



# Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

## *Brass Bulletin* Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

Portland, Oregon  
Chapter

--

P.O. Box 68959  
Portland, OR 97268

Volume XXXII, Number 1

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

September 2015

### PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Congratulations to the MOAA Portland Chapter! I was recently notified by MOAA National that our chapter has once again earned the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2014**. As Chapter President, I want to thank my fellow officers, board members, committee chairs and members, and the chapter membership for working so hard over the past year—it was truly a team effort that ensured the chapter qualified for and won this coveted and prestigious award.

I hope a number of you are planning on attending the **Oregon Military Community Workshop and Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention**, sponsored by the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and Oregon State University. The event will be held on Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015 at the Life Community Church in Corvallis, Oregon. The registration fee is **\$60**, and you need to register ASAP at <http://www.oregonmcw.com/home.html>. If you need lodging, there are suggested hotels on the same website. Details can be found on *page 6* of this newsletter. We would like to have at least 25 attendees from our chapter!

We welcome our new Recording Secretary **LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret)**, and our new Reservations Secretary, **CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)** to the chapter board of directors this year and look forward to working with them! And, we really ask for your help in the following areas:

- **Air Force Representative:** With the death of the incumbent, we need a new Air Force rep on the board.
- **Membership Committee Members:** We have had several members of this committee drop out due to medical issues.
- **New Committee(s):** You could start a new committee.

To volunteer for these and other duties, please contact me via cell at **310-897-1902** or via email at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)

### IN MEMORIAM: May He Rest in Peace!

**Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot, USAF (Ret)**  
Air Force Representative on Board of Directors

### SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

**Tuesday, 1 September 2015**

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

### PROGRAM:

“The Story of Coast Guard Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, the Hero of Guadalcanal” will be presented by **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret)**, Munro’s Nephew

### MENU:

Garden Greens, Tomatoes, and Cucumber Salad  
with Ranch Dressing

Roasted Breast of Turkey

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Seasonal Vegetables

Cranberry Relish

Rolls and Butter

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

**COST: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**

*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR David Bredemann** at **503-974-9335** or [dbredemann@comcast.net](mailto:dbredemann@comcast.net) or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 26 August 2015**. **No late reservations**, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows. (*Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.*)

**DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the Fundraising Project selected by the Board of Directors at its 6 August board meeting. For **Operation Homefront**, please bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes, new backpacks, and school supplies. Finally, please donate your old cell phones to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

***MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 2,  
2015 DINNER MEETING***

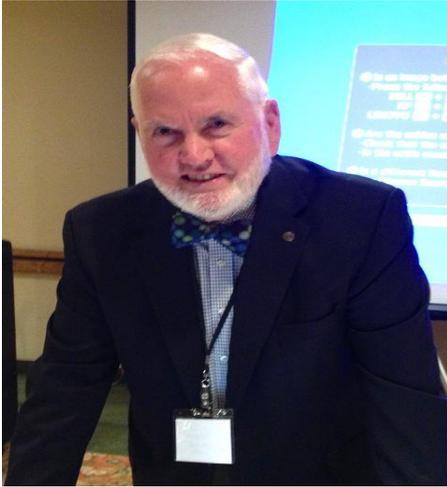
***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***

- 57 members and guests attended the dinner meeting at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. Chapter Second Vice President **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** called the meeting to order at 1830, followed by the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation by **Chaplain LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)**.
- Larry introduced the speaker for the evening, **Mr. Eddie Murphy**, and MOAA National Board Member and installation officer, **Brigadier General David. E. Price, USAF (Ret)**. Larry also noted that **President Mayer** had sent to MOAA National our MOAA Levels of Excellence Award Submission, as we seek another “Five Star” rating.
- Larry reported on the outcome of the May 14 meeting of the Chapter Board of Directors. The board spent significant time discussing the chapter’s next significant fundraising project. It will continue that discussion and will make a decision at the next Board meeting on August 6. In the interim, the board approved a contribution of \$1,000 to the Oregon City High School Army JROTC program for utilization in funding two cadets to attend a Leadership Conference in Tacoma, WA.
- The Chapter has fulfilled its commitment of \$2,500 to build out the USO at Portland International Airport. The manager of that facility will be a speaker this coming fall at a chapter meeting. As a footnote, the chapter has fulfilled its commitment to the Oregon City JROTC.
- **Status of the current program year budget and membership:** Larry reported that, through the sustained and herculean efforts of Treasurer

**LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)**, the paid memberships have increased from 69 regular members to 143, that auxiliary paid members rose from 4 to 9, and one honorary member paid. The net result is that we collected over **\$4,610** in 2014 and 2015 dues. The Chapter is in the black for this program year and now has a systemic and sustainable process to bill and collect dues in a timely manner. Larry expressed the thanks due to Myrna from President Mayer, the Board, and the membership for her work and commitment.

- **Chapter Board of Directors Meeting:** The Board will meet on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 0930 at Colwood Golf Course.
- **Personal Affairs:** The chapter has suffered two deaths: **COL Melvin Garten, USA (Ret)** and **LCDR Roy Hatfield, USCG (Ret)**.
- **Guest Speaker: Mr. Eddie Murphy: Lt. Eddie Murphy, USN**, was Executive Office of the USS Pueblo on its maiden voyage and mission off the coast of North Korea in international waters in January 1968. The ship was a signals intelligence gatherer, slow, unprotected, and lightly armed. It was jammed with very sensitive equipment, carried a vast amount of highly classified materials, and boasted a crew of trained signals intercept sailors. The ship was approached, fired upon, and ultimately boarded by the North Korean Navy. The Pueblo surrendered without firing a shot, and the crew was unable to destroy much of the sensitive equipment. The Pueblo was escorted into a North Korean port, where the crew members were sent to a prison camp, interrogated, tortured, and mistreated for almost a year before they were released at the 37<sup>th</sup> Parallel and flown back to the United States. Eddie shared with us the brutality, the rigors of a North Korean winter, the stories of the crew, the feelings of hopelessness, and the continued fight of the crew to survive. It was a moving story of resilience, dogged effort and eventual salvation. The Pueblo incident was a major intelligence loss resulting from a series of miscommunications and miscalculations, and ultimately an embarrassment. The Pueblo remains in North Korean hands today, far from the reach of the United States. Eddie wrote a book on the Pueblo capture, one that was headlined as “uncensored.” It differed markedly from another account by the Commanding Officer, **CDR Peter Bucher**, a submariner with an intelligence background who had come from the staff of ComSubFlotilla 7 in

Japan. After Eddie's presentation, **Captain Roberts** presented him with a gift.



Mr. Eddie Murphy shared his experiences as the XO on the USS Pueblo with the Chapter Membership

- **Auxiliary:** Mrs. Jean Hillman announced that the next Auxiliary Luncheon was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on June 30 at Albertina Kerr's.
- **MOAA National Board member, Brigadier General David Price, USAF (Ret)**, first briefed the members on the political and legislative situation facing the military and what MOAA is doing to react positively and steadfastly to some of the ideas that are circulating in Congress and the Pentagon. His message was modestly upbeat, with the caveat that we have a major battle on our hands as the sequestration continues to adversely affect readiness and programs. **General Price** then installed the Chapter Officers for the 2015-2016 year found on page 7.

Unfortunately, President **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)** and Recording Secretary **LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret)** were unable to attend the dinner meeting.



MOAA National Board Member, Brig Gen David Price, USAF (Ret) installs the 2015-2016 MOAA Portland Chapter Officers

- **Raffle:** **CAPT Roberts** congratulated the members for contributing over \$400 to the raffle, and then he raffled off three bottles of wine.
- **For the Good of the Order:** As usual, **LTC Bill Kroger, USAF (Ret)** had an excellent joke prepared for the meeting.
- **Closing Remarks:** **CAPT Roberts** thanked **Mr. Eddie Murphy** and his wife **Carole** and **Gen David Price**. He also thanked **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for the table decorations. He then declared the meeting adjourned at 2045.

***AN OPINION PIECE:  
MY TAKE ON NATIONAL AND STATE  
AFFAIRS THAT MAY AFFECT YOU  
By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***

**COLA Watch:** Let's start with some continuation of good news and a positive prognostication. The June Consumer Price Index rose 0.4%, bringing the year to date figure to (0.2%). You may recall that the year to date CPI was a negative 2.5% as recently as January, so the recovery has been sharp and pretty much unexpected.

That recovery was in part enabled by the spring rise in crude prices to \$60 per barrel, as measured by West Texas Intermediate. Recently, oil has again plunged below \$50 per barrel, and who knows where it may go from here. At the same time, the price of gold and silver--plus almost all industrial commodities--have weakened.

Still, it appears that there will be a modest increase in the CPI for the 2015 fiscal year, leading to a modest cost of living allowance increase in Social Security, retired military pay, and other federal benefits occurring January 1, 2016.

My guess is an increase of around 1%, plus or minus a bit, is in the works. Not much, but a lot better than expected 6 months ago.

**Joint Chiefs of (JCS) Chairman Nominee Speaks Bluntly to the Senate:**

Recently, Marine Corps Commandant General Joe Dunford, the President's nominee to take over as Chairman of the JCS, gave testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee as part of his confirmation process. General Dunford appears to be on track for confirmation, with no organized or visible obstacles in his path.

General Dunford carried a message that was terrifying at one level, and much needed at another level. Specifically he said that **THE LARGEST SECURITY CHALLENGE FACING THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS RUSSIA**. You may recall that the President chided Mitt Romney during the last Presidential Election Debates for being so out of touch with reality when Romney essentially took the same position.

Backing up his statements, Dunford stated that Russia "could pose an existential threat to our country" and that the US Military is worried about potential invasions, specifically mentioning Moldova and Georgia. Of course, Russia invaded Georgia about a decade ago, and neither the US nor NATO did anything more than protest.

Further, the General held that we can "no longer unilaterally reduce our nuclear arsenal."

Tough words, these, and at odds with the positions held by his boss, the President. It was a good start after the timidity of General Dempsey, the current Chairman of the JCS. We shall see if this hard-headed Marine is muzzled. I hope not!

**The Next Elephant in the Room, Medicaid (or in Oregon, the Oregon Health Plan):**

As part of the inaptly named Affordable Care Act (ACA), states were encouraged to dramatically increase the number of individuals in their state-specific Medicaid Health Plans. Some states did, some did not, and others waited a bit before taking action. Given the collapse of Cover Oregon, a fallback position was to focus more on the Oregon Medicaid Plan, or the Oregon Health Plan.

As a result, enrollment reached 386,000 (as compared to 222,700 projected), a 73% increase. Now, that is fine when the Federal government is picking up the tab. But, beginning in 2017, the state will start paying for a portion of the cost.

In 2013, the State of Oregon projected that its portion of 2017 expenses would be \$217 million, a not insignificant sum. Roll forward 2 years to the present and the estimate is \$369 million, a 70% increase in two years, with more increases likely in the future. How would you like a \$500 million tab, which would hurt school funding and almost everything else?

Already, there is talk of reducing payments to doctors, and that, of course, creates an illusory insurance program where your individual costs are covered but there are too few providers to meet your medical needs.

Who would have ever predicted this unsustainable model?

State Senator Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin and co-chair of the Budget Committee says "I think, really, the only way to keep this manageable is to keep those costs under control, get people off Medicaid." This is a solution in a state with the worst high school graduation rate in the nation?

Watch out below! The next budget should be interesting.

**US Economic Projections Reduced, One More**

**Time:** In mid-July the White House issued a revision to its 2015 and 2016 economic projections. Once again,

in what feels like an interminable series of cuts, projections for both years were reduced. 2015 GDP growth is now projected at 2.0%, revised downward from an earlier forecast of 3%. There was only a mild downward revision of the 2016 forecasts from 3% to 2.9%. Given what appears to be a systemic slowing of the Chinese economy and persistent weakness in Europe, my guess is that the 2016 forecast will be reduced further, likely ending in the 2.0% range. These forecasts are not robust and do not show an accelerating economy. It is interesting that, six months into the calendar year, the GDP forecast is reduced by 1/3.

One can attribute a portion of the reduction to the bitter winter suffered by much of the country and another part to the basically weak international economy. The remainder we can only speculate about.

In good economic news, the White House report postulates the budget deficit for this year at ONLY \$455 billion, down 22% from the prior estimate of \$583 billion. This results from higher tax revenues, partly as a result of the incremental ACA taxes, and, amazingly, lower than expected government spending.

The implications for individuals looking at lower than projected GDP growth include a less ebullient US stock market, although that is not generally addressed by the talking heads on CNBC and Fox Business. Over the longer term, stock prices are driven by corporate profits, and US corporate profits are at the upper edge of expectations at this time. Hence, corporate profits are likely to track broad economic growth of the worldwide market. There are a number of market forecasters that expect low single digit market growth over the next decade. Put that in your 10 year financial plan, and see if you can take out even as little as 4% per year.

**The Iran Nuclear Arms Deal:** While there is much verbiage and gnashing of teeth and diatribes from commentators, legislators, world leaders and the like, my take is that this is mostly theater. Whether or not the treaty is approved, and it most likely will be, Iran is on its way, and more rapidly than we expect, to having a nuclear weapon AND the means to deliver those weapon throughout the Middle East and most likely to the United States.

The first consequence is that non-proliferation is a dead concept. The world is entering into an era of proliferation. Can you imagine that Saudi Arabia will stand by and rely on the assurances of the United States while its avowed enemy from antiquity creates a nuclear arsenal? I cannot! And if Saudi Arabia follows suit, can Egypt be far behind? India and Pakistan joined the nuclear club, and suffered essentially no adverse effects. North Korea joined the nuclear club after entering into sequential deals with more teeth than the Iran accord, and suffered no adverse effects that they were unwilling to weather. Israel has nuclear weapons, everyone believes.

I believe that Iran studied the North Korea playbook and decided that the risks of pursuing a nuclear capability were worth the reward.

In essence, the Administration threw in the towel with regard to the Iran nuclear program and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As it does repeatedly and blatantly, the Administration will mislead, misstate, and mischaracterize the accord that has now been blessed by a vote of the UN Security Council. While I believe that the accord is a tragic mistake, on the other hand, it is irrelevant. Inspections will be impeded, inventory will be misleading, sanctions are absolutely never going to happen, and the result will be a nuclear Iran. My guess is that a decade from now, plus or minus a few years, Iran will conduct a nuclear test.

It is our children and grandchildren that will face a more dangerous world, not us. As they say, elections hold consequences.

***CALLING ALL MEMBERS! PLAN TO ATTEND THE OREGON MILITARY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND MOAA BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION***

- In addition to the regular **Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention**, there will be an **Oregon Military Community Workshop**
- **Sponsored by:** MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and Oregon State University
- **Dates:** Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015
- **Location:** Life Community Church, 4900 OR-99W in Corvallis, OR
- **Purpose:** To brainstorm solutions to assist the Oregon Military Community. Oregon is unique in the fact that we do not have a major military installation in Oregon. This creates unique issues for veterans and military families in Oregon that will be discussed, starting with brainstorming concepts on transitional education, mentorship, and recreation for the Oregon Military Community. The **end goal** from the workshop is to have personnel commit to a 5 year collaborative vision, committing to follow-on surveys to build data prior to a 2016 workshop. At the 2016 workshop, the need/product for Oregon will be presented.
- The workshop will be held over two days, Friday and Saturday. During these days we will have brainstorming by assigned tables, table discussions, and guest speakers. Additionally, there will be MOAA break-out sessions in the afternoons.
  - **Friday agenda:**
    - 0800-1500: Workshop

- 1500-1800: **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Biennial Convention**
- Evening OSU Home Football Game!
- **Saturday agenda:**
  - 0900-1300: Workshop
  - 1300-1530: **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting**
  - Corvallis Fall Festival (1000-1800)
- **Registration Fee: \$60**
  - **Morning refreshments and lunch are included in the reservation**
  - **Register online at:**  
<http://www.oregonmcw.com/home.html>
- For those who need **lodging**, information is found on the same website—but you need to make reservations ASAP as that weekend is going to be very busy in the Corvallis area
- **Bottom line:** This is a “roll up your sleeves and get involved” brainstorming activity for our Oregon Military and Veteran Community and their families.
- All officers, board members, and chapter members should plan to attend!

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

***By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret)***

- **Dues Collection:** I am happy to report that **\$4,610** was collected in **2014** and **2015** dues from regular members, several auxiliary members, and an honorary member.
- **Fundraising Donations:** totaled **\$3,095**. **\$1,086** was given to the USO at the Portland International Airport. **\$1,000** was given to the JROTC at Oregon City High School. The remaining **\$1,009** will be spent on a fundraising project to be determined by the Board of Directors at its next meeting.
- Remember: Your **2016 annual dues** of **\$25** are to be paid by 1 January 2016. So, I recommend that members pay their dues in **December**—or before!
- See you at the September meeting!

***AUXILIARY CORNER By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Liaison to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee***

There were **12** in attendance for our **June MOAA Auxiliary Luncheon**. We received special treatment from Albertina Kerr's Restaurant as we were served in the private dining room. It was nice to be able to talk amongst ourselves without feeling we were bothering others. This was our last luncheon until fall.

Thanks to **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** for being our guest speaker. We saw photos and heard of exciting adventures about her recent land tour and cruise to Alaska.

**Sister Catherine Trtek, SFCC** brought a guest, her friend **Laura Boitano**.

Our October luncheon is scheduled for: **Tuesday, October 13 at 12:00 noon** in the **private dining room** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232**.

The private dining room will be open from 11:00 AM until 2:00PM. Coffee and water will be available at this time. Our lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. We will be served the **Heritage Menu**. The cost will be **\$24.00**, which includes the gratuity.

If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina Kerr's Restaurant two days before the Luncheon at **503-231-0216**.

For reservations to attend the luncheon, please contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net** Wives of Chapter Members are always welcome.

**Thank you** for your continued support for **Operation Homefront**. We turned in 9 backpacks for the **"Back-To-School Brigade"** and a trunk full of diapers and

wipes. Also, remember to bring your old cell phones for the **"Cell Phones for Soldiers Program"** to the luncheons or chapter meetings. Have a wonderful summer and try to stay cool!

***PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS***

**President:**

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): 1-310-897-1902

**First Vice President:**

CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret): 503-722-1897

**Second Vice President:**

Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret): 503-702-3812

**Correspondence Secretary:**

LTC George Peters, USA (Ret): 503-659-0834

**Recording Secretary:**

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

**Reservations Secretary:**

CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret): 503-974-9335

**Treasurer:**

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 503-644-7353

**Immediate Past President:**

LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

***PORTLAND CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

**Navy Reps**

CDR Robert Ervin: 503-657-4322

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

**Air Force Reps**

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

***Vacant***

**Marine Corps Rep**

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

**Coast Guard Rep**

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

**USPHS**

CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman: 503-333-4565

**Women in Service Rep**

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

**Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

**Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)**

LTC James Asaph, USA (Ret): 503-292-9622

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

**PORTLAND CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA (MOAA)  
P.O. BOX 68959  
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE  
REQUIRED**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your calendars!**

September 25-26, 2015 Oregon Military Community Workshop, Community Life Church, Corvallis, OR  
October 3, 2015 Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)  
*November 5, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)*  
November 7, 2015 Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)  
December 1, 2015 Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)  
*January 2016 No chapter meeting scheduled*  
*February 4, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)*  
February 6, 2016 Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

**NOTE 1:** All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings are held at 0930—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

**NOTE 3:** All articles for the ***October 2015 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) by **1 September 2015**.