

Volume 63, Number 10

www.mountrainiermoaa.org

October 2020

# What a September Meeting at Bruno's

Story by Jerry Jackson, Photos by Pat Campion

The Mt. Rainier Chapter met on September 20, 2020 at Bruno's European Restaurant. Thirty members and spouses were welcomed by Bruno and Krystyna along with Cindy to their festive German hospitality.



**Chapter member Bob** Lawrence proudly displays our new Five Star awards for Communications (Newsletter) and Chapter Excellence

Our speaker for the day, Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier, was introduced by Program Chair, Pat Campion. Accompanying Mr. Dammeier was his Senior Advisor for economic development. Catherine Rudolph. Points of interest during his presentation included issues in the county: Family wage jobs, behavioral health, levels of leadership and full disclosure to the public.

An unexpected guest was University Place Mayor, Carolyn Belleci, daughter of chapter member, Don McDaniel and wife, Helen.



The restaurant was prepared for

Patriots Landing i.e. a social



The good news about October 2020 is that with Fall comes a change in the weather. Leaves are falling, flowers are dying, and the yard is a mess. Work to do! Something to keep me busy! That said, I am a social creature and I miss the spontaneity of joining my many friends up close and personal with the opportunity to vahoo. Are you experiencing the same angst? Never fear, MOAA (Mt. Rainier) is here. We successfully enjoyed the annual August picnic at Heritage Hill and held our last chapter meeting at Bruno's European Restaurant all in a socially distancing family atmosphere. Understanding that we are generally a senior group, consider joining the chapter for Oktoberfest at Bruno's this month. I think that you will find it safe with the camaraderie that we always look for. Expect a flyer in your email in the next few days.

In spite of the pandemic, our social calendar as well as business does go on. The board continues to focus on membership, legislative affairs, managing our investments towards scholarships and community affairs, and being attentive to issues that affect us all as veterans. The board meetings, sadly, are conducted electronically which does not allow quite the same personal interface but we do get to ZOOM!

From a business perspective, there are lots of things going on in the MOAA world. I want to encourage all chapter members to visit the national website and Facebook page as well as our own. If you are not receiving the national weekly newsletter, SIGN UP! There is much information passed on for your benefit. We are told that only about 30% of the national membership in fact reads the weekly newsletter. Give it a go, it may be more interesting than Howdy Doody reruns. This will be the last guarterly Mt. Rainier newsletter before 2021 so pay attention to the "Minis", website, and random email from the board regarding the agenda that we will be promoting as we come out of the pandemic and return to the normal world.

Jerry Jackson, President

Officers and Directors 2019-2020

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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, Ray Dotson. Dues paid now will cover 2020. 2020 dues are due 1 January 2020.

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 <u>Officers 35</u> <u>and under</u>. 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.

## 2021 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 Passenger Terminal 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

October 1, 1908 - <u>Henry Ford's</u> Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time. October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing discrimination and the death penalty, and for championing free speech and civil liberties.

**October 3, 1932** - Iraq gained independence from Britain and joined the League of Nations.

October 8, 1918 - During World War I in the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin C. York singlehandedly took out a German machinegun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre.

October 11, 1939 - Albert Einstein warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."

October 13, 1775 - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

October 14, 1964 - Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the \$54,000 in prize money to the Civil Rights movement.

**October 16, 1964** - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.

October 20, 1944 - During World War II in the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur <u>set foot on</u> Philippine soil for the first time since his escape in 1942, fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."

October 24, 1929 - "Black Thursday" occurred in the New York Stock Exchange as nearly 13 million shares were sold in panic selling. Five days later "Black Tuesday" saw 16 million shares sold.

October 27, 1904 - The New York City subway began operating, running from City Hall to West 145th Street, the first underground and underwater rail system in the world.

October 30, 1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.

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## It is Important to Exercise Your Right to Vote

Voting is the most vital of all cherished civil liberties enjoyed by U.S. citizens. The underlying rationale is dual-pronged and hinges on two indisputable facts. The first is automatic forfeiture of any right to complain about self-imposed adverse circumstances. Secondly, as Boston Tea Party antagonists aptly noted, one cannot expect meaningful relief from burdensome taxation absent zealous representation.

#### There Is Power In Numbers

Increasing the number of people that vote in each election means better representation, more funding to our communities, and a better quality of life. Politicians listen to two things, money and votes. If we work together as a community and increase voter turnout, then our state and national legislators will listen to our needs. Education, healthcare, immigration, infrastructure, the economy, our veterans, etc. are all affected by our vote.

### Top 10 Reasons to Vote

Even if you went to a polling location and only voted for one person, it will be counted. By law your vote has to be counted. Your ballot cannot be skipped or ignored otherwise it is unconstitutional. Sometimes elections can come down to a small number of votes which greatly affects how your city, state, and nation are run. Your vote counts, vote!

**1. Vote! It's Your Right.** People have died defending this right. Don't take it for granted! Voting is more than just electing a candidate, it's choosing the right policies and people who have your best interests in mind when making decisions that will affect our community, state and nation. When you vote, you are taking an active role in deciding issues regarding health care, immigration, equal opportunity, voting rights, infrastructure, jobs, education, social security, neighborhood safety, taxes, etc.

**2. Vote to Allocate Federal Money To this Region.** This money can be used for education, youth programs, healthcare, veterans, creating jobs, the environment, etc. In the Rio Grande Valley as an example, 4 out of 10 people vote in a Presidential Election and only 2 out of 10 vote in a Gubernatorial Election. This is not enough! For any region to grow and get state and federal funding, we need to vote.

**3. If You Do Not Vote, Someone Else Will.** Voting only takes a couple of minutes but the ripple effect caused by your vote will last beyond a candidate's term. Do you want someone else deciding for you the laws that will affect your family and community? Voting gives you the power to choose how your city, state, and country will be run. If you don't vote, you can't complain! Go vote and make the decision before someone else does it for you.

**4. Decide How Your Taxes Will Be Spent.** Elected officials such as county/city commissioners, the governor, state officials, legislators, President, and members of Congress will decide how to pay for public services with the money collected from our taxes and how to share the tax burden. Take an active role and find out if your candidate shares your views and will spend your money wisely.

**5. Voting Affects Your Job.** When you vote for a member of Congress, the President, the governor and your legislators they make decisions that affect minimum wage, fairness in hiring, pay equity, job security, workplace safety, and health insurance provided by your employer.

6. Vote to Improve Your Child's Education. Local and state school board members who you elect will make decisions on policies and budgets that will affect how well prepared your children will be for their future. Your Legislators, governor, members of Congress, and the President also make decisions that affect the cost and quality of public schools and higher learning institutions. Vote to place your children and grandchildren in good hands.

**7. Healthcare is Affected by Your Vote.** Your vote grants the governor, legislators, and Congress the right to take action and pass or reject laws that will determine your access to health care. Vote and elect people who have your best interest in mind. Do it for your love ones, so they can have access to a Healthcare that represents your views.



**8. Social Security is Affected by Your Vote.** Whomever you elect for president and Congress will decide how much payroll tax you pay and what Medicare services you receive and share payment for. They also make decisions on cost of living increases and benefit schedules for your Social Security pension.

#### 9. Vote to Improve the Safety of Your Neighborhood.

Elected officials and judges make day to day decisions on laws that will affect your community, law enforcement, crime prevention, traffic patterns, and where to build schools, parks, and recreational places.

**10. Vote to Improve Your Highways.** Have you ever wondered why we have so many roads with potholes and no one seems to be doing anything about it? The people you elect like commissioners, legislators, governor, and members of Congress take an active role deciding what highways are needed, what public transit to support and how the bill will be paid. Vote to elect people who will do something to fix the problems we face.



## Defense Experts Throw Warning Flags As Congress Mulls Tighter Buy-American Rules

# The House NDAA would require major defense programs to be all-American by 2026.

#### By Marcus Weisgerber

As Congress mulls stricter buy-American rules for Pentagon purchases, European and some former defense officials in the United States are pushing back, arguing that America's national security would be better served by deepening industrial cooperation with its closest allies.

The House has approved <u>provisions</u> in its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would <u>require 100</u> <u>percent American-made parts</u> in major acquisition programs by 2026. Similar legislation has <u>been introduced</u> in the Senate.

Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute said that's unrealistic. "Almost nothing purely — with every part and component — isn't made in one country ever," Eaglen said.

Andrew Hunter, a former Pentagon acquisition official who now runs the Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, concurred with Eaglen.

"Some of the proposals that are right now moving in the NDAA would be, I think, a real barrier to that kind of necessary cooperation for U.S. national security," Hunter said Tuesday at the virtual COMDEF conference. "I think overall, we sometimes bash a little too hard on the Buy America Act, because when you actually go into the provisions of the Buy America Act, there is flexibility there."

Lawmakers are reacting, in part, to the way the coronavirus pandemic put a spotlight on just how much the Pentagon relies on globally sourced materials in its weapons. Earlier this year, U.S. manufacturers were <u>unable to get aircraft parts</u> from virus-shuttered factories in Mexico.



Over the past year, the United States has struggled to remove Turkish suppliers from the F-35 fighter program. U.S. officials had hoped to <u>shift</u> <u>production to</u> <u>other suppliers by</u> <u>March</u>, but will

now continue accepting Turkish-made parts through 2022.

Allies have been <u>pushing</u> the Pentagon to buy more gear from their own companies — but the Trump administration has also been on an intensive drive to promote U.S. defense exports.

Foreign sales account for about one-quarter of annual revenue among the top American defense companies.

The U.K. plans to spend \$32 billion on U.S.-made weapons over the next decade, said Edward Ferguson, the minister counsellor for defence at the British Embassy. That work supports 160,000 American jobs. And British companies based in the U.S. — like BAE systems, Rolls-Royce and Martin Baker — employ 56,000 people.

"The integration of our supply base is extraordinarily deep," Ferguson said. "That's really important, both because it gives us that interoperability in the theater when we need it, but also because it allows us to share the costs and to draw on each other's innovation."

European companies build critical components for the F-35 Lightning II, a fighter jet flown by the U.S. and numerous allies.

"We've managed to do these things, because we share and I think the danger with some of this Buy America direction is that it starts to undermine that principle, or serve to push culture in the wrong way," Ferguson said. "I think the challenge ... is finding the right balance between on the one hand making sure that we are able to protect our technology, and we are able to shore up our national security industrial base, but on the other hand, we remain open enough to allow ourselves to collaborate and draw on technologies from each other."

Hunter, who ran the Pentagon's Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell during the Obama administration, said the U.S. would not have been able to fast-track weapons and equipment to troops on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade without global suppliers.

Companies used steel from Mexico and Canada to build bomb-resistant MRAP troop transports because the U.S. steel stockpile was not large enough, Hunter said. "We didn't have sufficient capacity



within the United States," he said.

The Pentagon relied on the U.K. for ballistic protection equipment and Norway for communications equipment and air defenses, Hunter said.

Ferguson called for building a "trusted community" so allies could quickly share technology data and intellectual property.

"We all need to review our supply chain saying, in the wake of COVID ... to see where we might be exposed and over reliant on untrustworthy sources of supply," he said. "But that doesn't mean throwing the baby out with the bathwater and putting up a drawbridge and saying, well, we're not gonna work with anyone."

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## Chapter Members and Spouses Visit Glacier National Park

Story by Historical Phil

Upon hearing that smoke filled skies were headed to our area, several Chapter members and their spouses decided to get out of Dodge and visit the pure air of Glacier National Park.

Enjoying the adventure were Chapter members Doug and Jeanie Kotrba, Phil and Bev Raschke plus Heinz Haskins who is also Commander of our local MOWW Chapter.



MOAA group visits nearby Flathead Lake the largest fresh water lake west of the Mississippi.

Glacier National Park is just east of Whitefish, Montana a charming town of 8,000 folks famous for its ski resorts and nearness to Glacier.

The town was settled in 1883 and the railroad came in 1904. The town was originally known as Stumptown because of the heavy logging industry. Several Native American tribes inhabited the area prior to the arrival of European settlers. Famous western author <u>Dorothy M. Johnson</u>, who began writing as a student at Whitefish High School in 1918, rests in the Whitefish Cemetery. Her famous books that also became famous motion pictures include *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *The Hanging Tree*, and *A Man Called Horse*.

Glacier National Park was created in May, 1910 and the famous "Going to the Sun" road which crosses the center of the Park was completed in 1932. The Park comprises over 1 million acres of pristine land and shares its northern border with the Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada.

The American Continental Divide passes through Glacier National Park and is marked at Logan Pass. As you may

know, a Divide is a line that divides the flow of water between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Rain or snow that drains on the east side of the Divide flows toward the Atlantic Ocean. Precipitation on the west side drains toward the Pacific Ocean.



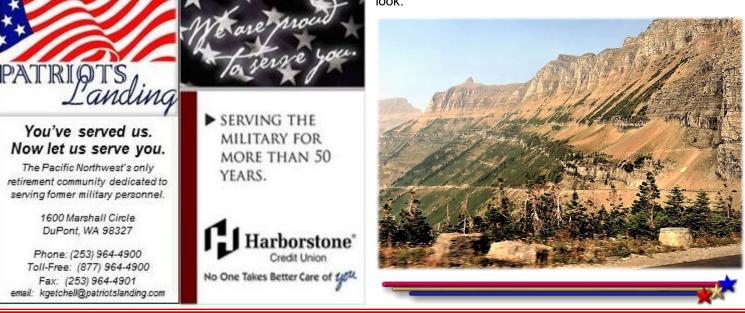
The Park's mountains began forming about 170 million years ago and hundreds of glaciers existed during the Ice Age which ended about 10

Logan Pass ... Marker at Logan Pass in Glacier National Park denotes the Continental Divide. L-R are Doug Kotrba, Jeanie Kotrba, Phil Raschke, Beverly Raschke and Heinz Haskins.

which ended about 10,000 years ago. Today, only about 25 small active glaciers exist in the Park. However, massive evidence of glacial action is found throughout the park in the form of U-shaped valleys, large lakes and radiating fingers from the base of high peaks.

Also, early volcanic action millions of years ago have produced rocks containing excellent examples of early fossil life on our planet.

So if you're looking for some clear skies, beautiful scenery and rich history, give Whitefish and Glacier National Park a look.



## What Does the Continuing Resolution Mean, and What Happens Next?

By: Brenden McMahon

As of Oct. 1, Congress had <u>again</u> missed its deadline to pass necessary appropriation bills to fund the federal government for the new fiscal year. Instead, a continuing resolution (CR) will provide stopgap funding for government activities through Dec. 11. The House had no problem passing the measure with a 359-57 vote on Sept. 22; the Senate followed suit the evening of Sept. 30 with an 84-10 vote. The president then signed the CR into law.

Without funds from the CR, federal agencies would shut down at the start of FY 2021. <u>As you may remember</u>, shutdowns greatly hinder agencies like DoD and others employing uniformed service personnel in executing their missions; ultimately, they lead to furloughing non-excepted personnel. The last funding gap that lead to a government shutdown lasted 34 days, from Dec. 22, 2018, to Jan. 25, 2019.

It will fund programs and activities at FY 2020 levels, and it will extend several authorities and programs, including:

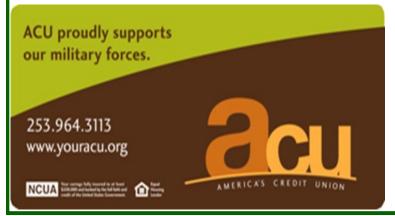
• Medicare Part B premium adjustments, and other Medicare and Medicaid-related authorities and programs.

- Authorities related to veterans' benefits.
- Nutrition programs for children, to include some eligibility waivers and modifications related to school and child care closures.
- Authorities related to immigration.

MOAA appreciates elected officials securing short-term funding to avoid a costly government shutdown, but we urge Congress to get back to regular order and ensure predictable and timely funding of our government activities – and stop the habitual use of CRs in lieu of a full federal budget.

Those in uniform and their families count on their government to support them as they serve. They need Congress to push forward on passing a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), backed up by full appropriations, so they can do their job without delays.

But the congressional track record on this issue is abysmal – you can see for yourself via <u>this Congressional Research</u> <u>Service website</u> that tracks the dozens of CRs in place since

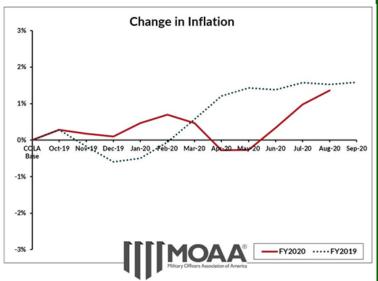


1999. Something needs to change.

In the coming weeks, as we track what may be on the horizon for the new Dec. 11 deadline, we need members and other readers to let their elected officials know that short-term budgets are unacceptable. Your voice, and our collective efforts, make a difference.

## August 2020 COLA Watch

The August 2020 CPI is 253.597, 1.4 percent above the FY 2020 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for September is scheduled to be released Oct. 13.



The CPI baseline for FY 2020 is 250.200.The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current fiscal year to the average for the same months of the year prior. Remember, active duty pay raises are calculated differently. This information is calculated from the non-seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

## What A Play On Words

The man behind the jokes is Colorado native and volunteer at the community center, Vince Rozmiarek.



He made his first sign as an April Fools prank and has never looked back.

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# **Chaplain's Corner** *"Control and*

Power"

On the cusp of a national election, the control and the power of the United States are clearly in view by many. This is true not only of those who seek to gain it but those in our nation and around the world who will live with the consequences of the election.

We must certainly be informed and vote. We must also certainly be prayerful, as "God governs in the affairs of men" (Benjamin Franklin).



Many today are aware of what Benjamin Franklin had observed. The internet reveals sources of prayers for our upcoming election as diverse as the following:

The Presidential Prayer Team

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Jewish Standard

By running the words "election prayer" on your favorite internet browser you'll come up with many, many more. I

invite you to be a part of the growing number of people who pray for our nation at this critical time. Pray for **God's control** over elections at national, state, county, and municipal level so that **power** will rest in the hands of just and upright people.

Gail Porter

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## Washington State Named Community Impact Leader of the Year by U.S. Chamber

Washington state has been named Community Impact Leader of the Year by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes division for extensive efforts to boost employment for military spouses – a result of collaboration between the state's Employment Security Department, the Washington State Department of Veteran's Affairs and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Lourdes E. "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos director of the Washington

State Department of Veterans Affairs; Alecia Grady, JBLM Director of Personnel and Family Readiness; and Suzan G.

LeVine, Employment Security Department Commissioner, accepted the Community Leader Impact Award at the September 17 Annual Military Spouse Employment Summit.

"This award recognizes the incredible partnerships that make this work possible, from implementing the first on base American Jobs Center in the country which serves military spouses, conducting military spouse hiring activities, to expanding our employment partnerships through our Washington State Military Transition and Readiness Council," said Alvarado-Ramos, "We are



Lourdes E. "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

thrilled to accept the Community Leader Impact Award on behalf of Washington State's military and veteran community."

READ MORE: <u>https://dva.wa.gov/news/2020/washington-state-named-community-impact-leader-year-jblm-waesd-wdva</u>

## PROCLAMATION - POW MIA Recognition Day -September 18

September 14, 2020 - 12:00pm

WHEREAS, more than 217,000 Americans have been confined by enemies of the United States during the last one hundred years, with many enduring brutal and inhumane treatment by their captors in violation of international law; and

WHEREAS, 1,500 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War, as well as 7,800 unaccounted for from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, and over 72,000 from World War II, though thousands are unrecoverable deep-sea losses ; and

WHEREAS, families and friends of these missing Americans, as well as their fellow veterans, endure uncertainty concerning their fate; and

WHEREAS, as a nation founded on the principles of civil rights and justice, we have a moral obligation to continue to make every effort to ascertain the truth about these Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE , I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington , do hereby proclaim September 18, 2020, as

POW / MIA Recognition Day

in Washington , and I encourage all people in our state to join me in honoring the bravery and perseverance of former prisoners of war, those still missing, and their families.

Governor Jay Inslee



IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA, PLEASE CONTACT PAT CAMPION, 253-847-7068. YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP THE CHAPTER 'FUN' TO ATTEND, YET INFORMATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

Note: Due to COVID 19 concerns our meetings will be a combination of ZOOM or in person depending on potential venue. We will keep you informed on a regular basis.

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

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

**18 October 2020:** Oktoberfest at Bruno's. Kommen Sie und genießen Sie gutes Bier und gutes Essen.

8 November 2020: Rochelle Hicklin, JBLM Surviving Outreach Support Coordinator.

**?? December 2020:** MOAA Christmas Extravaganza. Date and location still being determined. More to follow!!

24 Jan 2021: TBD

**20 Feb 2021:** (Washington State Patriot's Day). Social at Tacoma restaurant after ceremony

21 March 2021: TBD

25 April 2021: TBD - Election of Officers

16 May 2021: TBD - Installation of Officers

Again, please let us know if you have a program idea!!



#### **Northwest Patriot News**

Editors Curtis Atkinson and Jerry Jackson

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

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## A R O W S

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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Happy Birthday Wishes to Our Treasured Friends

10/9 Shirley McNall
10/11 Mary Muri (Wife)
10/15 Chong Cheatam
10/15 David Redemann
10/19 Phil Raschke
10/22 Ray Swalley
10/22 Richard Thomas
10/24 Lorraine Larson
(Wife)
10/26 Peter Franklin
10/26 Penelope Jackson
(Wife)
10/31 Carolyn Guppy
(Wife)





The sweet calm sunshine of October, now / Warms the low spot; upon its grassy mould / The purple oak-leaf falls; the birchen bough / Drops its bright spoil like arrow-heads of gold. ~ William Cullen Bryant

