



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings from your new president! It is an honor to be back in the seat. We had nearly 30 members present at our January lunch meeting at Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant. Dave Redman joined us to provide an update on the Shelton Veteran's Village. He was an excellent speaker, not to mention a potential new chapter member!

When I look back on 2025, I am so impressed with all we accomplished. We gave generously of funds, in kind treasures and time to our chosen charities, presenting medals at JROTC awards nights and scholarships at school awards assemblies, collecting SO MANY sports balls for Santa's Castle, books for Shelton Veterans' Village, and food and hygiene items for Fisher House along with presenting generous checks to USO, Fisher House and Santa's Castle. We participated in special events like Washington State Patriotic Day parading in our colors, USO's Golf Tournament selling Pitch-a-Balls, National Guard's OCS graduation presenting gold bars, and United Way Day of Caring cleaning books for South Sound Reading Foundation. What a great year! For 2026 I am mostly hoping we can do all of that again, and add a MOAA national grant funded project for the Shelton Veterans' Village.

As we move into 2026, it is important to note that while Congress may have passed the NDAA, there are still many issues being worked by MOAA, from concerns about access to medical care to reductions in Tricare for Life benefits. As a chapter member, you can help fight the good fight by being active in the MOAA Legislative Action Center. As an incentive for such activity, chapter member participation will be a scored Chapter of Excellence factor this year.



**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



Issue 02 -2026



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

Our next board meeting is February 11 at 5:30 PM via TEAMS and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, February 18, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. For our guest speaker, Slots is working to get Thurston County Sheriff Derek Sanders who is one of the youngest elected sheriffs in the country.

Now I ask you all to please tell your family and friends and especially other officers about all the wonderful things we are doing, then invite them to come to a meeting, by which I mean get out there and recruit – the more the merrier!

Carrie Nielson

Just one more thing: on page 8, in addition to February dates and information about upcoming events, there are QR codes that take you to our chapter website and Facebook page. Your chapter officers would really love it if more chapter members would regularly visit the website and Facebook page, post to the Facebook page, give us feedback on anything you would like to see us add to either of these social media assets. They are tools to help us communicate with chapter members and with potential chapter members. The more people view them, the more useful they become. Thank you.

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. The Olympia Area MOAA chapter is not liable or responsible for the content found in the links to other websites

2026 OFFICERS

President:
Carrie Nielson
CAPT, USN, Ret

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

2nd VP (Membership):
DeFrance Clarke
LtCol, USAF, Ret

Secretary:
Roselyn “Ro” Marcus CPT, USA, Fmr
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Treasurer:
William “Bill” Moseley
Col, USAF, Ret

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Allen Acosta,
Maj, USA, Ret

Sam Cagle
Col, USAF, Ret

Marc Cote
COL, USA, Ret

Christine McManus,
CDR, USN, Ret

Communications Director

Danielle Nuxoll
Spouse, USA

Ray Rasmussen
COL, USA, Ret

Douglas White
LtCol, USAF, Ret
Chaplain

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance:	\$6,509.47
Savings account balance:	\$3,656.10
Total:	\$10,165.57

Note from the Treasurer: The Treasurer worked with national MOAA to establish a Cheddar Up account to accommodate electronic payments.

It has features that include paying dues, making donations, and making meal reservations. It is linked from the website at the Dues and Donations page. The QR code for our Cheddar Up account is:



Above: Carrie Nielson and Bill Moseley present check to USO center manager David Dutcher

Charity	Balance as of 01/31/26	Disbursed YTD	2026 Goal
USO	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$1,956.50	\$0.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$5.42	\$0.00	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$2,661.92	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Stay Alert: Protect Yourself from Membership Scams

MOAA often uses email and online channels to communicate with its members about their membership status. However, we realize it may sometimes be difficult to discern legitimate messaging from scams. If you receive an email or online message about your membership that seems suspicious, do not respond. Contact MOAA's Member Service Center immediately at to verify its legitimacy.

MOAA provides scam prevention resources at MOAA.org/scams that can help you combat all types of fraud. Some MOAA-specific details that may help you spot suspicious messaging:

- Life members whose dues are paid in full will never be asked for additional dues payments.
- Spouses of deceased Life members inherit their membership at no additional cost.
- Spouses are not eligible for membership; MOAA will never solicit a spouse to join. (Surviving spouses, however, are eligible for membership.)
- Basic and Premium members may receive renewal or upgrade communications from MOAA via mail, email, text message, or phone. If you are unsure whether a message is authentic, DO NOT REPLY to the message — contact the Member Service Center at for confirmation.

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Several years ago, we decided to develop a scholarship program that has been successful in awarding four or five \$1000 scholarships each year. This year, our minimum goal is again \$3000. We allow donations into the scholarship fund throughout the year, then make it our primary focus for donations December through February. With this approach, we aim to meet the goal again in 2026. For the 2026 Scholarship season, the board voted to limit eligibility to all the members of the Shelton and New Market NJROTC programs. The instructors provided the students with eligibility and application guidelines, and we will conduct the program as in prior years, just with a smaller pool of candidates.

We launched our program at the beginning of the school year and will award the scholarships in the Spring.

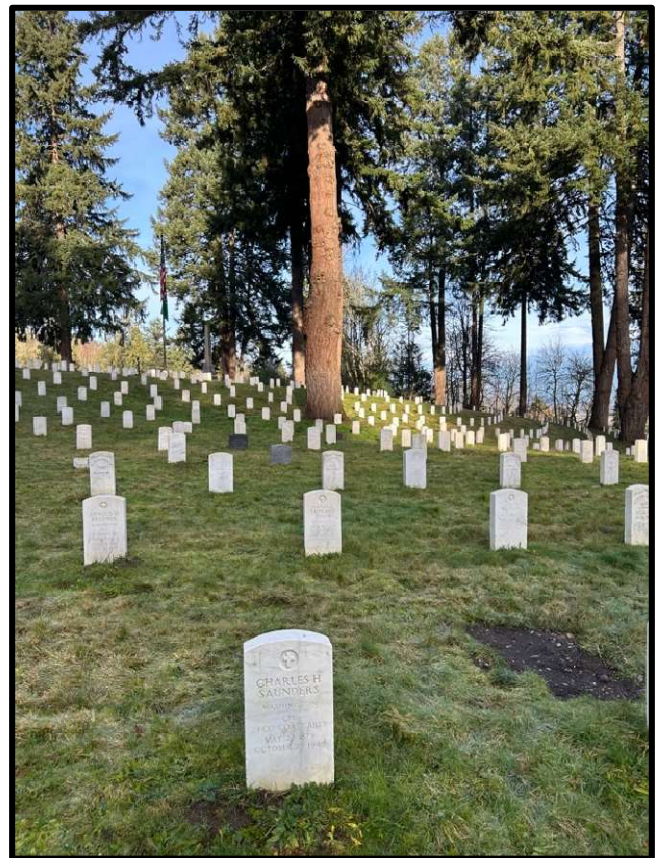
Now that Christmas is over, let's shift our charity focus towards building the scholarship fund for 2026 and beyond!

Wreaths Across America



Above: Carrie Nielson working Wreath Removal and Cleanup Day for Wreaths Across America at Orting Veterans Cemetery.

January 2026 photo courtesy Carrie Nielson



Above: Orting Veterans Cemetery after wreath removal event. January 2026. Photo by Carrie Nielson

Featured on MOAA's Legislative Action Center: Protecting All Service Members' Pay During Future Government Shutdowns – From

the MOAA National Website

During the FY 2026 shutdown, the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security rushed to identify alternative funding sources to cover paychecks for the armed services. The Department of Commerce and the Department of Health and Human Services did not take action to pay the NOAA and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, leaving these uniformed servicemembers without pay and support. Despite that, our uniformed services continued to carry out their missions without any guarantee or expectation of pay. Guard and Reserve members were forced to cancel scheduled drills and wait for funding to resume, impacting readiness and response preparedness. Not only is this a disservice to those who serve and sacrifice for our country, but it deters those who feel the call to serve from entering a noble mission that repeatedly fails to deliver promised pay and benefits.

To protect our servicemembers, MOAA is asking that legislators introduce a House companion to S. 3168, the Shutdown Fairness Act (a bill that would guarantee pay for all of the armed services during a government shutdown) to ensure all eight branches of the uniformed services are named as covered employees.

If you visit the Action Center, you can click on a button to write your legislators in support of this and other important measures. You can always use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to send messages directly to your elected officials.

For Surviving Spouses

- From Cheryl Toland, Surviving Spouse Liaison for Mt Rainier Chapter and WSCOC

Hello Surviving Spouses,

I would like everyone to be aware of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter and know that you do not need to be a surviving spouse to attend the ZOOM meeting once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, where you will find great knowledge being shared.

Also, a new website has been designed and activated: [Home | MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.](#)

Were you aware that there is a Facebook group? This is another way of knowing others that are surviving spouses and sharing your thoughts, questions, and learning about legislation affecting us. (16) [MOAA Surviving Spouses And Friends | Facebook](#)

Contact me if you have any comments or questions at or <mailto:ret07@comcast.net>

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Want to get in contact with your State or Federal Congressional Delegation? Here's the contact information of the Olympia Area representatives:

Senator Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281 950 Pacific Ave Suite 615 Tacoma, WA 98402 https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email	Senator Patty Murray (360)205-2878 771 Capitol Way S, Suite 502 Olympia, WA 98501 https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/
Marilyn Strickland (360)459-8514 420 College St SE, Suite 3000 Lacey, WA 98503 https://strickland.house.gov/contact/	Jessica Bateman, Senator, District 22 (360)786-7642 409 Legislative Bldg PO Box 40422 Olympia, WA 98504
Beth Doglio, Representative (360)786-7940 308 John L O'Brien Bldg PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Lisa Parshley (360)786-7992 317 John L O'Brien Bldg PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504

To find other Federal Members of Congress by location you can go to:
<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

To find other Washington State Members of Legislature by location you can go to:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

This site can also be used to look up information about bills under consideration in WA State.

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?	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- and mention the code "grassroots", you can receive a 10% discount.
If you are not currently on and wish to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, contact the Communications Director (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.	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!

Outstanding January Meeting



We had a great turnout for our January meeting. We enjoyed an excellent meal and the members seemed to have a good time visiting with each other at their tables before and during the meal. Our guest speaker for the meeting, Dave Redman, gave us an informative update about the Shelton Veterans Village, and shared with us information about his own military service. The audience was very engaged and had lots of questions, which Dave was happy to answer. He invited members to come out and see the village firsthand, as he thanked us for our support. Our chapter has donated a large number of books to support their community library and we are currently partnering with them to draft a grant request to national MOAA to provide them with more assistance.

Left: President Carrie Nielsen presents the MOAA mug to Mr. Dave Redman. Photo by Ro Marcus.

Honoring Four Chaplains

Story idea discovered in American Legion Online Update

The U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was hit by a German U-boat torpedo on Feb. 3, 1943, as it was transporting troops in the North Atlantic to an American base in Greenland. The ship sank, killing 672 of the 902 military and civilian workers aboard. Those who survived were left with the memory of the courage and selflessness exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) administered the wounded and directed others to safety. The chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed their own and gave them to four young men. As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying. We honor their memory on Four Chaplains Day, February 03. Next time you are on JBLM, look for the Four Chaplains Chapel.

The Reverend George L. Fox Memorial Chapel in Gilman, VT, was the last Chapel where Rev. Fox served. This year the Chapel will celebrate the official opening of the George and Isadore Fox Museum, a collection of items related to the chaplain's life and legacy, as part of Four Chaplains Day commemorations.

Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting will be 18 February, gather at 1130, call to order at 1200. This month's planned speaker is Derek Sanders, Thurston County Sheriff. We will be meeting at Panorama's Seventeen51 Restaurant, 1751 Circle Ln SE, Lacey, WA 98503. RSVP No Later Than Friday, 13 February. Meal options will be:

**Chambers Cobb Salad, or
Caprese Pasta, or**

BLAST (bacon, lettuce, avocado, Swiss cheese and tomato) Sandwich with choice of fruit, green salad, or fries

Price will be \$20.50 and include tax and gratuity. Beverages and desserts may be ordered and purchased separately.

Connect!



Next Board Meeting

February 11, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
Contact Ro Marcus or Chris McManus
for a Teams invite.

Ladies Lunch Club

When: February 9 at 1200, noon
Where: Fatso's Bar and Grill, 3205 Martin
Way E, Olympia
Please RSVP to: Christine McManus

Notable February Dates

- February – Black History Month – move to designate February as Black History Month was first initiated by historian Carter Woodson to honor the birthdays of figures who played key roles in black liberation, Abraham Lincoln (Feb 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb 14).
- 02/02 – Army Nurse Corps Established (1901)
- 02/03 – USO Incorporated (1941)
- 02/03 – Four Chaplains Day
- 02/08 – Super Bowl Sunday
- 02/09-15 – National Salute to Veteran Patients
- **02/09 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Fatso's, 3205 Martin Way E, Olympia**
- **02/11 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS**
- 02/13 – Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established (1943)
- 02/16 – Presidents Day
- **02/18 – 1200, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant**
- 02/19 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)
- 02/23 – Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
- 02/27 – Persian Gulf Cease Fire Day (1991)

Save the Date in March:

Washington State Patriotic Day – March 21, 2pm, Pioneer Middle School, Dupont

The event is free to the public, celebrates the spirit of service and patriotism, thanking our active duty, veterans, and first responders, all the way back to the original patriot - George Washington. There will be an inspiring guest speaker, the excellent music of the I Corps military band, a massing of the colors event and more. Come on out – it isn't far, there is plenty of free parking, and this year is extra special – it is America 250 – the 250th Anniversary of our nation's birth.

Donation/ Lunch Options

Venue: seventeen51 restaurant - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503.

Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, February 13, 2026 to [Doug White](#).

Please include menu entree selection in your email or snail mail RSVP.

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 18, gather at 11:30 am and call to order and lunch at noon.

With our new menu arrangement, we do not suffer a penalty for attendees that may show up without prior notice, so do not let having forgotten to RSVP keep you from joining us. On the other hand, it is very beneficial for both the chapter and the restaurant to have a good head count ahead of time for planning purposes, so we do continue to request that you RSVP to let us know you are coming and which entrée you would like.

	Chambers Cobb Salad	\$20.50	X		= \$
	BLAST (bacon, lettuce, avocado, swiss cheese and tomato) Sandwich with choice of fries, green salad, or fruit	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Caprese Pasta	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Total Lunch				= \$

The lunch cost is **\$20.50**

Water provided. Tax and gratuity included.

Gluten Free items are available from the menu upon request.

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 beforehand to ensure menu item entree selection and RSVP count.

QR code for CheddarUP app option to pay:	
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Payment at door must be check or exact change in cash.

Please send a confirmation to:

[Doug White](#)

OR

Mail payment and confirmation to:

Olympia MOAA

PO Box 5957

Lacey, WA 98509-5957

Did You Know?

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has a Veterans Pension program that provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age and disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. To find out if you are or a veteran you know is eligible, visit:

<https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/>

Reminder from the VA News

Flu season is ramping up, and it's not too late to get a flu vaccine if you haven't done so already. Flu season is in full force, and flu-like activity in the U.S. is at the highest levels recorded in nearly 30 years. Annual flu vaccines are one of the best defenses against serious illness, the need for hospital care or complications from the flu. Check with your primary care provider to see if the flu vaccine is available via their location, or if they recommend just obtaining from a commercial pharmacy. If their recommendation is a commercial pharmacy, just make sure you go to one that accepts your insurance. While you are seeking the flu vaccine, it is a good idea to make sure your other vaccinations are up to date as well. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.