

Volume 63, Number 4

[www.mountrainiermoaa.org](http://www.mountrainiermoaa.org)

April 2020

## In This Issue

- President's Message
- 2020 Calendar
- WSPD
- Bill Tracking
- Membership/Surviving Spouse
- Chaplain's Corner
- From National

## Links of Interest

[www.mountrainiermoaa.org](http://www.mountrainiermoaa.org)

[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/>

[www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)

## Contacts of Interest

USO JBLM: 253-982-1100

Veterans Hospital Seattle: 1-800-827-1000

Veterans Assistance American Lake: 253-583-1079

## Contact Us

President: Jerry Jackson  
[gerald.jackson1@comcast.net](mailto:gerald.jackson1@comcast.net)  
253-691-5766

Membership Chair: Ray Dotson  
[searayd@gmail.com](mailto:searayd@gmail.com)  
253-209-8274

Chaplain: Gail Porter  
[blueplate545@gmail.com](mailto:blueplate545@gmail.com)  
360-265-6216

## President's Message

Welcome to April and a continuing "Shelter in Place". Where would we be without the internet? As you all know, we cancelled our last brunch on March 15. Since COVID-19 is going to be with us for an unknown period of time, please be alert for continuing changes in schedule through the Spring.

This edition of "Northwest Patriot News" is the first quarterly issue in a revised format and hopefully will reflect a continuation of last month's "Mini". Your comments are welcome towards improving the message and information to you, chapter members.

April 19<sup>th</sup>'s Business/Social Brunch which is also our annual General Membership meeting has been cancelled. Consequently, our General Membership meeting is being rescheduled to May 17, 2020. We will be attempting to schedule LTC Mark Davis at a future date. The primary order of business for this meeting will be to vote on two directors for the next biennium. Curt Atkinson and Doug Taylor who are the outgoing directors have agreed to stand for re-election. Per by-laws, both will remain in place until an election takes place on May 17, 2020. Nominations for additional candidates for both positions are still open.

The Mt. Rainier Chapter schedule is of course not the only one being affected. Retiree Appreciation Day at the American Lake Conference Center and "Storming the Hill" at the national level have been cancelled.

On a brighter note, kudos to both Curt Atkinson and Sarah Taylor. The chapter has received individual awards for the Level of Excellence (LOE) for both the newsletter and the website. We will present these awards at the May meeting. LOE submission for chapters is due May 1, 2020.

Jerry Jackson, President



## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

2019-2020

### **PRESIDENT**

CDR Gerald Jackson, USNR Ret.

Fircrest 253-565-6409

E-mail [gerald.jackson1@comcast.net](mailto:gerald.jackson1@comcast.net)

### **VICE PRESIDENT- Legislative Affairs**

COL Patrick Campion, USAR Ret.

Spanaway 253-847-7068

E-mail [campionpe@yahoo.com](mailto:campionpe@yahoo.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT- Chapter Affairs**

LTC Carroll "RAY" Dotson, USA Ret.

Lakewood 253-209-8274

E-mail [searayd@gmail.com](mailto:searayd@gmail.com)

### **SECRETARY**

LCDR Bob Schwartz, USN Ret.

University Place 253-381-6453

E-mail [bobschwartz.wa@gmail.com](mailto:bobschwartz.wa@gmail.com)

### **TREASURER**

Paula M. McCarty, 1Lt, USAF prior svc.

Puyallup 253-864-0626

E-mail [paula\\_mccarty1@yahoo.com](mailto:paula_mccarty1@yahoo.com)

### **CHAPLAIN**

MAJ Gail Porter, USA Ret.

Port Orchard 360-265-6216

E-mail [blueplate545@gmail.com](mailto:blueplate545@gmail.com)

### **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

COL Chris Guppy, USA Ret.

Steilacoom 253-581-2662

E-mail [guppyc@comcast.net](mailto:guppyc@comcast.net)

### **DIRECTORS**

LTC Curtis F. Atkinson, USA Ret.

University Place 253-564-1721

E-mail [curtisfatkinson@g.com](mailto:curtisfatkinson@g.com)

Mrs. Cheryl Toland

Tacoma 253-847-2852

E-mail [ret07@comcast.net](mailto:ret07@comcast.net)

MAJ Douglas Taylor, USA

Steilacoom 760-577-4628

E-mail [douglas.taylor37@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.taylor37@gmail.com)

LTC Douglas Kotrba, USA Ret.

Parkland 253-531-6701

E-mail [dougekotrba@comcast.net](mailto:dougekotrba@comcast.net)

## BUSINESS/SOCIAL CALENDAR 2020

Note: MOAA Meetings will be held at the Patriot's Landing unless otherwise noted. Social Time starts at 1200, the Buffet at 1230 is \$22.00/person and Program starts 1300.

For all reservations or information contact Jerry Jackson at [gerald.jackson1@comcast.net](mailto:gerald.jackson1@comcast.net) or 253.691.5766, Pat Campion at [campionpe@yahoo.com](mailto:campionpe@yahoo.com) or 253-847-7068.

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

**January 26, 2020**, Tammie Perreault, Northwest Regional Liaison  
Defense- State Liaison Office.

**February 22, 2020**, Washington State Patriotic Day. 1400-1600 at Stadium High School, Tacoma. Dinner social at the Rein Haus restaurant to follow.

**March 15, 2020**, Cancelled

**April 19, 2020**, Cancelled

**May 17, 2020**. Sean Dennerlein, Pierce County Human Services, Veterans Assistance Program supervisor. Installation of Directors.

**June 21, 2020**, USO fundraiser, *RAGTIME*, at the Lakewood Playhouse. Dinner social/fundraiser at the Lakewood RAM restaurant to follow.

**July 22, 2020**, Baseball! Rainiers vs Las Vegas Aviators at Cheney Stadium, pizza social to follow.

**August 23, 2020**, Picnic at Heritage Hill, JBLM.

**September 20, 2020**, Presentation by the Museum of Flight, topic and speaker TBA.

**October 18, 2020**, Oktoberfest at Bruno's Restaurant.

**November 8, 2020**, Joint meeting with host MOWW.

**December 4, 2020**, Christmas Gala at the American Lake Conference Center.

Now and Always  
We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com)



On February 22, 2020 the Mt. Rainier Chapter of Military Officers Association of America joined partners: The Dimmer Family Foundation, Puget Sound Chapter Military Order of the World Wars, Tacoma Council Navy League of the United States, McChord Air Force Base Chapter Air Force Association, Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter Association of the United States Army, and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at Stadium High School for the annual *Washington State Patriotic Day*.

There were 95 units in attendance. Monetary awards were made for attendance in three categories representing youth organizations, youth and young adult organizations, and adult organizations. Please go to <http://washingtonstatepatrioticday.org/> to obtain more pictorial and written information.

Post celebration, many of the chapter participants pictured above including Kevin Ballard, Pat Campion, Bob and Karen Schwartz, Coti and Ray Dotson, Bob Brown, Gail Porter, Cheryl Toland, and Penny and Jerry Jackson adjourned to the Rein Haus Restaurant for a social occasion.

Please join us next year which is tentatively set for February 20, 2021.



## Bills Passed by the 2020 Washington State Legislature pertaining to Veterans

### **Veteran Bill Tracking Report 3/13/2020**

Page 1 of 2

#### **Bill # / Comp # Title / Sponsor Status Analysis**

##### **2188 Military veteran CDL waivers**

Leavitt

Del to Gov

##### **Status**

Authorizes the Department of Licensing (DOL) to waive the requirements for the knowledge examination for commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants for current or former military service members that meet certain federal requirements. Requires the DOL to provide an annual report to the House and Senate transportation committees and to the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs on the number and types of CDL military service member waivers granted beginning December 1, 2021.

##### **2411 Suicide prevention/providers**

HCW(Orwall)

Del to Gov

##### **Status**

Requires advanced suicide prevention training for certain mental health professionals. Requires optometrists and acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioners to complete one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Requires veterinarians and veterinary technicians to complete suicide prevention training. Requires the University of Washington to develop suicide prevention training for the construction industry.

##### **2543 In-state residency/veterans**

CWD(Paul)

Del to Gov

##### **Status**

Provides in-state residency to students on terminal, separation, or transition leave pending separation or release from active duty from the uniformed services who have veteran education benefits. Provides in-state residency to students who are the spouse or child of an individual who has separated from the uniformed services with at least 10 years of honorable service, if the student enrolls in a higher education institution in Washington within three years of the service member's date of separation. Expands in-state residency to students who are eligible for transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill.

##### **2544 Definition of veteran**

APP(Paul)

Del to Gov

##### **Status**

Expands the definition of "period of war" for veterans' benefits in state pension systems, legal assistance, scoring criteria on civil service exams, and other programs, to include any armed conflicts where a campaign medal was awarded, rather than listing specific conflicts. Requires the Select Committee on Pension Policy and the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Plan 2 Retirement Board to study the provision of free military service credit to members awarded an expeditionary medal, but not a campaign medal.

## Veteran Bill Tracking Report 3/13/2020

Page 2 of 2

### Bill # / Comp # Title / Sponsor Status Anal

#### **4016 SR 902/Gold Star Memorial**

Riccelli

S 2nd

Reading

#### **Status**

SR 902 is the route that most visitors take to the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake. The Senate and the House of Representatives request that the WSTC commence proceedings to name State Route 902 the Gold Star Memorial Highway.

#### **5197**

HB 1201(S Rules 2)

#### **National guard ed. grants**

Hobbs

Del to Gov

#### **Status**

Renames the Washington State National Guard Conditional Scholarship Program the "Washington National Guard Postsecondary Grant Program" (Grant Program). Transfers the Grant Program administrative functions from the Office of the Adjutant General to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (Office). Establishes additional eligibility requirements for Grant Program participants. Requires the Office to establish rules addressing the terms of repayment of grants from the Grant Program.

#### **5900 LGBTQ coordinator/veterans**

WM(Randall)

Del to Gov

#### **Status**

Creates the position of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer coordinator within the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. The date for the required report regarding the implementation and status of the coordinator is changed to December 15, 2021.

#### **6626 Military spouse liaison**

Conway

H Spkr

Signed

#### **Status**

The position of military spouse liaison (liaison) is created within DVA. The liaison's duties include, but are not limited to: conducting outreach to and advocating on behalf of Washington military spouses; providing assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment; coordinating research on issues facing military spouses and creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their families; examining barriers and providing recommendations to help military spouses access high-quality child care; in coordination with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, developing resources to increase access to high-quality child care for military families; and in coordination with the Employment Security Department, developing a common form to help military spouses quickly find meaningful employment by highlighting specific skills, training, and education. The liaison is encouraged to periodically report to the relevant committees of the Legislature and participate in policy development related to military spouses.

## **MEMBERSHIP – THE KEY TO SURVIVAL**

It's the one thing that most organizations need plenty of. Every organization has an active core group. In order to retain its viability that core group needs to be recycled with new members bringing fresh ideas and energy. The same can be said for the organization as a whole.

The Military Officers Association of America advertises 350,000 members. From "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid": "Who are those guys?" How does it relate to the Mt. Rainier Chapter? Of the 350,000, we are told that 8,910 reside in the State of Washington. Further, of the 350,000 only about 45,000 are chapter members nationally. Defining state membership, of the 8,910, 1119 belong to one of the ten MOAA chapters in the state as of late 2019.

Your membership chair, Ray Dotson, and I have been evaluating the reported membership in an attempt to define who we really are. Historically we have several classifications of general members: regular, surviving spouse, and auxiliary. In addition, there are social and honorary memberships. Regular membership is the core group from whom we typically draw on for officers and volunteer slave labor throughout a year's activities. The Mt. Rainier Chapter as of this writing has 96 current dues paid regular members.

Over the past month, I have sent letters to many members whose membership has lapsed. In some cases going back several years. Many of you have responded, thank you. A lapsing membership has not necessarily been due to lack of interest but simple notification. When we moved from a snail mail newsletter to an electronic newsletter, the membership term as posted on the mailing label was not effectively replaced. That information will be promulgated on a continuing basis at the end of each calendar year going forward.

In the meantime, what do we do? In addition to lobbying for veteran's issues both at the national level as well as the state level through the Veterans Legislative Coalition, we need to be in the business of recruiting new members. Towards that end, each and every member of the Mt. Rainier Chapter can be a recruiter. Chair Dotson has developed many recruiting tools to help in the process and your board is actively prospecting the familiar local ground. If any member would like some of the flyers that have been developed, please contact Ray Dotson.

Hopefully this has helped to define the membership from a numbers perspective. Look for some "howgozit" information in future newsletters regarding progress in our efforts to continue to be a Five Star Chapter.

Jerry Jackson, President

## **FROM YOUR SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON, CHERYL TOLAND**

Congress included a phased elimination of the SBP-DIC offset in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The first adjustment to the offset formula will be for January 2021 (paid on February 1, 2021). The offset will be eliminated entirely beginning on January 1, 2023. This is a special webpage to share news about the implementation of this new law. Please plan to check this webpage for updates: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>

For those who receive a VA pension or are the Caregiver of a Veteran, you may want presently or for in the future to be aware of this benefit. VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. If you need help with daily activities, or you're housebound, find out if you qualify. [https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form\\_detail.asp?FormNo=21-2680](https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21-2680)

## **MOAA Life Member Leads COVID-19 Response in Washington State**



Vice Adm. Raquel Bono's last job in uniform was as executive director of the Defense Health Agency. (U.S. Air Force photo by Heide Couch)

**By Capt. Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret.)**

The leader of Washington State's COVID-19 health response team is a MOAA life member who previously ran the Defense Health Agency.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee appointed Navy Vice Adm. Raquel "Rocky" Bono, USN (Ret.) to the position on March 22. Bono is advising the governor and state officials on a variety of health care challenges to include hospital capacity and medical staff needs.

The state of Washington, specifically the greater Seattle area, presented as our nation's first identified hotspot of COVID-19 cases, and the population has been hit hard there with the disease.

"Vice Admiral Bono will help bolster our existing coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic across our state's health care system," Inslee [said in a statement](#). "She brings an impressive medical background, a long and distinguished military career and a deep understanding of complex medical delivery systems. Her expertise will help us ensure that we can meet the needs of Washingtonians who are sick, or will become ill from COVID-19."

Bono is no stranger to MOAA, as she worked closely with the headquarters team in as DHA's executive director.

The veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm retired in September 2019.

MOAA caught up with Bono, just five days into her new role in Washington. She spoke from the Governor's office in Seattle and described her mission, initial impressions, and outlined the heavy lift the whole community is engaged in.

What stood out to her when she landed in Washington state, was the level of total commitment from the Governor's level on down and throughout the diverse localities within the state. She noted there is a strong existing medical infrastructure in place, so they are not having to "start from scratch" to develop capabilities. One of her initial efforts will be to lead a strongly supportive and engaged community to a higher level of coordination, getting everyone to "pull in the same direction."

Serving as the top leader of the DHA prepared her for this new and challenging job.

"At the DHA, you had to bring all the parts together to get the job done," she said. "That is a lot of what this mission requires. Working with different agencies within the various municipalities and integrating existing medical resources with incoming Army field hospital capabilities, will require a collective effort. We will need the entire community to pitch in."

The admiral, who lives in the D.C. area, was both gratified and uplifted upon her arrival to the state, as she was welcomed by many former shipmates and MOAA members who reached out and volunteered to help her in the effort to slow the spread of disease and to eradicate this virus.

Right now, her message for all of us as we confront COVID-19 is to "stay safe; stay home; and stay well."



# Chaplain's Corner

## How does "Never Stop Serving" Look on You?



The motto for the Military Officers Association of America at the nation level is "Never Stop Serving". I recently looked for images on the internet relating to this phrase and was heartened by what I saw. The overwhelming number of images for veterans and veteran groups made me smile. I also smiled at the next frequent images: *Restaurants* and *service animals*.

### Restaurants

Restaurants that are successful are service oriented and make adaptations as their situations and their customers change. The Mt. Rainier Chapter shows its own service orientation through its work with Wreaths Across America, its fundraising for the USO, and award presentations to ROTC and JROTC students.

### Service Animals

Service animals are known for their loyalty and dependability, intelligence, willingness to learn, and desire to please. Mt. Rainier Chapter members score high in each of these areas as well. Monthly fellowship gatherings and special gatherings at holiday times showcase this well.

### The Mt. Rainier Chapter

As much as anything else, "Never Stop Serving" is a mindset which affects our beliefs and actions. It is something that we may or may not have been born with, but it is something that was surely molded into us during our time in service. As members of the Mt. Rainier Chapter, our excellent performance as a chapter reflects the beliefs that our members have about the important place that service still takes in our lives.



*Gail Porter*

## **National Cemetery Administration Suspends Military Funeral Honors**

The [National Cemetery Administration](#) is suspending military funeral honors – whether by military personnel or volunteer organizations – at its 142 national cemeteries.

The move comes as a precaution to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Cemeteries will remain open and continue to provide interments for veterans and eligible individuals. Immediate family members – limited to 10 people – will be able to witness from a distance.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) closed to the public as of March 13. Funerals will continue, [per the ANC website](#), and family members can visit during restricted hours after obtaining a family pass. Family members can call (877) 907-8585 for information about visitation, ceremonies, or scheduling. Updates will be posted on [ANC's Facebook page](#).



## **Beware of Scams Connected to the Coronavirus Crisis**

By: Amber Monks

In a time of uncertainty, there is a heightened risk of falling victim to scams concocted by those with ill intent. For cybercriminals and scammers, the coronavirus crisis creates an attentive audience who may be willing to accept false information to protect themselves.

Arm yourself not only against the virus, but against other threats, by learning how to detect them first with tips from the Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID).

Knowing how legitimate organizations do business can give you a leg up on anyone who attempts to pull the wool over your eyes.

As always, follow good practices online and don't open or click on links from unsolicited emails. These links or emails could contain malware. Never give away personal or financial information about yourself or others online without first verifying the source.

Most scams include messaging that require immediate action. No matter how urgent it sounds, if something doesn't sound quite right, it probably isn't, and you can always contact an organization you know and trust for confirmation. Legitimate organizations can verify their information and will not pressure you into taking an action that you are uncomfortable with.

Seeking information from trusted sources can also help you steer clear of scams. MOAA has links to these organizations, as well as links for recent news updates, at [MOAA.org/coronavirus](https://www.moaa.org/coronavirus). You can also contact your state, county, or city health department, your local hospital, your primary care physician, local medical clinics, or other locations where you receive medical services.

### **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.




**You've served us.  
Now let us serve you.**

*The Pacific Northwest's only  
retirement community dedicated to  
serving former military personnel.*

1600 Marshall Circle  
DuPont, WA 98327

Phone: (253) 964-4900  
Toll-Free: (877) 964-4900  
Fax: (253) 964-4901  
email: [kgetchell@patriotslanding.com](mailto:kgetchell@patriotslanding.com)



*We are proud  
to serve you.*

▶ SERVING THE  
MILITARY FOR  
MORE THAN 50  
YEARS.

**Harborstone**  
Credit Union

No One Takes Better Care of you