



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)**

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**

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**P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268**

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www.MOAAPortland.org

April 2010

The President's Forum

by LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret)

I know that I open many of my President's Forum referencing the seasons of the year. Spring is my favorite season as it is the reawakening of the ground. Well, I am equally excited about the lineup of guest speakers for the next three months. Many of you have asked to have more military speakers, and we have delivered! This month, **1LT Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA** will be speaking (*See column 2 of this page*). In May, **CAPT Rick Williams, USN (Ret)** is speaking on his 25 years as a Multi-Task Submarine Career Officer. In June, **General Richard I. Neal, USMC (Ret)**, Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors, will address a joint meeting of the MOAA Portland and Columbia River (Vancouver) Chapters—speaking on the “Status of MOAA Initiatives” and installing the new chapter officers. Your program committee worked hard to bring this line up of speakers to you, the members. I am excited that our chapters will host Gen Neal. I really think the June meeting will be the biggest event we have hosted since our 50th anniversary. So, if you think you have experience in event planning, feel free to step forward and provide a hand.

I want to personally thank **Col Geff McCarthy, USAF (Ret)** for the years he has contributed to your chapter Board of Directors as an Air Force Rep. He is stepping down for professional and personal reasons. Fortunately, **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)** has agreed to fill Geff's position. I am honored to welcome Boyd to the

(continued on page 2)

Reminder:

***Please Bring Your Items for Our Deployed
Service Members from Oregon with You
to the April Dinner Meeting!***

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

Gray Gables Estate

3009 SE Chestnut Street

Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

Phone: 503-654-0470

PROGRAM:

Guest Speaker: First Lieutenant Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA, Dust-off MEDEVAC Helicopter Pilot, will speak on “My Experiences in Iraq.”

MENU:

Chicken Parmesan

Northwest Salad

Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables

Roasted New Potatoes

Fresh Fruit

Cheese on Granite

Assorted Desserts

Coffee/Tea

COST:

\$23.50 per person (includes 20% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS:

To make your reservations, please contact **LTC Gary Brink** or **Jan Brink** at **503-659-3347** or **igbrink@comcast.net** **NLT 1200 on 1 April 2010**. **No late reservations**, and **please call** if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.

DIRECTIONS: From **I-205**, take McLoughlin Blvd (99E) North (4.1 miles) to Chestnut Street; turn right on Chestnut (just past the U-Haul store); Gray Gables is located on the left hand side of the street. From **Portland**, take McLoughlin Blvd (South) to Chestnut Street; turn left onto Chestnut Street; Gray Gables is on the left.

A **No-Host Bar** is available, and a parking attendant is on duty.

Board as he comes with board experience in other organizations and will be a valuable addition to your Board.

Mrs. Edie Rieken and our auxiliary membership are coordinating a drive to collect items for deployed service personnel from Oregon. Our support of this annual program has been absolutely fantastic, despite the downturn in the economy over the last two years. We as an organization have always stepped forward when we see the need. So please bring as many items as you can to this April meeting. (For suggestions, see the “**Auxiliary Corner**” on **page 5**.)

The new slate of 2010-2011 chapter officers is close to being completed and presented to our membership. I am really excited. This will be a great leadership team!

I cannot miss the opportunity to thank all of you who have attended meetings and made them such pleasurable and fun events. I also want to thank those of you who have been supporting our Chapter Scholarship Program. It continues to grow at a very healthy pace.

Finally, I continue to ask members to consider receiving your chapter information **via email**. It is faster and much cheaper for your chapter budget! We do not sell to anyone or share email addresses with anyone. We simply use it to keep our membership informed in a timely and cost efficient manner.

***MINUTES FROM THE MARCH
DINNER MEETING by Col Mary J.
Mayer, USAF (Ret)***

On **March 2**, there were **46** members and guests who came out for dinner at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. After the social hour, **President Gary Brink** called the meeting to order at 1830. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the

National Anthem was sung (led by **Mrs. Jan Brink**), and, since no chaplain was in attendance, **President Brink** gave the invocation.

President Brink then indicated two changes to the Chapter Board of Directors. **Col Geff McCarthy, USAF (Ret)** has stepped down as one of the Air Force Reps, and **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)** will take his place. Since Geff was not in attendance, President Brink said that he would be recognized at a later date. And, **1LT Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA**, was recently appointed as the Women in Service Rep, replacing **CDR Jami Mason, USN** who is being reassigned this month. President Brink indicated that the chapter membership would be able to meet Sabrina next month as she will be our guest speaker at our April meeting.

Regarding plans for increasing our chapter membership, President Brink said we would be targeting the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) whose members are returning home from Iraq in the April-May time frame.

For the April meeting, President Brink asked the membership to bring in items for our deployed soldiers. The auxiliary members have contributed to this effort in the past and were able to arrange for transporting the items through military channels at no cost to the chapter. We will pursue this route again.

After dinner, **President Brink** introduced the guest speaker, **Mr. Stephen Enyeart**, a senior Customer Service Electrical Engineer with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and his wife, **Gay**. Steve has been coordinating generation interconnection requests at BPA for ten years, assisting in studies, plans of service, cost estimates, and construction activities especially for wind generation. His presentation was entitled “Wind Generation Connected to the BPA System: The New Look of Wind Power.” Steve said that there is a lot of attention being paid to alternative energy, and wind, an energy resource (not a demand resource), plays a vital role in the security of the United States. Key to successful wind energy is having a grid to support it and good management of resources. In 2000-2001, wind power started in Eastern Oregon, with a big spurt in 2005. Oregon and Washington combined have more wind power capability than California. The problem is not so much generating wind power but the ability to transmit it to the areas needed via transmission

MINUTES (continued)

transmission lines; right now, only those areas that have transmission lines are able to get wind power. In privately-built wind farms, farmers get about 95% of their land back to farm—as well as much-needed capital to keep farm operations going. Mr. Enyeart handed out his presentation and a map of current/proposed wind projects in Oregon; a spirited question-and-answer period ensued with attendees asking many good questions. After his presentation, President Brink gave Mr. Enyeart a MOAA note pad.



President Gary Brink welcomes guest speaker Stephen Enyeart and his wife Gay to our chapter meeting

President Brink then mentioned the following items: (1) At the last chapter board meeting, the President/CEO of the USS Ranger Foundation, **Peter Ogle**, had asked the chapter to send him a letter of support for bringing the USS Ranger to Portland; the board voted unanimously to do this, and Gary sent the letter very soon after the board meeting. (2) **The Skyline Memorial Gardens Ceremony** has been cancelled for this year due to financial problems. (3) The board is currently in the process of updating the chapter bylaws by June 2010; if any members have suggested changes, they should send them to the secretary, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**. (4) If you were in the

military and suffer from mesothelioma due to exposure to asbestos, contact **LCDR Carl Jewett, USN (Ret)**, Senior Veterans Benefit Counselor and Executive Director of the Veterans Assistance Network, for assistance at the www.asbestos.com website. (5) On 8 March 2010, all veterans and their families are welcome at the Veterans Stand Down and Job Fair, a free event with access to dozens of employers and agencies on Monday, 8 March 2010 from 1000 to 1500 at the Ambridge Event Center. Call 503-226-7387 or visit www.portlandstanddown.org for more event details. (6) The Oregon National Guard Convention will take place on 12-13 March 2010 at Seaside, Oregon. (7) On Friday, 5 March 2010 the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters will hold its quarterly board meeting; First Vice President **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**, Secretary **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee Chair, **Mrs. Edie Rieken**, and **LtCol Nanci Visser, USMCR (Ret)** will be attending the meeting. (8) The 2010-2011 slate of chapter officers is coming together, and you will hear more next month. (9) We are in our second year for the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship, and we are well on our way to endowing it. Before and during the meeting, raffle tickets were sold for two bottles of wine and one bottle of rum; proceeds went to the scholarship fund. Over \$100 was collected.

In the “**For the Good of the Order**” portion of the program, **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)** told a joke that was appreciated by all in attendance.

President Brink then announced that **CAPT Robert D. Urbana, USN (Ret)** had passed away, and **CAPT Dick Welch, USN (Ret)** and his wife **Helen** were celebrating their 71st wedding anniversary!

President Brink then thanked **Captain Jim Patrick, USMC (Ret)** for planning the meeting and **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for providing the shamrock plants for centerpieces; the person with Irish ancestry at each table took home the plant.

In closing, President Brink reminded everyone to come to the 6 April 2010 dinner meeting at the Gray Gables Estate; the guest speaker will be **1LT Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA**, speaking on her experiences in Iraq. The meeting was adjourned at 2055.

CHAPTER OFFICER VACANCIES

The Nomination Committee is seeking candidates for the following Chapter Officer positions: *Secretary* and *Treasurer*. If you are interested, please let **COL John Hill, USA (Ret)** or **CDR Ron Youngman, USCG (Ret)** know.

The Nomination Committee will make its report—including recommendations for these vacant positions—at the April meeting. The floor will also be open during the April meeting for nominations from the floor.

Elections will be held at the May meeting, and the officers will be installed at the June meeting.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**

The Portland Chapter would like to welcome the following new member:

**Lt Col Roger C. Worrall,
USAFR (Ret)**

IN MEMORIAM:**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE!**

**Major Cara W. (“Jack”) Kidd, Jr.,
USAF (Ret)**
Chapter President 1981-1983

**Col David R. Schultze,
USAFR (Ret)**

**CAPT Robert D. Urbana,
USN (Ret)**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)**

The Veterans Administration is asking Congress for a budget hike from \$114 billion to \$125 billion, which includes \$64.7 billion for disability, survivors, and educational claims--and \$60.3 billion in discretionary spending.

VA is asking for additional money for FY2011 to process a large surge in claims. VA Secretary Shinseki and the Obama Administration are calling 2011 “the Year of the Backlog.” Their intent is to cut processing time with additional manpower, improved practices, and upgraded technology.

The VA plans to hire 4,000 workers to handle the increase in claims. Many claims are and will come in because of new Agent Orange “presumptive conditions.” Last October, the VA added three conditions to the Agent Orange list: Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson’s disease, and B-Cell leukemia. This means the diseases will be presumed to be service-caused for any vets who served in Vietnam. The change is expected to generate tens of thousands of new claims from Vietnam vets on top of the million claims already projected for 2010.

The VA budget request also proposes two years of health funding so VA officials can plan ahead, which in the long run saves money and allows for better treatment. Additionally, the medical budget will allow enrollment for up to a half million more “Category 8” vets, who are non-disabled with incomes above the VA’s normal eligibility standard.

The FY2011 budget includes funding upgrades for such programs as care for Iraq and Afghanistan vets, mental health programs, women vets’ health, and rural veteran care access--plus money to help reduce veteran homelessness.

In other news from MOAA National in an excellent article by Tom Philpott, the Obama Administration is working to create a lifetime electronic health record for U.S. service members and veterans. Previously, the left hand often did not talk to the right hand when it came to an individual’s health care. But VA and DoD have been working for some time on creating a seamless transition for patients leaving military care to seek

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (cont.)

treatment with the VA. Today, the two probably exchange more medical information than any other two entities in the world.

But the problem comes when former military members go into the civilian health system, which most of them do. Some 60 percent of the care provided to a typical veteran over a lifetime comes from the private sector. There is no seamless transition between private and the military or VA. Often, government health records aren't accessible to private sector physicians.

President Obama last April ordered a fix, which created the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) system for service members and vets. The new strategy, adopted last June, recognizes the entire nation must move to electronic recordkeeping. Such an effort, the VA and DoD discovered, already was under way at the Department of Health and Human Services, so the VA and DoD began to learn how HHS' National Health Information Network could solve its problem. By February, DoD had joined with the VA and Kaiser Permanente in a pilot program to test the new exchange system in the San Diego area. Early results are encouraging, and efforts are continuing.

AUXILIARY CORNER by Mrs. Edie Rieken, Liaison to the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

A very congenial group of ladies attended the February luncheon; besides enjoying a fun time together and the good food, we welcomed a new member, Ruth Ridgway. She, along with Jean Hillman and Sister Catherine Trtek, received an Auxiliary Member pin. We decided to once again support our troops by collecting personal and other items

(shampoo, shaving cream, body wash, baby wipes, razors, microwave popcorn, cookies, zippered plastic bags, dried fruit, batteries, music CDs, computer screen wipes, paperbacks, magazines, coffee and creamer, just to name a few ideas). Please bring your items to the April 6th chapter dinner or to our **next luncheon at Albertina's on April 20th**. Please call **Edie (503) 254-5029** if you can attend.

If you're not taking advantage of a great benefit by using The Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) for medication prescriptions, the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee suggests we reconsider. Here are four reasons to use TMOP through Express Scripts:

Cost: Currently, medications that cost \$3 for a 30-day supply at a local pharmacy can be ordered by mail. You can get a **90-day** supply for the same price, with no shipping charges.

Convenience: With no nearby military treatment facility pharmacy where you might get your prescriptions free, this is an obvious cost, energy and time-saver.

Enrollment: It's easy to enroll. Call (877) 363-1303 or visit www.expressscripts.com/tricare. You must send them written prescription(s) from your doctor to begin enrollment.

Renewals: With TMOP you can set up an automatic renewal process for a year. When an annual renewal is needed, TMOP can contact your doctor and will accept his or her fax. (MTFs do not accept faxes; you must hand carry the paper script to them.) You also may mail a renewal prescription to TMOP. For more information about TMOP, you may use the Web site or phone number noted above.

Don't forget to bring unusable cell phones and chargers to the Chapter dinner/meetings or our Auxiliary luncheon.

<p>CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!</p> <p>Dick & Helen Welch – 71 years</p> <p>Bill & Wendy Kroger – 30 years</p>



Left to right: LTC Al Opdenweyer, AUS (Ret) and CAPT Dick Welch, USN (Ret) share “war stories”

CHAPTER HERO – Dick Welch

During World War II, chapter member **CAPT Dick Welch, USN** was the Commanding Officer (1944 – 1945) of the Destroyer, *USS Rathburne APD 25* operating in the Pacific. During late July – August 1944, the Auxiliary Personnel Destroyer 25 (APD) *Rathburne* trained with underwater demolition teams (UDT). On 10 August UDT 10 reported aboard and on the 12th *Rathburne* continued west. She arrived off Palau to begin her first combat operations, the Peleliu and Angaur invasion bombardment and minesweeping operations. On the 14th she dropped UDT 10, supporting them with gunfire as they cleared the approaches to the Angaur beaches. *Rathburne* resumed covering fire for UDT 8, after embarking UDT 10, then on the 16th took up screening duties. On the 19th she departed Angaur and headed for Ulithi. Where beginning on the 21st, UDT 10 reconnoitered the Falalop and Asor beaches. By the 23d the atoll had been occupied and *Rathburne* moved south to New Guinea and the Admiralties, to prepare for the invasion of Leyte.

On 18 October the APD entered Leyte Gulf. On the 19th, UDT 10 went ashore on Red Beach in the northern assault area between Palo and San Ricardo. Through the morning *Rathburne* provided covering

fire and shortly after noon pulled the team off the beach. On the 20th, she covered the landings and then shifted to fire support off the Dulag beaches. Detached, soon after her arrival, she began messenger and passenger runs between the northern and southern transport areas.

During December she prepared for the Luzon offensive. On the 27th she sailed for Lingayen Gulf. She acted as part of the antiaircraft screen en route and splashed two enemy planes on 5 January 1945. On the 6th she was in Lingayen Gulf, screening larger ships and bombarding the assault area. On the 7th, she landed UDT 10 on Blue Beach and covered them as they reconnoitered the area to destroy natural and manmade obstacles. On the 8th she resumed bombardment activities. By 3 February *Rathburne* was back in San Pedro Bay. On the 4th, she sailed for Saipan. From Saipan, she carried mail to Iwo Jima then at midmonth she returned to the Bonin-Volcano area for antisubmarine patrol duty. On the 22d, she departed the area; transported POW's to Guam; and prepared for duty off Okinawa.

On the evening of the 27th she was on patrol off Hagushi. Air alerts had been called throughout the day. At about 2200 her radar picked up an enemy plane on the port quarter, 3700 yards out but closing fast.

Increasing speed, changing course, and antiaircraft fire did not deter the kamikaze. He crashed the port bow on the waterline. Three compartments were flooded. Sound gear was put out of commission. Fires broke out on the forecastle. But there were no casualties. Damage control parties soon extinguished the fires and contained the flooding. *Rathburne* slowed to 5 knots and made for Kerama Retto.

In September 1945, Captain Welch was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington D.C., and served there until released from active duty in April 1946. Dick then continued his service in the Naval Reserve until retiring as a CAPTAIN in 1968 with 32 years of service.

Dick and his wife Helen reside in Lake Oswego.

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER
SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2009
CONTRIBUTORS RECOGNIZED!**

Many thanks to the following **Auxiliary Members** who were our first contributors to the scholarship fund:

Edie Rieken, Shirley Bristol, Joyce Fiske, Jean Hillman, Esther Rucker, Jeanne Spooner, Dorothy Blasen, Lila Jean Allen, Mary Lou Munroe, and Josephine Trtek

And, thanks to the following **members** and “friends” who made contributions to the scholarship fund:

Jim Asaph, Gary Brink, Bob Cornelius, Leland Freidenburg, Greg Geist, Roy Huson, Greg and Marcia Miller, Charles Orwig, Jimmy Patrick, Larry Roberts, John Ryan, Dennis Lee, and Nanci Visser

If you have contributed and did not see your name on the list above, please contact **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** at larry@rocketventures.com or 503-722-1897.

**DONATIONS FOR THE OREGON
VETERANS' HOME**

In June your Chapter Officers will be going to the Oregon Veterans' Home (OVH) in The Dalles, Oregon in connection with a meeting of the Oregon State Council of Chapters. We are starting to collect items at the **May and June dinner meetings**. A list of recommended items follows: (1) Disposable Cameras with Flash, (2) Wind Chimes, Windsocks, Pinwheels, (3) Sugar-Free Candy and Cookies, (4) Postage Stamps and Postcards, (5) Greeting Cards and Stationery, (6) Microwave Pop-corn, (7) Push Pins/Thumbtacks, (8) Music CDs (Oldies/Big Band/Easy Listening/Show

Tunes), (9) Eye Glass Lens Wipes, (10) Bottled Water for Outings, (11) Hanging Bird Feeders, (12) Card Tables and Chairs, (13) Non-Alcoholic Beer (Coors Cutter or O'Doul's), (14) Polaroid Film 600, (15) Snack Size Packets of Cookies and Cheese and Crackers, (16) Universal Remote Controls for TV, (17) *New Garden* and Baseball Men's Caps, (18) Sunglasses: Regular and Clip-On, (19) Slip-On Slippers (Large Sizes), and (20) Wild Bird Food. Cash donations are also welcome; those chapter members who wish to make a financial donation should make the checks payable to: “Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund” and mail to: Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund; 700 Summer Street NE; Salem, OR 97301-1385.

Portland Chapter Officers

President

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

First Vice President

MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret): 503-632-5265

Second Vice President

Capt Jimmy L. Patrick, USMC (Ret): 503-654-1511

Secretary

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

Treasurer

CDR Ben Tabler, USN (Ret): 503-698-2974

Immediate Past President

COL John Hill, USA (Ret): 503-653-9524

Portland Chapter Board of Directors

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC David E. Hill: 503-579-9684

Navy Reps

CAPT James H. Main: 503-793-8499

CAPT Larry Roberts: 503-722-1897

Air Force Reps

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Lt Col Boyd Yaden: 503-702-3812

Marine Corps Reps

Maj James F. Simpson: 503-233-9341

LtCol Nanci L. Visser: 503-614-8463

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

Women in Service Rep

1Lt Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA: 503-312-8505

Liaison, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Mrs. Edie Rieken: 503-254-5029

RETURN ADDRESS:

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

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

May 4, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Election of Chapter Officers (Location: Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 7, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
June 1, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Installation of Chapter Officers (Location: Gray Gables)
<i>July & August 2010</i>	<i>No Dinner Meetings Scheduled</i>
<i>August 6, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
September 7, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch Hotel)
October 5, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Gray Gables Estates)
November 2, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch Hotel)
<i>November 12, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
December 7, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Entertainment (Location: Gray Gables Estate)
<i>January 2011 1</i>	<i>No Dinner Meeting Scheduled</i>

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at 0930—usually at the **Colwood Bar & Grill** at the **Colwood National Golf Course**--and **are open to all members!** Alternate locations will be indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the *May 2010 Brass Bulletin Newsletter* must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **10 April 2010**.