USAF, 253-677-6713

LTC Steve Edwards, USA, 915-306-0629

LtCol Douglas White, USAF, Chaplain, 253-
686-8966

***Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the**
Tacoma Room of the Quinault Building
(Panorama main bldg) 2nd Wednesday.
All members are welcome to attend
these meetings. **Board will meet via
Zoom until further notice.

President Joseph Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1414
president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Patty Murray
[Http://murray.senate.gov](http://murray.senate.gov)
950 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 650
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253)572-3636

Senator Maria Cantwell
<http://cantwell.senate.gov>
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253)572-2281

U.S. Rep Jaime Herrera-Beutler (3rd
District) www.house.gov/herrerabeutler
350 N. Market Blvd.
Chehalis, WA 98532(not a mailing address)
(360) 695-6292

U.S. Rep Derek Kilmer (6th District)
www.house.gov/kilmer
345 6th St, Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
(360)373-9725

U.S. Rep Adam Smith (9th District)
www.adamsmith.house.gov
101 Evergreen Building
15 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA
98057
(425)793-5180

U.S. Rep Marilyn Strickland (10th District)
420 College St SE, Suite 3000
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 459-8514

Time to Gear Up for Santa's Castle

Santa's Castle has provided Christmas since 1994 to the children of Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve families experiencing financial difficulty. In 2021, 2,633 children from 1,245 families were served by Santa's Castle. A grand total of \$219,981 in toys, books, games, bikes, and stocking stuffers were given out.

Santa's Castle is operated entirely by volunteers. Their donors and volunteers are dedicated to ensuring the children of our military heroes receive Christmas gifts, making their holidays brighter.

Each year from September through November our MOAA chapter collects monetary contributions to be donated to Santa's Castle. The contributions are critical to making Santa's Castle successful in achieving its mission.

We also encourage any chapter members interested in volunteering to consider serving as elves at Santa's Castle, helping service members and spouses shop for their children at the castle. This year, toy distribution will occur November 28-December 2 and December 5-9. If you can spare the time, consider volunteering as an elf. It only requires a brief training session and then at least one 2-4 hour shift at the castle. Santa's Castle anticipates holding an open house **22 September from 4-7pm** and training sessions in November. Volunteers need only attend one training session. Our chapter Point of Contact for this effort is Dave Slotwinski (360-292-3624).

Meanwhile, please consider including a little something extra in your monthly check to be donated to this worthy cause. Goal is \$1,200.

From the Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance as of 31 Aug 2022:

Checking	\$10,662.69
Prime Shares	\$ 3,624.52
Total	\$14,287.21

Charitable Donations Update:

NWYLC	*\$ 150.00
USO	**\$ 172.00
Fisher House	\$3,273.00
Santa's Castle	\$ 622.00
Scholarship	***\$ 870.00

*Have paid for NWYLC 2022.

**Have paid \$1,300 to USO for 2022.

***We have paid out all 5 scholarships for 2022.

(goals: NWYLC \$1,350, USO \$1,400, FH \$1,000, Santa's Castle \$1,200, Scholarship \$2,000)

Olympia Sustains 5 Star Level of Excellence!!

***** In August the results were published and Olympia Area Chapter was again recognized as a Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter. *****

Treasurer's Comments

The financial health of our chapter is very good. We have operated this year well within the budget approved at the annual meeting. Part of our budget includes donations to our charitable support organizations/programs. At the beginning of the year, your board of directors established donation goals for each. Through your generous donations, we have met or exceeded most of our goals. During this quarter, we target our donations for Santa's Castle with a goal of \$1200. Also, we are collecting donations for our scholarship program each month throughout the year. Over the past two years, we have awarded ten \$1000 scholarships to area high school students. This could not have happened without your donations. These awards plus the donations to our charitable organizations have enhanced the MOAA brand in our community, aided students pursuing a college education, and helped fund organizations that support our military family. You help us live the MOAA motto of "Never Stop Serving." Thanks!



Allen Acosta, Barbara Nichols and Carrie Nielson at Barbara's 100th Birthday party on 19 August at the Army Museum on JBLM North. It was a wonderful celebration attended by roughly 100 friends and family members with music, refreshments and several tributes from MOAA, DAR, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and many others.



Chapter member Allen Acosta presiding over memorial for Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams at the site for the Gold Star Families Memorial in Lacey. Gold Star Memorial Foundation of Lacey and Woody Williams Foundation are set to unveil the Gold Star Families Monument in October, one of the handful of projects Woody was overseeing before his passing: <https://goldstarmemorialfoundationlacey.com> The memorial service on 20 August was a moving tribute to Woody, to all who serve, and to our Gold Star Families.



Photos courtesy of Allen Acosta

Federal Legislative Update and Call to Action

House and Senate of the 117th Congress are on recess, returning mid-September. Veteran advocates scored a mega win with the newly signed PACT ACT, which adds 23 new presumptive conditions from toxic exposure as eligible for VA health care. There are approximately 3.5M service members who have been exposed to the toxic fumes in various deployed locations including Southeast Asia, Gulf War and post-9/11 eras. As the Beatles sang in 1970, “It has been a long and winding road” to achieving VA health care to fix health problems first detected in about 2004 with the appearance of inexplicable pulmonary complaints by service members. 18 years later, on August 10th, the President signed “The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act” (PACT Act). Coverage is now extended from SWA victims to Vietnam Agent Orange victims to victims of the recent Camp Lejeune toxic water discovery. 14,000 messages from MOAA members flowed to legislators supporting this Act in the last four weeks prior to passage. 60 Veteran Service Organizations joined with MOAA to push this Act through despite last minute legislative gymnastics in the Senate. **Lesson learned:** Never give up. “Never Stop Serving.” Many times, over the past six months, we were ready to “pop the champagne corks” only to have another hurdle appear. Hard core advocacy work overcame each and every obstacle. So, with that lesson learned in mind we need to keep an eye on the implementation of Act. Getting it signed into law will be a hollow victory without affected veterans actually getting meaningful care. Also, if long term relentless advocacy is the lesson learned from the “Widow’s Tax” and the PACT Act efforts, we must exert the same determination to The Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344).

This bill was introduced into the Senate in February 2021. It permits a veteran with a combat related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay and disability compensation concurrently without reduction. Over 50,000 medically retired veterans are forbidden from receiving their full retirement pay and disability compensation right now. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this unfair offset, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability. Reducing the retirement pay of combat-disabled veterans is just plain wrong. We must double down on previous efforts to encourage Congress to pass the Richard Star Act to eliminate this injustice...and in less than 18 years! And, that is an improvement over the 20+ years it took to get the Widow’s Tax (SBP/DIC Offset) repealed. We cannot wait that long to correct this inequity.

The House version of the Act (H.R.1282) has passed 295 cosponsors. That is a magic number qualifying the bill for the House consensus calendar following a motion by its lead sponsor, Rep Bilirakis (R-Fla). That motion occurred on August 12. By House rules any bill on the consensus calendar is automatically forwarded to the floor for vote. One bill per week. This bill is the 8th bill on the calendar. While time is short, senior House members can waive budgetary rules and bring H.R. 1282 up for a vote. Senator Tester has agreed to push the Senate version, S-344, as an amendment to the Senate’s draft of the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to contact their Senators and Representatives and express their support for the Major Richard Star Act now.

Legislatively, we are trying to fill an inside straight to get this bill passed and signed this fiscal year given the small number of days remaining in the 117th congressional calendar. However, miracles rarely occur without Herculean effort. Passage of both the PACT Act and the Widow’s Tax happened because of efforts from veteran support organizations like MOAA. Let’s go for the hat trick with The Richard Star Act. Our disabled veterans deserve the effort.

Never give up: Never Quit Serving!

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Congress made changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to phase out the offset for surviving spouses who are also receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

On January 1, 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be fully eliminated. SBP payments will no longer be offset (reduced) by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP (issued by DFAS) and full DIC (from the VA). There is no action you need to take as a retiree for the changes to apply to your surviving spouse. However, you should check your RAS to ensure your SBP beneficiary is up to date. This is especially important if you have a former spouse. Find out more at: <https://www.dfas.mil/SBPforspouse>

Also, if your monthly premiums are not automatically deducted from your pay, you should ensure your account does not have unpaid monthly premiums. If you pass away with unpaid monthly premiums, this could cause hardship for your survivors. Learn more: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforSBP>

For more details on the changes to SBP, DFAS has a special SBP-DIC News webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>

from DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay

21 September 2022 Dinner Meeting RSVP and Chapter Payment/Donation Form

Please fill out/check the appropriate items:

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

(please provide if there has been any change)

****Please RSVP NLT 19 September.**

1. I ___do___ do not intend to attend the dinner meeting. My dinner entrée choice is ___Slow Roast Beef with Red Wine Reduction, ___Pork Loin with Apple Chutney, or ___Wild Rice and Quinoa Stuffed Mushroom. They are all served with Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes and Roasted Root Vegetables. Cost \$28.

2. If you live at Panorama and would like to ride the bus, DeFrance Clarke is in charge of procuring bus transportation. He needs names to pass to the staff. Your account will be charged \$3 for the ride. _____Yes, I want to ride the bus from Panorama. Please email DeFrance Clarke NLT 16 September to confirm at defrance@usa.net.

3. I wish to pay my 2022 Chapter Dues of _____(\$20 for members and spouses, \$10 for surviving spouses, which were due as of 01 January 2022). **** At this time, 58 members have not paid for their 2022 dues. If you are unsure of your dues payment status, give Jim Richards a call, or send him an email, to confirm (360-459-2217, slimrjc@aol.com).**

4. I wish to donate \$ _____ toward our Santa's Castle fundraiser.

5. I wish to donate \$ _____ toward our scholarship fund.

6. My check, in the amount of \$ _____, is enclosed to cover the above indicated items.

You can mail this form with check to Olympia Area Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 5957, Lacey, WA 98509-5957.

ALTERNATE PAYMENT OPTION: Members can pay dues and make charitable donations online. Dues can be paid for one, two or three years. This tool also allows for a maximum donation of \$100. It will only allow one charitable category at a time. So, it is set up to go to our quarterly charity. Here's the link: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>
No login information is needed. Once you select the state and chapter, the payment made will go to that chapter. You only need to pay your dues once a year, but you can use this system to make charitable donations any time of year and as many times as you want.

**At this time, you cannot pay for the dinner online. You can either mail in a check to pay for dinner, or pay upon arrival at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel on the night of the dinner meeting. On the night of, we can accept checks or exact change cash, \$28 for dinner plus any desired donation amount. Thank you.

August Chapter Meeting

We met at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel, again in August. The room was spacious for our group. The Italian themed food was good and plentiful for the price and the wait staff eager to please. We had a fully stocked and manned bar at our disposal throughout our meeting. It was a real pleasure to be joined by Don Leingang, Executive Director of USO Northwest, and his wife and daughter. Don gave us a brief on current USO facilities and services. USO Northwest has merged with USO and is no longer a separate franchise, but we are still able to specify that we wish the funds we donate to stay local and benefit the troops in the Pacific Northwest.

September Chapter Meeting

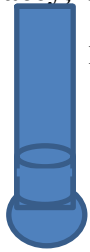
We will meet at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel, 2300 Evergreen Park Dr, Olympia, WA, on **Wednesday, 21 September**. We gather starting between **5:00 and 5:30** for social, with dinner served at 6:00. We ask that everyone RSVP and place their orders ahead of time. The cost for the dinner will be **\$28 per person**, which includes pre-set water/iced tea, coffee service, starter salad, garlic bread, chef's choice dessert, choice of entrée: Slow Roast Beef with Red Wine Reduction, Pork Loin with Apple Chutney, or Wild Rice and Quinoa Stuffed Mushroom, all served with Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes and Roasted Root Vegetables. The price includes tax and tip.

I have modified our usual dues/charity contribution form to include a dinner RSVP/order line. You can print/cut it out and mail it to the chapter mailbox with your RSVP/dinner order. Or you can call or email the chapter president or treasurer to RSVP and place your order. You can send your check, to include payment for the dinner as well as any charitable contribution, in with the order form, or you can pay at the door when you come to the dinner, BUT you **must RSVP NLT morning of 19 September for dinner**. We have to give numbers to the restaurant beforehand. If you pay at the door, we can accept check or exact change cash for the dinner plus any charitable donation you are making.

For Panorama residents, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus for transportation. He will need to provide names of those wishing to ride the bus to and from dinner, so the right size bus can be provided and residents' accounts can be properly charged for the ride (\$3 each). Please RSVP to DeFrance at defrance@usa.net to let him know if you plan to ride the Panorama bus. ****Please RSVP no later than 16 September for bus transport.**

Our guest speaker will be the Kurt Hardin, Director, Thurston County Emergency Services Department.

Olympia Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 5957
Lacey, WA 98509-5957



Fisher House Fundraiser
\$3273.00 2022 raised

\$1000.00 2022 goal



Surviving Spouse Corner – Military Retirees and Dependents with ID Cards that Don’t Expire Need to Get Replacements within 4 Years

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it’s convenient – as long as it’s done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department. There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026.

The department recommends that those with old ID cards with no expiration date replace these cards at their convenience by going to “ID Card Office Online” (type that into your internet search engine without the quotation marks, or click on <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>) and make an appointment at your nearest convenient ID card issuing office. Please pass the word to retirees and family members who don’t get this newsletter.

Added note of clarification from one of our members who recently visited an ID card office based on this article and received the following guidance: if you have an ID card that still has your SSN on it, you definitely need to get it replaced. If you have an ID card that has your DoD ID number instead, then you are OK.



Tribute to Woody Williams at the fundraiser for the Gold Star Memorial with a photo of what the memorial will look like. Photo by Allen Acosta

Editorial Policy: The Olympia Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any inference of partisanship is unintended.