



Olympia Area Chapter

In this
month's
Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

I am so happy to have survived the June heat wave and to find myself in much milder weather this week. I am not a hot weather person, so I am perfectly happy to put on a sweater in June. If I wanted to sweat, I would move to Arizona.

It was a pleasure to welcome Frank Michael back to Olympia in June. Frank is a true friend of the chapter with a great sense of humor. He brought us news from DC and tried to answer all our questions. Now I am just waiting for the new streamers he said he would mail to us. Art Dolan also returned in June to recognize the chapter members who helped read the Declaration of Independence at our previous meeting. He was very impressed with their performance!

We had a team work the USO Charity Golf Tournament at the Golf Club at Newcastle selling Pitch-a-Balls as a fundraiser for the third year. While the unseasonably chilly weather cut into our sales, we still realized \$640 in earnings for the chapter for just a few hours' effort. A special thanks to the team's secret weapon: Sophie Nuxoll.

I had a busy month in June. At the beginning of the month, I attended awards events for our scholarship recipients. Later in the month I was fully engaged for four days as the Assistant Director of the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference, run by the Military Order of World Wars and hosted on the Pacific Lutheran University campus. While our Olympia Area MOAA chapter no longer sponsors scholarships to this conference, it is still going strong offering an outstanding four-day program of leadership, teambuilding and civics education. I was also privileged to attend the Threads of Courage luncheon hosted by the Korean Women's Association honoring women combat veterans and the opening ceremony for the Lacey visit of The Wall That Heals replica of the Vietnam War Memorial. Very moving



**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 07 -2026



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

events. Now to look for a good Fourth of July event to best celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Our next board meeting is July 08 at 5:30PM via TEAMS and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, July 15, social @ 5:30PM, meeting called to order at 6:00PM. The location is Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. Our guest speaker will be chapter member Danielle Nuxoll, Relationship Manager for American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) Wealth Management and Trust, who will be talking to us about Estate Planning.

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
Chapter President

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

Christine McManus,
CDR, USN, Ret

Communications Director

Danielle Nuxoll
Spouse, USA

Ray Rasmussen
COL, USA, Ret

Douglas White
LtCol, USAF, Ret
Chaplain

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Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance:	\$ 11,817.63
Savings account balance:	\$3,656.89
Total:	\$15,474.52

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: President Carrie Nielson presents \$500 MOAA support check to New Market NNDCC instructor Roy Calica.

Charity	Balance as of 06/30/26	Disbursed YTD	2026 Goal
USO	\$879.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$2,300.50	\$0.00	\$3000
Sports Balls	\$5.42	\$0.00	1000 balls
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$1000.00	\$500
TOTALS	\$4,201.92	\$2,400.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

While scholarship award/recognition season may be over, and we are just waiting for final information from our selected recipients so we can mail the checks to their schools, that just means that it is time to start donating money towards next year's scholarships. Please keep in mind that we do accept donations to the scholarship program throughout the year – just specify when you send in your donation where you wish the money to go.

Northwest Youth Leadership Conference – From 21-25 June, Chapter President Carrie Nielson served as on-site Assistant Director for the NWYLC, sponsored by MOWW and hosted on board Pacific Lutheran University. This year 78 high school students completed the four-day conference, which included field trips to JBLM, and the state capitol, team building exercises, a group project, speakers from business, government and military leadership roles and opening and closing banquets. The conference continues to deliver excellent leadership, teambuilding and civics educational experience for our future leaders. For more information on this program, contact Carrie Nielson at

Support Your USO By Bill Moseley

Since 1966, the USO Northwest has served over 4 million active-duty service members, veterans, and their families with centers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Joint Base Lewis McChord (at the Shali Center on McChord and at a center located in the America's Credit Union building on Fort Lewis), Boise USO MEPS Center, Portland USO MEPS Center, plus military installations throughout Oregon and Idaho with the use of mobile units. The USO Northwest is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that relies solely on the generosity of individuals and organizations like the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter. With over 400 volunteers, the USO guarantees that your donations go directly to the services and programs benefiting service members and their families. USO Northwest serves over 150,000 military and their families annually. This is one of the four organizations that your MOAA chapter supports annually through your kind and generous donations. So; during the next three months, we ask that you consider expressing your gratitude toward the world's finest military, its veterans and their families by generously donating to USO Northwest. They have guaranteed that 100 percent of your donation will remain in the USO Northwest service area. Our goal this year is \$1400. **If you are looking for a way to donate your time as well as your treasure, the USO can always use additional volunteers as well. Just go to <https://volunteers.uso.org> to sign up.



USO Charity Golf Tournament



On Thursday, 25 June, we supported the USO Charity Red, White, and Blue golf tournament by selling “pitch-a-balls.” For those wondering, a “pitch-a-ball” allows the purchaser to advance the team’s golf ball by pitching it without adding a stroke. On the day of the tournament, it was chilly and windy at Newcastle, players came out a little later than at past tournaments, but we still sold 64 to the approximately 250 players. At \$20 each, this raised \$1280, earning the chapter \$640. Many thanks to Bill, DeFrance, Danielle and her daughter, Sophie, who helped raise some \$\$\$ for the chapter. Plus, we might have gained a new member. Overall, a chilly, but successful, event.

Above: Bill Moseley and DeFrance Clarke entertain visitors at the Pitch-a-Ball tent during the USO Charity Red, White, and Blue Golf Tournament. Photo provided by Slots

The Wall That Heals – On 25 June, Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck and Vietnam Era Army Nurse Captain Laura Kern spoke at the Opening Ceremony for the Lacey visit of The Wall That Heals, the largest traveling replica of the Vietnam War Memorial. The Wall was hosted at Chambers Prairie Elementary School from 25-28 June. Since 1996 The Wall and its Education Center have traveled the country giving Vietnam Veterans the welcome home they deserve. This year Lacey was the only stop for the wall in the Pacific Northwest. This was a moving ceremony at a moving memorial that provides closure, education, and healing. Chapter President Carrie Nielson was honored to attend the opening ceremony, despite the rain.

Retiree Appreciation Day – More than 700 military retirees and their family members attended JBLM’s 2026 Retiree Appreciation Day at Waller Hall on 26 June. The base offered legal, medical and ID card services and several VSO’s were on site as well. Mt Rainier MOAA chapter typically represents MOAA at these events. Our chapter member, Jerry Fugich was there representing the Veterans Legislative Coalition.

Surviving Spouse Corner

If you go to the MOAA national website and declare that you are a Surviving Spouse, it will direct you to a [Surviving Spouse resource page](#) dense with links to lots of resources just for you. Those resources include the three publications:

- Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse
- Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On
- Your Guide to Military Burials

MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#)

Just taking a peek at the Legislative Action Center, the current top priorities MOAA is asking us to help push are:

- Protect USPHS and NOAA retirees from future shutdowns.
- Stand with our wounded warriors: Advocate for the Major Richard Star Act
- Enhance support for Women Veterans and
- Urge Congress to stop Predatory VA Claims Agents and Protect Veterans' Earned Benefits (Support the GUARD VA Benefits Act)

You can always use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to learn more about the MOAA priorities, and to easily send messages directly to your elected officials. Act now!

Threads of Courage

On 25 June, the Korean Women's Association hosted an impressive luncheon honoring women in combat. The organization started as a small group of Korean women, spouses of service members, sitting around a table, discussing how they could be of service to their new community. It has since grown into a registered 501(c)(3) providing multi-cultural, multi-lingual human services regardless of race or ethnic background to diverse communities through education, socialization, advocacy and support. They are headquartered in Lakewood. The Threads of Courage event recognized and honored six selected women veterans with a luncheon, guest speaker, gift of commemorative coins to all attendees, presentation of specially created, framed posters and Quilts of Valor to the six honorees. The association welcomed all veterans, service members and community supporters to this free, moving tribute event. Olympia Area MOAA Chapter President Carrie Nielson attended and can report that it was gratifying to see such heartfelt recognition of the contributions of women veterans.

Excellent June Meeting



We had a great turnout for our June meeting. Indian Summer welcomed us with an excellent meal and superb service, and the members had a good time visiting with each other at their tables before and during the meal. Retired Navy Captain Frank Michael returned to visit us from MOAA HQ where he leads the Councils and Chapters Department. Frank has a great sense of humor and is a true ally of the chapter. He had some updates for us from Washington and answered member questions as best he could. Art Dolan (our May speaker) returned to recognize our chapter members for the excellent job they did reading the Declaration of Independence as part of his presentation – he was very impressed!

Left: Guest speaker, Frank Michael, at chapter meeting.
Photo courtesy of Allen Acosta

Members of the Month - Dave Slotwinski (Slots), USA RET

Submitted by Dave Slotwinski (Slots) via Membership Chairman DeFrance Clarke

Dave Slotwinski (Slots) is a lifetime member of MOAA who joined TROA in the 1980s. In 2007 he joined the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter and since 2008 has served on the Chapter Board as either the President or 1st VP for Programs. In addition, he has been active in the Washington State Council of Chapters and served 2 terms as the Council President. Along with MOAA, he is active on the Board of Directors of Santa's Castle where he serves as the fund-raising coordinator.

Where are you from? I was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio, and hail from a blue-collar background. After high school, I attended Widener College (now Widener University) where in 1974 I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and was commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer.

Military Service After a 30+ year career, I retired from the United States Army in 2004 as a Colonel. During my Army career I served in multiple command positions at the company, battery, battalion, brigade and joint levels, as well as staff positions at division, installation and corps levels. My "army time" consisted mostly of field artillery and recruiting assignments plus 1 tour at a training base and a tour as an Inspector General.

Specialty My field artillery experience was with 105mm, 155mm, and 8in howitzers as well as the Honest John and MLRS rocket systems. I also served in every level of Army recruiting from Area/ Company level to USAREC Chief of Staff and served as the Commander, USMEPCOM.

Favorite duty station/assignment: My tour at Fort Jackson, SC. I served there as the Assistant SGS and as the SGS. Most importantly, I met Roselyn at Fort Jackson.

Family: Roselyn, her brother who is an MD and his spouse, my brother who is a retired engineer who worked in the Navy's submarine program, plus our nieces and nephews and their kiddos. Roselyn and I met at Fort Jackson, SC and this summer we will be celebrating our 38th wedding anniversary. How we met is a funny story as she was a JAG officer with a special project my boss did not like and I was sent to kill her project.

How did you end up here? After Ro and I married, Fort Lewis was our first duty station and while here, Ro was employed by the State Attorney General's Office. About the time I was getting ready to retire, Ro was offered a job in Olympia she couldn't resist and we had both grown to like Washington, so we made Washington our retirement home.

What have you been up to lately: After retiring from the Army, I dabbled in a variety of activities, ultimately did some volunteer stuff, used my GI Bill to earn my PhD and enjoyed teaching as an Adjunct Professor in the Saint Martin's University School of Business. When we first moved back to Washington, we played a lot of golf until we discovered Scuba diving. Then for about 15 years, whenever possible, it was "tanks on our backs, fins on our feet." Now, and especially since Ro is also fully retired, it's time to go back to golf.

Any ideas about what you would like to see the chapter do in 2026 and beyond? Over the years, our chapter has been adaptive through peaks and valleys in recruiting and retention and has taken a "common sense" approach to meetings, dues, organization, planning, philanthropy, and scholarships. If anything, I would like to see our newer members take a more active role in our various community support activities as well as chapter leadership roles. A key to the chapter's long-term success has been its succession planning- recruit new members for the board, then grow those new board members into future officers. I would like to see that trend continue.

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!

***** MOAA is running a Membership special week of 29 June to 04 July. They are offering discounted rates for those who sign up for premium or life membership this week, so now is a great time for those with basic memberships to upgrade. *****

Monthly Chapter Meeting

The Chapter Meeting will be 15 July, gather at 1730, call to order at 1800. Our speaker will be chapter member Danielle Nuxoll, Relationship Manager for American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) Wealth Management & Trust, who will be talking to us about Estate Planning, to include important estate planning documents, key points for beneficiary designations, considerations for longevity planning and building a team of trusted professionals. This should be a topic of interest to all, so be sure to bring your questions for Danielle. We will be meeting at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA. **RSVP No Later Than Wednesday, 08 July.** Meal options will be:

**Brisket with Green Beans and Potato Salad or
Pulled Pork Sandwich with Green Beans and Potato Salad, or
Stuffed Portobello Mushroom**

Price will be \$34 and include tax and gratuity. All with green salad with vinaigrette, coffee or tea, and chef's choice dessert included.

Connect!



Next Board Meeting

July 8, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
Contact Ro Marcus or Chris McManus
for a Teams invite.

Ladies Lunch Club

When: July 13 at 1200, noon
Where: Oyster House, 320 4th Ave W
Olympia WA 98515
Please RSVP to: Christine McManus

Notable July Dates

- 07/04 – Independence Day, America's 250th Anniversary
- 07/08 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS
- 07/13 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Oyster House, 320 4th Ave W, Olympia, WA 98516
- 07/15 – 1800, Chapter Dinner Meeting, gather 1730, eat 1800, Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA
- 07/20 – National Moon Day – commemorating the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, the first humans to walk on the moon
- 07/27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day – commemorates the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended active hostilities in the Korean War, honoring the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans
- 07/28 – National Buffalo Soldiers Day – honors the legacy of the all-black regiments formed in 1866 that served on the western frontier and in subsequent conflicts
- 07/29 – Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary – established 1775

Donation/ Lunch Options

Venue: Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA.

Please **RSVP no later than Wednesday, July 8**, 2026, to [Doug White](#).

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

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 15, gather at 5:30 pm and call to order and dinner at 6pm.

	Brisket with Green Beans and Potato Salad	\$34.00	X		= \$
	Pulled Pork Sandwich with Green Beans and Potato Salad	\$34.00	X		= \$
	Stuffed Portobello Mushroom	\$34.00	X		= \$
	Total Lunch				= \$

USO	= \$
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.



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

Historic Fort Steilacoom's Old-Fashioned Independence Day

Celebration will take place 05 July, 1200-1600, on the grounds of Western State Hospital, 9601 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA. The event is free and features live, historic demonstrations, family-friendly activities, classic 19th century games for kids and adults, reenactors, open house chance to view historic U.S. Army post and some of the oldest buildings in Washington state.