

Mount Rainier Chapter Supports Washington State Patriotic Day 2019

Story and Photos By: Jerry Jackson

On February 23, 2019, Seventy-nine organizations gathered at Stadium High School for Washington State Patriotic Day with Massing of the Colors as proclaimed by Governor Jay Inslee. As before, this was hosted by Military Order of the World Wars with support from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and four other Veteran's Service Organizations including MOAA Mt. Rainier Chapter.

The chapter's roll this year changed some to coordinate voting for the Attendance Rewards Competition. Our participation was ably overseen by the chapter's 2nd VP, Bob Brown, who had some fun with the voting setup.



Dimmer Foundation represented by John and Diane Dimmer.

Massing of the Colors included the usual color guard parade of attending organizations. Carrying the American flag for the chapter was Bob Brown accompanied by his grand-daughter, Marissa, and Doug Taylor carrying the chapter flag. Other chapter members participating in the awards

competition and attending were: Monika Brown, Bob and Karen Schwartz, Steve Schenk, Pat Campion, Don Campbell, Bill and Wonda Johnson, Gail Porter, the Taylor family, and Jerry and Penny Jackson. Many of these members adjourned to a local restaurant post event to enjoy a relaxing dinner.

Visit the WDVA website for more pictures and video and put February 22, 2020 on your calendar for next year's Washington State Patriotic Day!



Cub Scout Pack 472, DuPont, Washington with President Jerry Jackson.

MOAA Celebrates 90 Years of Advocacy

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President

On Feb. 23, 1929, when Col. Arthur T. Marix, USMC (Ret), and 62 other officers gathered to start The Retired Officers Association (later evolving into the Military Officers Association of America in 2003), they couldn't have imagined how their legacy would enrich the lives of millions of Service members and veterans, and their families.

Birthdays are an ideal time to reflect on the milestones of past achievements - like 1985, when MOAA joined 15 military associations to form The Military Coalition; or 2001, when we helped establish TRICARE for Life; or 2017, when we won a 2.4-percent pay raise for active duty troops and helped extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

We also take this opportunity to look to our future. This April, MOAA looks forward to mobilizing our members to achieve more wins for the military and veteran community; we'll "Storm the Hill" and educate lawmakers on why we need to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset (also known as the widows tax), stabilize TRICARE fees, and maintain compensation for currently serving troops.



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**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER
2019 Chapter Dues**

Have your Chapter dues expired or about to expire? If you are not sure please contact our 2nd Vice President, Bob Brown. Dues paid now will cover 2019. 2019 dues are due 1 January 2019.

Please note: Chapter dues are separate from national dues. Dues are \$20 a year or \$55 for three years. For our Social / Auxiliary membership it is \$5 a year or \$12 for three years. Also there is the new electronic membership for **Officers 35 and under**. Electronic membership provides members with a Chapter newsletter via email, but no printed copy.

The Electronic membership is free to those under age 35. Just send your name, birthday and e-mail address to postal address below.

2019 dues are due 1 January

If you are a National Life Member, please advise the Chapter of your Life status.

Mail your dues to:

MOAA Mount Rainier Chapter
P.O. Box 99212
Lakewood, WA 98496-0212

Thanks!

Contact Information

Joint Base Lewis - McChord
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Flight Information 253-982-7259 or 7260

USO

Joint Base Lewis - McChord
253-982-1100

Veterans Hospital Seattle
1-800-827-1000, then O for
Representative

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
Veterans Assistance
American Lake VA
253-583-1079

MOAA National "Take Action"
<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Your Monthly History Note

March 1, 1781 - Formal ratification of the [Articles of Confederation](#) was announced by Congress. Under the Articles, Congress was the sole governing body of the new American national government, consisting of the 13 original states. The Articles remained in effect through the [Revolutionary War](#) until 1789, when the current U.S. Constitution was adopted.

March 4, 1681 - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New [World](#) to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

March 5, 1946 - The ["Iron Curtain" speech](#) was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control.

March 10, 1862 - The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation. This was to stop massive counterfeiting by both the Union and Confederacy.

March 12, 1888 - The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

March 17, 1776 - Early in the [American Revolutionary War](#) the British completed their evacuation of Boston following a successful siege conducted by Patriots. It is celebrated in Boston as Evacuation Day.

March 23, 1775 - [Patrick Henry](#) ignited the American Revolution with a [speech](#) before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

March 26, 1992 - Soviet Cosmonaut Serge Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on board the Mir Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet Union collapsed and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

March 30, 1981 - Newly elected President [Ronald Reagan](#) was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The president was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived.



Transition Which military branch best prepares its troops to separate?

[Natalie Gross](#)

If you're in the Army, chances are you'll feel better prepared when it's time to get out than if you were in any other branch, according to the results of a recent [Military Times poll](#).

Seventy-four percent of soldiers who responded to our survey said they agreed — either somewhat or strongly — that if they separated from the military today, they would be prepared for the overall transition.

Sixty-six percent of sailors, 64 percent of airmen and 59 percent of Marines said the same.

Soldiers were also the best-prepared for challenges related to family reintegration, benefits, education and health care — bested only in the area of finances by Air Force survey respondents.

One reason for this could be an approach taken by the [Army's Soldier for Life program](#), which emphasizes the importance of aging transitions within the military.

"Learn and understand how to transition from point to point now," Southeast Region Director Lt. Col. Rynelle Mardis told Military Times in a recent interview about the [military-to-civilian transition](#). "What are those key benchmarks? What are those key milestones that you need to have at each transition in the military?"

Asking those questions can help when you get out, so it "doesn't come as such a shock to you that you have certain milestones or certain benchmarks that need to be achieved," he said.

The Military Times poll was conducted last fall in collaboration with the Institute for Veterans and Military Times at Syracuse University. The confidential, online survey garnered 829 responses from active-duty troops, the majority of whom were white males at an average age of 31 years old. The results were weighted to reflect the overall population of the military and have a 2.6 percent margin of error.

Troops from all Defense Department branches were best prepared for education, followed by family reintegration. They were least prepared in the area of healthcare. The data also showed that women felt more prepared than men.

The majority of respondents, 68 percent, did not plan to separate from the military within the next year, making it highly unlikely they had received formal transition preparation through the [Transition Assistance Program](#), or [TAP](#).

Research shows that people who start thinking about their transition earlier than a year out have a smoother time of it, said Rosalinda Maury, director of applied research and analytics at IVMF.

"Transition is a critical component," she said. "You kind of

need to know what your exit strategy is going to be the day you enlist. The reality is very few people make the military their career."

Defense Department spokeswoman Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason has told Military Times previously that transition education is embedded into the military life cycle.

"That means at key touch points throughout the military member's career such as their first permanent duty station, when they get promoted or when they re-enlist or deploy, we give them a refresher on financial management and planning so they have the resources they need to manage those events successfully," she said in an email. "Career preparation to leave the military has to start early-on without impacting their military mission and we work to make that transition as successful as possible."

Air Force to Rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base

PANAMA CITY — The Air Force is committed to spending \$3 billion during the next five years to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base, including an initial investment of at least \$40 million by the end of 2019, senior service officials announced at a community forum Thursday.

Bay County officials said the ambitious reconstruction effort likely will create between 4,000 and 5,000 jobs, a major economic boon to the hard-pressed civilian community.

"We are fully committed to the rebuilding of Tyndall Air Force Base," said John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy. A formal master plan for the base's recovery from Hurricane Michael will be sent to Congress this spring that will guide the Air Force's funding requests, he said.

Henderson and other Air Force officials on Thursday spent several hours detailing the damage the base suffered from the storm, and their blueprints for transforming the 80-year-old base into a state-of-the-art military facility that will meet the service's requirements well into the next century. The first-of-its-kind "Tyndall Industry Day" attracted an audience of almost 500 people to the Holley Center at Florida State University-Panama City.

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No One Takes Better Care of you

Here are a few things to look forward to in the Army's latest budget

By: Meghann Myers

The Army is poised to release its fiscal year 2020 [budget proposal](#) on March 12, the service's No. 2 civilian said Tuesday, with fingers crossed that it's signed into law by the end of September.

The Trump administration's focus on military spending could see an increase in the use of [temporary war funds](#), but elsewhere, the Army is going into budget season touting [billions in savings](#) that'll be rerouted to modernization priorities, for example.

"We found just north of \$30 billion in cuts, reductions, as well as cost avoidance," said Army Undersecretary Ryan McCarthy. "If you walk down the balance sheet, it's about \$8 billion in cost avoidance and \$22 billion in cuts or terminations, so that we could realign the funding against our priorities."

There are six of them under the modernization umbrella, and they are the domain of Army Futures Command.

At the top of the list is long-range precision fires. Soldier gear and a new ground combat vehicle have also seen advances in the past two years.

It was a "pretty dramatic spring and summer, and some long, hot days," McCarthy said. "The staff had to fun with it, so they branded it 'night court'."

The Shark Tank-like effort, he added, took about 60 hours with the chief of staff, Army secretary, vice chief of staff and a handful of other members of Army senior leadership.

The results will include a shift toward funding new weapons systems, away from some legacy programs, McCarthy said.

For members of Congress concerned about cuts to programs that have an industrial base in their districts, he added that the Army would communicate with industry partners to let them know ahead of time which programs would be affected.

"There's also immense opportunity that will present itself as we proceed along the future year's defense plan," he said, in light of a host of new efforts that will be funded by the redistributed dollars.

Readiness and recruiting

The Army is also continuing to bolster its combat readiness quotient. Two years ago, only about a third of brigade combat teams were ready to deploy, but the Army set a goal to get that to two-thirds by about 2022, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said in congressional testimony last year.

By putting more money into home-station and combat training center rotations, that number is up to over half of the service's

58 BCTs, McCarthy said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Training and Doctrine Command has taken the helm of the service's recruiting efforts, surging the number of recruiters on the ground, along with market research and advertising.

But so far, that won't include more dollars spent, McCarthy said.

"We've actually done it within the existing appropriation, and the realignment of resources against the areas of focus," he said.

In that way, for example, the budget for enlistment bonuses will continue to stay in the range of half-a-billion dollars.

Meanwhile, the [Army Marketing and Research Group's budget](#) is honed after several reports of mismanagement in recent years. Last year, the Army Audit Agency concluded that AMRG had spent about \$37 million on programs that showed no measurable success.

So far, McCarthy said, the new focus on recruiting has paid off, with battalions in Los Angeles, Portland, Houston and New York making better numbers than they have in decades.

Author [Meghann Myers](#) is the senior reporter at Army Times. She covers personnel, leadership, fitness and various other lifestyle issues affecting soldiers.

Chapter Members Visit Cuba

Chapter members Lonnie Lai, Bob Lawrence and Phil Raschke plus spouses and friends recently visited Cuba. Stops included the cities of Santa Clara, Cienfuegos and Havana. Cuba has a population of 11.5 million with 2.2 million residing in Havana. Highlights of the trip included the historic 1589 Morro Fortress at the entrance to Havana harbor and the battle site at Santa Clara where government forces were defeated by revolutionary leader Che Guevara.



Photos by Phil Raschke

Old cannon that once guarded the entrance to Havana harbor.



Local color at a resort just outside of Cienfuegos.

WDA Legislative Updates March: You can find more information on each of these bills by visiting www.leg.wa.gov. This list is not all inclusive but are those of particular interest.

Bill	Status	Brief Description	Companion Bills	Original Sponsor	Latest Committee Meeting Info
ESHB 1138	S Financial Inst,	Concerning the armed forces exceptions for giving notice of termination of a tenancy.	SB 5180 (S2nd RdConsCal)	Ryu	Mar 14 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade at 8:30 AM (Subject to change). (2019)
SHB 1181	H Rules R	Providing property tax relief for senior citizens and qualifying veterans.		Lekanoff	
SHB 1210	S EL/K-12	Allowing nonresident children from military families to enroll in Washington's public schools prior to arrival in the state.	SB 5771 (SEL/K - 12)	Kilduff	
2SHB 1448	S State Govt / Trib	Creating the veterans service officer program.		Maycumber	
SHB 1629	H Rules R	Providing property tax relief for disabled veterans.		Reeves	
HB 1688	S Higher Ed & Wor	Concerning resident student status as applied to veterans.	SB 5713 (SRules 2)	Morgan	Mar 14 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development at 1:30 PM (Subject to change). (2019)
HB 1829	S Local Government	Concerning veterans' assistance levies.		Chapman	
SSB 5047	S 2nd Reading	Concerning veteran diversion from involuntary commitment through increased coordination between the veterans administration and the department of social and health services.		O'Ban	
ESSB 5160	S Passed 3rd	Concerning property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens.		Dhingra	
SB 5180	S 2nd RdConsCal	Concerning the armed forces exceptions for giving notice of termination of a tenancy.	HB 1138 (Hsubst for)	Hobbs	
SB 5196	S Rules 2	Concerning national guard pay in state active service for wildland fire response duty.	HB 1137 (SState Govt/ Tri)	Hobbs	
ESSB 5544	H Trans	Increasing the types of commercial driver waivers allowed for military veterans.		Hobbs	Mar 14 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Transportation at 3:30 PM (Subject to change). (2019)
SSB 5603	H Education	Concerning enrollment and course registration access for children of military families.		Randall	Mar 14 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Education at 8:00 AM (Subject to change). (2019)
SB 5713	S Rules 2	Concerning resident student status as applied to veterans.	HB 1688 (SHigher Ed & Wo)	Randall	
SSB 5748	S Rules 2	Creating an account to support necessary infrastructure nearby military installations.		Conway	
ESB 5755	H Coll & Wkf Dev	Concerning veteran and national guard tuition waivers.	HB 1178 (HApprops)	Randall	
SB 5762	S Rules 2	Concerning state contracts with veteran-owned businesses.		Hasegawa	



Large-scale closures of VA facilities could be coming sooner than expected. Here's why.

By: [Leo Shane III](#)

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs' version of a [base closing round](#) could start years ahead of schedule, department officials told Congress on Wednesday.

Under the VA Mission Act signed into law last year, the president is authorized to appoint an Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission for the department in 2022. To inform the group's work, VA officials were given three years to perform [regional market assessments](#) across the country to determine areas where there were medical facility shortages, gluts and other challenges.

On Wednesday, [VA Secretary Robert Wilkie](#) said those assessments were delayed slightly late last year but could still be finished in the next 12 months. If so, that could create a problematic gap between collecting that information and starting evaluations in 2022.

"We'll come back to you this summer and give you an assessment of where things are," he said. "If we can, to meet the expectations of this committee and the changing need of veterans, we're going to come to Congress and ask to move that timeline up."

The idea of a base-closing-style round for VA has been controversial for many advocates, including lawmakers who could see major hospitals in their districts closed due to dwindling patient numbers.

But VA officials have repeatedly warned that their current national footprint includes hundreds of outdated or obsolete facilities, and department administrators have severe restrictions in managing those locations.

They have also said that the asset review could mean more facility construction in certain areas, as department officials see regional population shifts for veterans.

Dr. Richard Stone, the executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, told members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee that across his system today, about 63 percent of the our medical beds are filled.

"That's not an efficient use of the system," he added.

Committee ranking member Rep. Phil Roe, R-Ky., said he is anxious to move ahead with the review work.

"We know veterans are moving south and west," he said. "VA needs to be more nimble with how it's able to move. We can't

keep thousands of beds underutilized or not used at all."

Costs or savings for the asset review have not yet been determined. House Democratic leadership has not indicated whether they would support speeding up the timeline for the process, a change that would require congressional approval.

About [Leo Shane III](#) covers Congress, Veterans Affairs and the White House for Military Times. He has covered Washington, D.C. since 2004, focusing on military personnel and veterans policies.

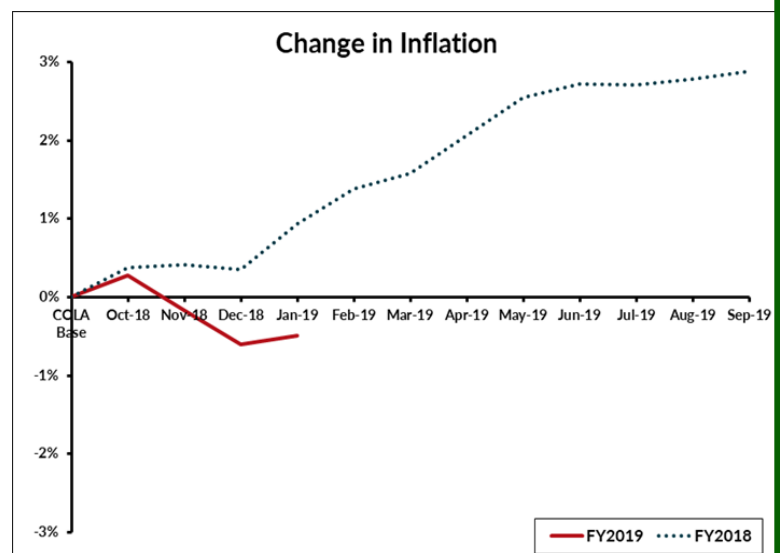
Chapter Member Bob Schwartz Featured in American Legion Magazine



Our very own Bob Schwartz has been declared a linchpin by the American Legion. Read the entire article at <https://www.legion.org/magazine/243188/linchpins>.

January 2019 COLA Watch

The January 2019 CPI is 245.133, 0.5 percent below the FY 2019 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for February is scheduled to be released March 12. The CPI baseline for FY 2019 is 246.352.



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by the spending patterns for each of two population groups: all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers. The all urban consumer group represents about 93 percent of the total U.S. population.

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Chaplain's Corner

"Be Proud of Yourselves"



It's been one long winter time since we've seen each other. That's the way March is. I find I miss you all very much. The periodic assemblage with you who served our country is one of my life's happier times.

Whether you have been, or perhaps still are, a Marine, a soldier, a sailor, a Coastie, or a Fly-boy, makes no difference. When your Uncle said, "Knock, knock" you didn't ask, "Who's there?" You said, "Where do I sign?" And sign you did and you've served with a steadiness that has created such a pride in all the rest of us. We need to express this to you once in a while. It's been quite a trip for these sons and daughters, wives and husbands. Here's hats off to all the military families for their patience, their love, their persistence.



Recently I sat with a group of people who were wives and children of former serving military families. I didn't hear very many

complaints except about needing to change schools so frequently. The talk mostly was of the naiveté many felt at being in strange circumstances. The wife who had a last minute emergency dinner party in Cairo. She told of her sons who snatched all the quarters kept in a jar for "Budagas". Budagas provides much of the gas for northern African cities including hot water in Egypt. With no coins for the gas machine she was stuck. An icy cold shower or no shower. She opted for a cold shower and the boys were grounded for weeks.

Of course, who can ever forget Joan's wonderful stories of the mice who settled in the toaster? Surprise, Surprise. Bread went in, Joan depressed the lever, out popped the mice. Surely hilarious enough for those of us who weren't there. She laughs about it now but when it happened this was serious business. You want good clean healthy food for your children. And Joan was the only person available to assure her children were safe. Civilian families who had the mouse scourge called upon the men of the house, the vector control health department man, or some such. Not the military wives. They bore the burden of this tempestuous part of their lives and could only turn to a Housing Officer. These family members became so strong. And it was the ladies who taught them how.

My mother had a friend who had been married to an officer stationed in Burma. She told of another dinner party. Guests were seated at the table when she quietly signaled to one of the servers, whispering to him. She asked for a small bowl of milk to be put next to her foot. This was done quite surreptitiously and the server placed the milk, as a form of bait. When he came out from under the table, he had seized a python in his arms which had been drawn to the milk. I, for one, think this wife was as heroic as anyone serving on a front line. Really, this dining room was her front line. The ladies are a stout folk when it comes to mice, as well as pythons, or any other troublesome being.

The inconveniences presented to families of military members were nothing compared to what the absent members of the family were undergoing. My point is that in spite of danger, sleepless nights, food deprivation in many cases, to say nothing of direct peril from the enemy, those who served did it in good grace. There was the thought that contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want but the realization of how much you already had. Our military families have never been given the acclaim they have always deserved for their magnificent "attention to duty" in caring for their youngest ones, their married partners and other resident relatives. All the rest of us can do is smile gently at them and let them know how much they are valued and loved. Please, from me to you, be proud of yourselves.

In Genesis 28:15 the Lord tells us: I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.

God bless each of you and each military family and the women whose glue binds them together.

God bless America

Alice Peeples



In Memoriam

Every month the chapter acknowledges members birthdays. It is also appropriate that we say goodbye to those comrades, friends, and their family members who have passed. The phrase "In Memoriam" is a direct translation from the Latin, meaning "In Memory".

It is with great sadness that this month the chapter says farewell to Stanley Haskins.

Stanley Haskins was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and servant passed away peacefully February 12, 2019. Born 89 years ago in Wisconsin, he served a full career as an officer in the Army. A memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in Lakewood, WA, on Sunday, February 24, 2019.



IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA, PLEASE CONTACT STEVEN SCHENK 253-307-7208. YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP THE CHAPTER 'FUN' TO ATTEND, YET INFORMATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

Note: MOAA Meetings will be held at the Patriot's Landing unless otherwise noted. Social Time starts at 1200, the Buffet at 1230 is \$20.00/person and Program starts 1300. For all reservations or information contact Jerry Jackson at gerald.jackson1@comcast.net or 253.565.6409, Steven Schenk at steven.schenk@comcast.net, or Chris Guppy at guppyc@comcast.net.

Remember, when making a reservation, your word is your bond.

24 March 2019: Ray Arment with Kerri Pedrick, Executive Director Washington Trafficking Prevention. Nominations for Officers. **This is a change from 17 March!!**

28 April 2019: Election of Officers – Program: Sound Military and Communities Partnership; Bill Adamson.

19 May 2019: Installation of Officers – Presentation by MOAA National Board member MG Kay McClain USAF Ret.

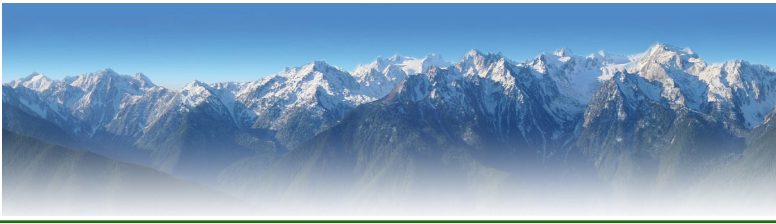
23 June 2019: Lakewood Playhouse – “The Producers”, social to follow.

21 July 2019: Rainier Baseball, **Note this is a Sunday event.**

18 August 2019: Annual Picnic at Heritage Hill.

15 September 2019: Program TBA.

20 October 2019: Oktoberfest at Bruno's.



Happy Birthday Wishes to Our Treasured Friends

3/28 James Cheatham
3/30 Duane Hardesty
3/30 Jack Jory

3/1 Carolyn Epling
3/7 Robert J. Reilly
3/11 Robert Potter
3/13 Chris Guppy
3/13 Michael Winkler
3/14 Jay Cash
3/14 Priscilla Huber
3/15 Otto Petersen
3/18 Agnes Wayne
3/18 Joe Ferluga
3/19 Fukujo Smith
3/22 Holmes Bengé
3/26 Richard Lund



In March the soft rains continued, and each storm waited courteously until its predecessor sunk beneath the ground.

~John Steinbeck

Northwest Patriot News

Editors Curtis Atkinson and Shirley Burrows

The information in this newsletter, both National and Local, is Nonpartisan

This newsletter is published monthly by the Mt. Rainier Chapter, MOAA at P.O. Box 99212, Lakewood, WA 98496-0212. Circulation 50 by mail and approximately 300 by e-mail.

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AROWS

The ladies of AROWS (Associated Retired Officers Wives), an auxiliary of the Mt. Rainier Chapter of MOAA, has members from every branch of the service. They meet monthly from 11:00 to 13:00 hours on the 3rd Thursday every month at Patriot's Landing. Reservations are required.

Contact Carolyn Guppy
(253) 581-2662 for any questions.



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Mount Rainier Chapter Has Been Selected as a 2017 Four Star Chapter

