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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE EMERALD *Virus* VOICE

Keeping in Touch During the Time of the Coronavirus

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

This “mini-newsletter” is your opportunity to share your trials and tribulations while navigating this global health emergency. Send me whatever you think would be of interest to the rest of our membership. You can keep it light-hearted or share a real concern or sorrow. Just send your thoughts to moaaofeugene@gmail.com. I reserve the right to edit. Please, no comments about religion, politics or my weight.

Submitted by Chapter President Ken Evans: construction and in the development of new projects as well.

Greetings fellow members. I do miss the luncheons, speakers and the catching up that we do at our regular lunch meetings. Although the mini newsletter is not quite so “real,” it does seem to be a way to at least keep up on some of our sharing. Although the economic slowdown has affected many areas of our community, I have maintained a fairly normal work day at my construction company, Evans Building Company, Inc. Some meth-



ods of construction have been altered or enhanced to allow for construction crews to continue work activities on our commercial and agricultural projects. This small 30’ x 40’ agricultural building was recently completed west of Eugene. Fortunately for us, our business is not based on walk in customers so, coming into work every day was not particularly a challenge. My brother and I are generally about the only people in the office at any given time. It has been a little quieter and we have noticed the number of nuisance calls have dropped off quite a bit. We continue to work on

As Elaine recently retired, she has had the benefit of remaining around the house most of the time. Staying home could be a bit maddening in some cases but we took this opportunity to finally develop our greenhouse and raised bed garden. I can’t tell you how many years we talked about, planned, looked into, bought a few items, etc., only to not carry out the project. A bit of silver lining in the stay at home request was to finally allow us to focus more on actually accomplishing our garden mission. I must say it has added to our enjoyment and to our table as the lettuce and broccoli were early growing and producing along with some herbs. Activity has

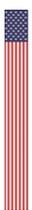


slowed a little on this project as there is still a plot of ground to be planted but we did make some big in-roads in preparing the soil. We are really looking forward to the tomatoes, beans, artichokes and peppers to name a few.

To add to our stay at home activities are the tasks related to the health

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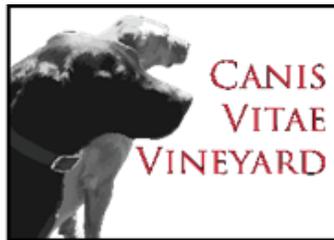
Our mission is to advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

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and welfare of our vineyard. Yes, a vineyard. A while back we purchased a house and vineyard southwest of Eugene. We have given it the name of Canis Vitae Vineyard which loosely means "Dogs Life Vineyard".

The inspiration was our two Labrador Retrievers. Our vineyard is made up of three varieties of grape at this time. The mainstay grape is Pinot Noir but there is also Riesling and a little known German white grape, the Muller-Thurgou. Before you ask, no we do not make our own wine and we do not have our own label, at this time. We do sell our grapes to several wineries in support of their wine making needs. Over the years this vineyard has provided grapes to Willamette Valley Vineyards, King Estates, and Silvan Ridge. More recently our grapes have gone to Melrose Winery in Roseburg and to Sweet Cheeks Winery here in Eugene. Although there is some work involved in maintaining and harvesting the vineyard, there is a certain amount of tranquility that comes with it. We are fortunate enough to have two contract workers that do the heavy lifting for us, but there is still plenty to do. The vineyard has deer fencing around it so at least we do not have to worry about leaf eating critters causing problems. The rain has been helpful in vine growing this season, so far, but most-



ly because there have been warm overnight temperatures. The growth has been early and strong this year with maintenance beginning about two-weeks earlier than past seasons. Hopefully the rain will begin to diminish and the sun will come out as it is time for it to dry up.

We do miss being able to drop into a restaurant now and again and to get together with a number of people for a chat or an outdoor grilling dinner. Our two Oregon children and their families live in the Salem and Portland areas where a large number of COVID cases have occurred. To be on the safe side we have not been visited or visited them since March until we had a short visit the other day. The two grandkids are doing well and growing as fast as the grape vines. It was really nice to have them, and of course, their moms and dads come to the house. A bit of a rainy day but they had the Or-



regon weather outfits and were good to go. It appears at times they have boundless energy. We did get a lot of practice in picking up toys throughout the house. Teaching them to pick up after themselves is now on the to-do list.

We are sorry not to have the June lunch meeting but it is definitely a better safe type situation and will give a little more time in figuring out how we may best congregate. Be safe, enjoy your time and hobbies and keep smiling. See you soon. - Ken

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The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is a Eugene-based 501(c)(19) veterans organization that meets regularly at the Veterans' Memorial Building at 1626 Willamette Street. We have 141 regular and associate members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's seven uniformed services and their surviving spouses. We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of the uniformed services. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military community, e.g., gathering clothing and personal care items for the patients in the VA Hospital in Roseburg. Other areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>.