



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and best wishes that you are enjoying our beautiful weather. We had an average turnout for our July luncheon to hear Wesley Wuco, Executive Director, Armed Services YMCA Pacific Northwest update us on their programs on JBLM and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Wes gave an excellent, informative presentation highlighting how the high cost of living in our area causes financial strain on junior enlisted families, exacerbated by limited access to child care, limited spouse employment opportunities, and increasing food insecurities. He further discussed how his organization provides a "child waiting" room at Madigan AMC to help parents make their scheduled appointments and their initiative to start a food pantry on JBLM. This food pantry will be located on North Fort Lewis and should be operational in September.

Our next big event is the presentation of "gold bars" to Army National Guard OCS graduates. The graduation ceremony is scheduled to be held on the JBLM Main Parade Field between 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM on August 7. Following the graduation ceremony, the OCS graduates will be bused to their barracks area for an end of course BBQ, some field games and our presentation of their first set of gold bars. This year the class is smaller than normal and the staff anticipates approximately 50 graduates. If all activities go as planned, we should be presenting the gold bars at approximately 6:15 PM. The location is BLDG 3418, 3rd Division Drive, JBLM. It is the last building before the Ranger Battalion compound. Enter JBLM through the Main Gate; stay on 41st Division Drive S to Pendleton Ave and turn left on Pendleton Ave. From Pendleton Ave, turn right on 3rd Division Drive and follow it to the event location.

Next watch for details on the Thurston County United Way Day of Caring on September 26. The charity we will be supporting is the South Sound Reading Foundation. Look for Ro's Bugle article containing the event details.



**FIVE 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





**15 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER**

At the July meeting we held a discussion about holding our August and September meetings as dinner meetings at venues away from Panorama. There was overwhelming support to do this and so we are moving forward. Our August 20 meeting will be held at Mercato's in downtown Olympia near the Farmers Market and our September meeting at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club off Yelm Highway. Both meetings will follow our past dinner meeting protocols with a social at 5:30 PM and dinner served at 6:00 PM. For the August meeting, the meal choices are either Penne Pasta with Chicken, Pumpkin Ravioli, or Rigatoni with Bolognese. Cost is \$36.50 and includes tax and gratuity. The August meeting is a social meeting with no speaker and is an opportunity to meet and talk with new members and we believe that having a couple of dinner meetings will allow for participation by those with daytime commitments that can't get away to join us at our luncheons.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, August 13, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, August 20, social @ 5:30 PM, meeting called to order at 6:00 PM. The location is Mercato's at 111 Market St NE, Olympia, WA 98501-6903

See you on the 20th.

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski

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2025 OFFICERS

President:
Dave "Slots" Slotwinski
COL, USA, Ret

1stVP (Programs):
Dave Slotwinski COL, USA, Ret

2nd VP (Membership):
Carrie Nielson CAPT, USN, Ret
Assistant Communications Director

Secretary:
Roselyn "Ro" Marcus CPT, USA
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Treasurer:
William "Bill" Moseley
Col, USAF, Ret

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

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Christine McManus,
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Communications Director

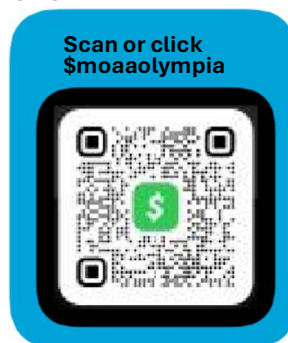
Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret

Treasurer's Report

CASH APP:

Checking account balance:	\$9,105.42
Savings account balance:	\$3,658.98
Total:	\$12,764.40

Note from the Treasurer: Nothing to report for this month.



Treasurer Bill Moseley presents MOAA Olympia Chapter donation of \$1535 to Santa's Castle for 2024. Photo by Santa's Castle Staff

Charity	Balance as Of 07/31/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$1,394.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$991.00	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$495.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$1,269.00	\$4000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$5,739.86	\$4500.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

2025 OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are in the final pay-out phase for the 2025 scholarship program. Keep in mind that donations are accepted year-round for the Olympia Area MOAA Scholarship fund, as we look forward to the 2026 season.

Fisher House

Fisher House provides service members and their families a comfortable, nurturing and secure home away from home when they receive medical care at Madigan Army Medical Center. The JBLM Fisher House can serve 18 families in- house with their two facilities and other eligible families at off-site locations completely free of cost. Fisher House worldwide has housed over 500,000 families, saving military families over \$610 million in lodging, food and transportation costs. This is what your donations this quarter will support! Our goal for this year is \$1200. We are more than three quarters of the way there, so let's see if we can't exceed that goal! Don't forget that your donations are tax-deductible.

Excellent July Meeting

The July meeting presentation was impressive, as we heard from Wesley Wuco, of the Armed Services YMCA. He told us about his organization and its efforts on JBLM to help service members and their families. He spoke of the serious challenges posed by the high cost of living and the shortage of childcare. The Armed Services YMCA offers Summer Camps, a Children's Waiting Room at Madigan AMC to help parents keep their appointments, Operation Ride Home to help soldiers get home from distant duty stations in times of need, and they are working on establishing a Food Pantry on Fort Lewis to combat the increasing struggles with food insecurity. He told us they are the oldest military support organization in the country, and they are always happy to receive donations and/or volunteers. Wesley Wuco, Executive Director, Armed Services YMCA Pacific Northwest, 253-660-0567, wwuco@asymca.org



Left: Speaker Wesley Wuco at July lunch meeting. (Photo by Allen Acosta)

Above: Wesley Wuco talking about Armed Services YMCA at JBLM. (Photo by Allen Acosta)

United Way Day of Caring 2025 – by Ro Marcus

United Way of Thurston County's Day of Caring is its largest volunteer event of the year—bringing together individuals, businesses, and organizations to make a hands-on difference. From landscaping and painting to harvesting gardens and providing needed services, we can continue to serve, build community, and show what it means to LIVE



Photo 1

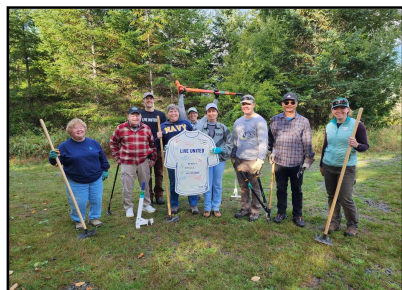


Photo 2

Nurtures Farm get ready for winter (photo 1). Our last event was in 2024, when we helped clean up a nature preserve (photo 2).

This year, Day of Caring is Friday, September 26, 2025, and once again our chapter has registered to participate. We will be helping the South Sound Reading Foundation with tasks related to donated books; such as unpacking, cataloguing, checking condition of books, cleaning them as needed and possibly placing stickers on books prior to placing them back into circulation.

The Foundation, founded in 2001, is located in Lacey. It envisions a community where all children read well and enjoy reading, and where reading opens new opportunities. To that end, it has a book van that visits sites and delivers books, has 3 locations where "bags o' books" can be picked up, has story time and other literacy programs as well as programs to educate families about reading. On average, the Foundation distributes 80,000 books each year, serving over 1500 children each week, of which 85% are from low-income families. This is a great organization to help.

If you are interested in being part of the Chapter's team for Day of Caring, please email me at xxxx@xxx.com. I will be providing detailed information as time gets closer.

National Guard OCS Graduation

On August 07, the National Guard will be celebrating the graduation of their latest class of students from Officer Candidate School right here at JBLM. The ceremony for these brand new officers will be held on the parade field on the main side of Fort Lewis. After the ceremony, the new officers will be transported to their barracks area for an end of course BBQ, some field games and our presentation of their first set of gold bars. This year the class is smaller than normal, and the staff anticipates approximately 50 graduates. If all activities go as planned, we should be presenting the gold bars at approximately 6:15 PM. The location is BLDG 3418, 3rd Division Drive, JBLM. It is the last building before the Ranger Battalion compound. Enter JBLM through the Main Gate; stay on 41st Division Drive S to Pendleton Ave and turn left on Pendleton Ave. From Pendleton Ave, turn right on 3rd Division Drive and follow it to the event location. What a tremendous opportunity to interact with the National Guard's newest officers, congratulate them on their entry to the officer corps and introduce them to MOAA and how we serve the military family, including themselves and their families. If you are able and willing to participate in this event, contact Slots for coordination at xxxx@xxxx.com

Around the State:

The State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake will hold a Forgotten Heroes Interment on August 7 at 1:00pm.

Spokane County – The State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake (three miles west of Fairchild Air Force Base), will hold a Forgotten Heroes interment on August 7 at 1:00pm.

WDVA works closely with Veterans service groups, funeral industry partners, public administrators and other concerned citizens to ensure the dignified burial of unclaimed veterans. Collectively we work to locate, positively identify, and inter eligible veterans and family members. These organizations work tirelessly throughout the year researching military service records and vital records to locate unclaimed Veterans eligible for burial at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery. Once identified, the logistics of claiming and coordinating the transfer to the state's Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake begins.

Over the coming days unclaimed Veterans remains will be transported to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake where the cremains will be ceremoniously turned over to the Department of Veterans Affairs for interment. These individuals will be interred in their final resting place with full military honors in a community interment service. The final committal service will take place at 1:00pm on Thursday August 7, 2025, and is open to the public. As a reminder, pets or the use of any tobacco or vaping products are not allowed on the premises.

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery is open to the public 7 days a week, from 8am to sunset. Interments are held Monday through Friday and are scheduled by contacting the cemetery staff. For additional information regarding the ride and the interment service please contact the cemetery at 509-299-6280 or visit www.dva.wa.gov/Cemetery.

Surviving Spouse/WA State Council Update

Washington State Council of Chapters has a Facebook group: [\(2\) MOAA--Washington State Council of Chapters \(WSCOC\) | Facebook](#) Our state council Surviving Spouse Liaison, Cheryl Toland, regularly posts many different events & actions there, so if you are a Facebook user, it would be very beneficial to you to read and be aware of these things. The last several things she posted were Advocacy in Action & MOAA National videos. CHECK IT OUT!!!! You can request to join & be more informed regularly.

Latest News on the National Legislative Front

From article by Kevin Lilley on MOAA website

Three senators announced plans to include the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment to the Senate FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This act is backed by MOAA and dozens of other military, veteran and survivor groups. It would allow tens of thousands of veterans to receive both their DoD provided retirement pay and their VA provided disability pay. Right now they face a dollar-for-dollar offset of this earned compensation, known as the wounded veteran tax. The amendment has enough sponsors that it should pass, should it come to the floor for a vote. The Senate should begin considering the NDAA next week, while the House will consider its version when it returns to DC in September. As a constituent, you can ensure this issue remains at the top of your lawmakers' to-do list by engaging with them throughout the NDAA process. MOAA will be offering suggestions via MOAA.org and their Legislative Action Center – message your lawmakers!

Join MOAA's Advocacy!

Welcome Our Newest Chapter Members

I am very excited to report that we have new members to welcome this month. Retired Army LTC Jonathan McCoy is Ro Marcus' fellow JAG friend! Jonathan is new to both our chapter and MOAA national. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Lakewood and he and Ro have been friends and colleagues for some time. Retired Air Force Nurse Corps Major Donna Yates-Johnson is a long-time life member of MOAA who moved up from California, is originally from Wenatchee, and is pleased to find that there is now a local MOAA chapter right in her backyard. She and husband James Johnson are living in Panorama. Army Major Patrick Mumper, XO, 3d OD BN EOD, is new to both our chapter and national MOAA. Major Mumper lives in Olympia. The Battalion has been very busy lately, but he is hoping to get more of his staff to our events in the future. When you see our new members at future meetings, be sure to give them a warm MOAA welcome.

Membership Notes

If you are serving or have served as an officer in any branch of U.S. service, and are not yet a member of the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter and would like to join, and/or if you are not currently a member of national MOAA and would like to join, just go to our chapter website (<https://olympiamoaa.org/join-us/>) and fill out the convenient online Application form and you will be contacted by our membership chairperson. The first year of membership is free, so what are you waiting for? If you are not currently on and wish to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, contact the Communications Director or their Assistant (listed on the Officers and Board Members banner) and they will happily add you to their list. Distribution is primarily via email with a small number of members still receiving newsletters via snail mail.

Have you been thinking about upgrading your national MOAA membership from basic to premium, or even life membership? This would really help support MOAA's mission and give you access to many more MOAA resources and services from transition support to financial counseling, travel discounts to resource webinars. If you call 1-800-234-6622 and mention the code "grassroots", you can receive a 10% discount. Dual Military Couples - If both members of married couple are military officers and they would both like to be life members of MOAA, national MOAA says the second lifetime membership will only cost \$100 – what a great package deal

Member of the Month – Marilyn Willcox

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Marilyn Willcox is a lifetime member of MOAA, and a long-time member of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter, who lives in Lacey with her granddaughter. Marilyn enjoys attending chapter meetings and ladies lunches when she can and used to be the chapter RSVP Point of Contact for meetings. You might notice that she walks with a cane, but she also often has a bright touch of color in her hair and she always has a twinkle in her eye. These days she enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Where are you from? I was born at the Beaumont Army Hospital at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. My father was stationed in Japan when the Korean War began. It was a difficult time because when someone died, it was a friend or neighbor.

I was a freshman in Japan, going to school by correspondence with the University of Nebraska. It took six weeks to get papers and answers back. I was a sophomore in Fort Smith, Arkansas. I was a junior in Panama going from Cristobal High to Balboa High. I finished my senior year at Fort Knox High School in Kentucky with a class of 29--16 girls and 15 boys.

Branch of Service? I am an Army brat and an Army spouse

Specialty/What did your spouse do in the military? My father was Army Artillery and my husband was Army Signal Corps. My father actually had a horse and used mules to train them to pull cannons, etc. My husband spent five years assigned to the White House Communications Agency with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. While stationed in DC, I worked for the Institute for Defense Analysis. Even had the opportunity to meet Henry Kissinger there.

Favorite duty station? Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Really liked being only fifteen minutes from the ocean.

Family? Ted and I had one daughter and two granddaughters, one granddaughter lives with and helps me now.

How did you end up here? Ted was assigned to Fort Lewis when he returned from Vietnam. We actually only got married three weeks before he left. We really liked the area and decided it would be a good place to live. Once we settled here, I spent thirteen years working for Department of Prisons at Cedar Creek Corrections Center, McNeil Island Corrections Center, and the Woman's Correctional Center. I worked for the Superintendent at the last two.

What do you enjoy doing now? Spending time with my family and the MOAA ladies luncheons and Chapter meetings.

Any ideas about what you would like to see the chapter do going forward? I think the Chapter is already doing a lot of good things. I hope to see us continue doing those good things going forward.

AUGUST CHAPTER DINNER MEETING

Chapter Meeting will be 20 August, **gather at 1730, call to order at 1800**. This month's meeting will be a chapter social with no scheduled guest speaker. We will be meeting at **Mercato, 111 Market St NE, Olympia, WA 98501-6903**. Meal options will be:

- Penne Pasta with chicken, prosciutto, sundried tomatoes, white wine, garlic, cream and parmesan, or
- Pumpkin Ravioli with apple cider cream, caramelized onion, hazelnuts and parmesan, or
- Rigatoni with slow-cooked Bolognese and parmesan

The price will be \$36.50 and include fresh bread, coffee, tea, tax and gratuity.

For those of you coming from Panorama, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus. Contact him at xxxx@xxx.net to reserve your spot. Fee is just \$3 per person.

Connect!



Notable August Dates

- 08/04 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday, established in 1790
- 08/07 – Purple Heart Day, honoring those wounded or killed in action
- **08/11 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, McNamara's**
- **08/13 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS**
- 08/14 – Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, although officially announced on 14 August, the WWII ended 02 Sep 1945
- 08/16 – National Airborne Day, recognizing the first official Army parachute jump in 1940
- 08/19 – National Aviation Day, celebrating the history of aviation in the U.S. military
- **08/20 – Chapter Dinner Meeting, gather 1730, eat 1800, Mercato's restaurant**
- 08/29 – Marine Corps Reserve Birthday, marking the establishment of the Marine Corps Reserve in 1916

Ladies Lunch Club

When: Aug 11 at 1200, noon

Where: McNamara's Pub & Eatery
1595 Wilmington Dr, DuPont, WA

Please RSVP to:

Christine McManus

If anyone would like a ride or wants to carpool, mention that when you RSVP and something can be arranged

Next Board Meeting

August 13, 2025, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

Next Board Meeting Join Link (MS Teams)

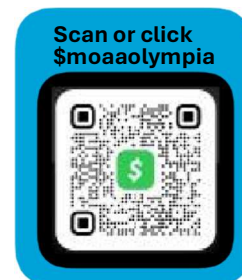
Contact Dave Slotwinski or Chris McManus for a Teams invite.

Donation / Meal Options

Special August event – we are having a dinner meeting at Mercato's Ristorante, 111 Market St NE, Olympia. We are hoping that many of our members who are still working and can't join us for lunch meetings will join us for this special meeting, so we are planning a purely social event with plenty of opportunity to visit and get to know your fellow chapter members. It is really important that we get our head count in to the restaurant by the Friday before the meeting, so we need everyone to RSVP by Thursday. ****RSVP NLT Thursday 14 August****

Date and Time: Wednesday, 20 August, gather at 5:30pm, and dinner at 6:00pm.

	Penne Pasta with chicken, prosciutto, sundried tomatoes, white wine, garlic, cream and parmesan	\$36.50	X		= \$
	Pumpkin Ravioli with apple cider cream, caramelized onion, hazelnuts and parmesan	\$36.50	X		= \$
	Rigatoni with slow-cooked Bolognese and parmesan	\$36.50	X		= \$
	Total Dinner				= \$



Price includes fresh bread, coffee, tea, tax and gratuity.

For those of you coming from Panorama, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus. Contact him at xxxx@xxx.net to reserve your spot. Fee is just \$3 per person.

Fisher House	= \$
Scholarship	= \$
Annual Dues \$20.00 Member, \$10.00 Surviving Spouse	= \$
Total Amount Mailed	= \$

-----Tear line for mail in payments-----

The treasurer encourages members to send in payment for meals along with any dues or donations by mail or via CashApp beforehand to ensure menu item entree selection and RSVP count.

Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.
Payment at door must be check, CashApp or exact change in cash.

Please send a confirmation to:
Doug White

xxxx@olympiamaaa.org

OR

Mail payment and confirmation to:
Olympia MOAA
PO Box 5957
Lacey, WA 98509-5957

Summer Reading

Larson, Erik, The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War. This book is a 2024 narrative non-fiction release covering the period from the election of Abraham Lincoln to the attack on Fort Sumter that marked the beginning of the Civil War. The book features very clearly drawn characters on both sides of the conflict and some deeply researched details. It is almost painful to watch the two sides move towards war as Lincoln tries to avoid it, but both sides are deeply entrenched in their views, predisposed to interpret the words and actions of the opposite side negatively and seem unwilling to seek compromise. This is a book written from a very specific time and point of view. A very interesting, if painful read.