

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency and the fact that we usually don't meet over the summer, there are no plans to hold any face-to-face gatherings until the Annual Membership Picnic scheduled for Sunday, 13 Sep 2020.



Happy Birthday!

**U.S. Public Health Service  
July 16th**



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The ROTC Scholarship fund is starting over for calendar year 2021. Please show your support of this program and make your donation today.

**MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY**

**2020 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President	Ken Evans	914-6235
Vice Pres	John Toensing	345-7535
Secretary	Pat Harris	942-5274
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Eric Watkins	687-8404
Newsletter	Pat Harris	942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336

Chapter membership dues for 2020 were due January 1.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 24 Jun 2020

**PRESENT:** A virtual meeting conducted on Zoom. Officers: President Ken Evans; Vice President John Toensing, Secretary Pat Harris and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Mike Kennedy, Frank Balazs, Eric Watkins, Tom Kulick and Dick Kimbell were present. A quorum was established. Committee chairs Dick Norton and Ed Daley were also present, along with ROTC representative LTC Chris Warren.

**OPENING:** President Evans called the meeting to order at 1203 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Kennedy gave an opening prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 27 May 2020 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer's Report for 27 May to 23 Jun 2020 was reviewed and approved:

### Club Operations:

Beginning balance	\$ 3984.20
Deposits: to Club Operations	0.00
Expenses: Zoom for Board meetings and P.O. box renewal.	-182.99
Club Operations as of 26 May 2020:	\$ 3801.21

### Special Funds:

Special Projects Fund: No change in account balance	\$ 2358.05
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$100	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Umpqua Checking Account grand total as of 23 June 2020 is:	\$ 6259.26

OCCU Endowment fund Balance 26 May 2020	\$ 7950.68
Donations:	0.00
Interest	0.48
OCCU Total Balance as of 31 May 2020:	\$ 7951.16

The Benton Community Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund has a current market value of \$37,655.40 as of 20 April 2020. Quarterly report on 29 July 2020

NOTES: ROTC Scholarships for 2020 not yet distributed, to be applied to Fall Semester 2020. Funds remain in OCCU Endowment Fund Account for (2) \$1,000 scholarships. The Umpqua Scholarship Booster Fund reflects the fund drive for 2021 distribution that began 1 June 2020.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. ROTC Graduation/Commissioning Report – Eric Watkins, Frank Balazs and LTC Warren  
The ROTC commissioning rehearsal was conducted on 16 Jun at the Vets Memorial Bldg because the U of O campus was closed. Gold bars were presented to 11 of the 12 seniors present; the last was held up due to an administrative issue and will be presented once resolved. All seniors issued MOAA basic memberships; member Darren McMahon will follow up to as-

#### **"The Emerald Voice"**

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),  
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767  
Email: EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com

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/>.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (cont.)

sure receipt. LTC Warren will provide graduates' names for our newsletter and will develop method to assure capture MOAA applications at next year's event.

### 2. Mini-Newsletter – feedback and additional articles – President Evans

Next issue of the mini-newsletter is ready to publish with an article from President Evans, who encourages all to tell what they have been doing to cope with the changes and challenges of the COVID restrictions. Next issues could include the thank you letters from Food for Lane County and the “Storming the Hill” report from national MOAA.

### 3. Agenda Item Submission form and purpose (see attached example) – President Evans

President Evans presented a draft form he designed for the submission of agenda items that could require a board motion. He will amend the draft to change the noun “problem” with “issue/suggestion.” The new form will show 24 Jun 2020 as the adoption date and will be distributed to the board and general membership as an editable Word document and placed in the chapter's Policy, Procedures and Guidelines Manual.

### 4. Special Projects Definition – President Evans

The President presented a document outlining his thoughts on what the fund should and should not be used for, definition of the parameters of contributions made from the fund and determination on how much can/should be distributed for individual projects. After some minor revisions, the document will be adopted as of 24 Jun 2020, distributed and placed in the chapter's Policy, Procedures and Guidelines Manual.

### 5. Authorization for expenditures over \$100.00 procedure change – John Toensing

John proposed that agenda items to authorize expenditures over \$100.00 could not be voted on until the next board meeting, giving members 30 days to contemplate the value of the expense. Discussion considered differentiating between extraordinary/non-recurring versus routine/recurring expenses for this restriction. Other discussion thought this may be too restrictive for perceived urgent board action. President Evans to draft strawman for next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Annual Picnic – Board

John T. reported state parks said that Jasper Park is now closed; unknown if or when it may re-open. We can be reimbursed for all or some of our registration fee. Pat Harris will explore moving event to Vets Bldg and having Mac's cater. President Evans will contact Camp Alma to see what can be prepared there and Ed Daley will call bus companies to see about transportation. Pat Harris found that Hole in the Wall Barbecue can provide food for \$23 per person, but cannot serve it. President Evans will also check on the idea of a food truck. If we decide to cook ourselves, our chef, Chad Cooper, will need three weeks' notice to get off work. Tabled until next meeting.

### Slate of Officers – Dick Norton

Dick Norton reminds us that we need to approve a slate of 2021 officers/board members for the 23 Sep board meeting. He will start putting it together, but will need input from all officers and board members about their desires for next year.

### July Board Meeting – President Evans

A determination of form and location, either Zoom or in person, will be determined one week before the next meeting.

MINUTES, Continued on page 6

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## BRIEFS

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**Save the date:** Our annual membership picnic is currently planned for Sunday, September 13th at Jasper State Park. More than likely, this plan will change. Your Board of Directors is monitoring the COVID-19 restrictions closely and exploring contingencies for location, date and menu, whether potluck, we-cook or catered food. There are many restrictions designed to enhance our safety; but those restrictions change depending on the activity of the virus. Since we still have time, the board will delay a final decision until at least the next board meeting. Stay tuned.

**The mini-newsletter needs your input.** I will not publish a blank newsletter, so if you would like to see another mini-newsletter highlighting our activities and challenges during the time of COVID, I need your stories. Send them to moaaofeugene@gmail.com, and I will publish them.

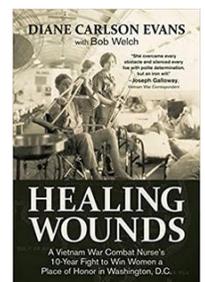
**ROTC Boosters:** Frank Balazs has opened up the 2021 donation season for our chapter's ROTC Boosters Scholarship Fund. These are the scholarships we normally award at our ROTC Recognition Dinner in May, but because of the COVID restrictions this year, we will be delaying the 2020 awards until late September when the students should return to the campus. However we are now accepting donations for the 2021 scholarships. You can mail you checks to: Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767; noting that the donation is for the ROTC scholarship fund

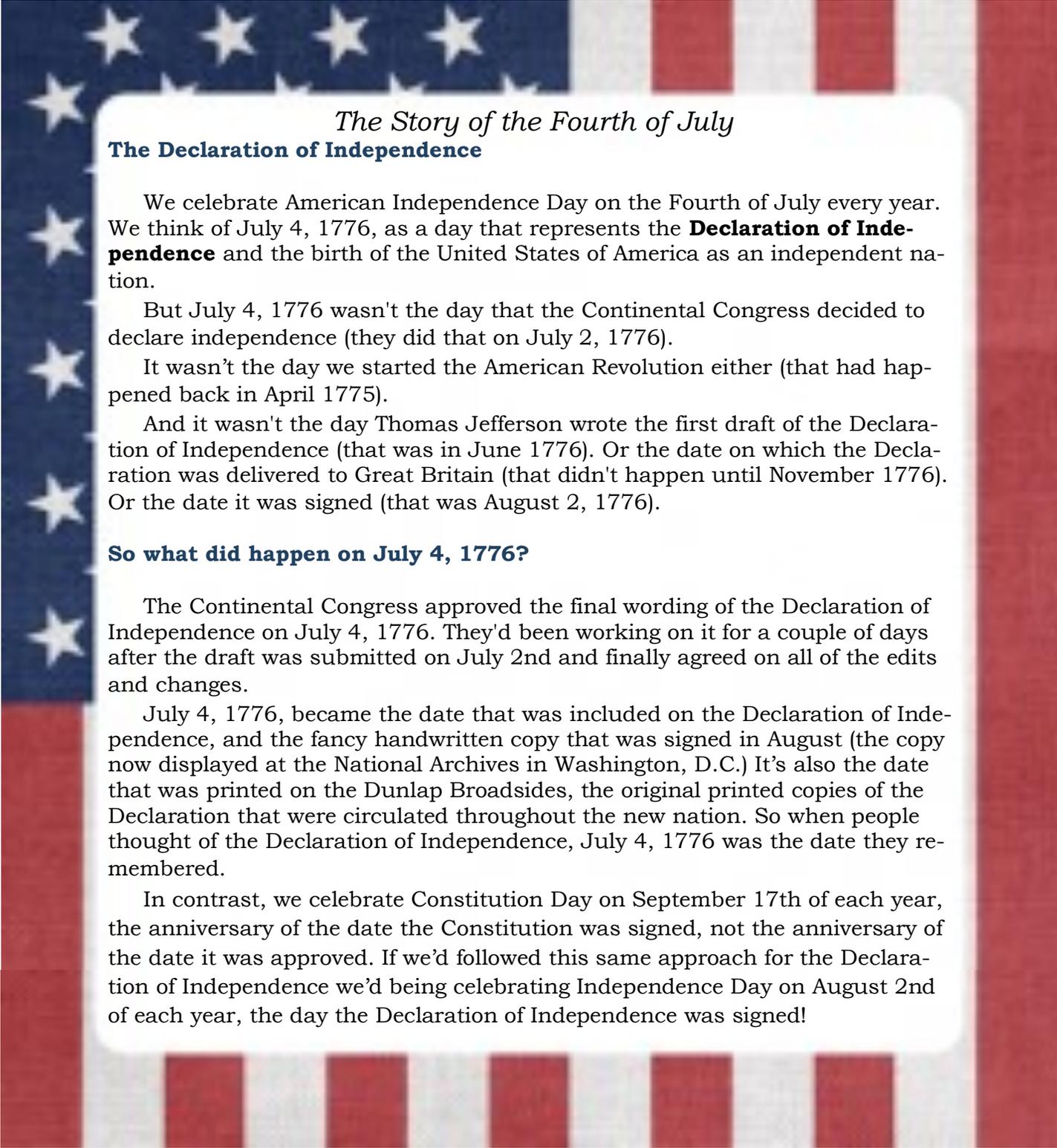
**U of O Army ROTC Commissioning.** The UO Bengal Battalion was in a quandary this month as its senior cadets prepared for commissioning. Some universities were commissioning virtually, over an internet link. The UO would not authorize its facilities to be used for large gatherings. LTC Chris Warren, the Professor of Military Science, wanted his new officers to have an in-person experience with family and friends. The Veterans Memorial Building (Vets Club) came through and made its building available.

At the rehearsal on 16 Jun, LTC Warren invited LTC Eric Watkins USA (Ret) and 1stLt Frank Balazs, USMC (Fmr) to represent MOAA and present gold bars to the soon-to-be lieutenants. MOAA prepares packets with insignia for new lieutenants of all branches along with invitations to join MOAA as Basic members at no cost. Frank Balazs and LTC Watkins both spoke to the cadets, welcoming them to the officer corps, and then presented each with their bars. It was a pleasure to meet each one of them.

The following day, LTC Warren coordinated commissionings in groups of two, with family and friends. Each officer had a chance to be in the spotlight with some of those they care about. It was a long day for the ROTC cadre and an exciting day for the cadets, their families and friends. Cadets commissioned on 17 Jun: Emily Auger, Samantha Bernardo, Kristeen DuFresne, Talia Shubin, Brianna Strobl, Brian Donohue, Reagan Yeo, Andrew Shute, Quinn Vandenberghe and David Whitt, Tyler Grimes was commissioned remotely and Aaron McAndrews will be commissioned in August.

**The Diane Carlson-Evans' book HEALING WOUNDS:** The Diane Carlson-Evans book, co-authored by Eugene-based author Bob Welch, is still available thru Amazon as well as commercial book stores for \$27.00. John Toensing is getting more that will be signed by both authors and will be available for \$20.00, but only while supplies last. Diane Carlson-Evans was our guest speaker at the Oct 2019 luncheon. Her memoir received rave reviews in the recent VFW magazine as well as a 5-star recognition in Amazon books.



The background of the page is a stylized American flag with stars on the left and stripes on the right. A white rounded rectangle is centered over the flag, containing the text.

## *The Story of the Fourth of July*

### **The Declaration of Independence**

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

### **So what did happen on July 4, 1776?**

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

Visit our website at [www.emeraldempiremoaa.org](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well I am not sure 2020 can get much crazier. The addition of calls for law enforcement reform, the numerous protests in many cities, including Eugene, the spike in corona virus positives in many states and the continued slow economic recovery with a wildly fluctuating stock market are in the news daily. What a ride. At least the weather has been warm and there has been enough rain to keep our valley green.

Some or all of the above continues to impact the Emerald Empire Chapter as we cannot yet gather in a large group, and a number of the rules that catering companies have to follow may make an event such as our luncheons difficult to conduct. I was hopeful that we could see one another prior to the traditional summer break, but at this point it will not happen.

However, I feel that when we do finally gather it will be like old home week and will be fun and vibrant. To that end the Board is spending time looking forward to September and the Annual Picnic. Although there are still some unknowns to deal with, such as will the park be open, we will continue to look at the different options we may have. It is a little early, but we are hopeful September will be workable and that we can construct a chapter meeting that is either a picnic, a make-believe picnic or a modified meeting of some type. If September doesn't work we will move our plans into October. In the meantime keep your eye on the newsletter and the mini-newsletter. Please feel at ease in contributing a paragraph or even a sentence to the mini-newsletter even if you are just letting the members know that things are okay with you. If you would like, you can even join the board of directors, as we will soon need to fill out a list of candidates for chapter offices for 2021. We would love your participation.

Continue to be healthy, maintain your distancing and be as safe as you can.  
Submitted by: Ken Evans, President, Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA



MINUTES, Continued from page 3

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### **PERSONAL AFFAIRS** – Dick Norton:

Milt and Lee Krueger are living in a retirement home in Portland, but want to remain members. Lee will send in their 2020 dues.

#### **HOUSE COMMITTEE** – Pat Harris: No report.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** – Eric Watkins: No report.

**LEGISLATIVE** - Ed Daley: An article has been prepared for the July newsletter on the history of the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs.

**NEWSLETTER** - Pat Harris: The next newsletter should be out by 1 July. The next mini-newsletter will be published as described in OLD BUSINESS item 2.

**WEBSITE** – Ginger Banks: Our website had 568 hits last month from parts unknown.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Ken Evans

“I really appreciate the amount of business we have been able to accomplish during these Zoom meetings. Thank you for your patience.”

**FUTURE EVENTS:** None other than the 13 Sep annual picnic are planned until the governor lifts the COVID-19 restrictions.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** 22 Jul 2020; method to be announced

The meeting was adjourned at 1333.

Pat Harris, Secretary

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A little history this month.

This from the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs.

ODVA celebrates "75" years of service to The Oregon Veteran.

Seventy-five years ago sixteen million service members began making their way home from the many deployed areas after WWII, mostly from the fronts of Europe and the South Pacific. The country had scraped and sacrificed for resources during the war effort, in an unprecedented time of unity for the United States. With the numbers of service members returning, many coming home with disabilities, economic and other hardships were inevitable.

WWI, veterans along with organizations such as The American Legion, took the charge in saying the WWII returnees should not have to deal with the same challenges as returning WWI veterans had. They worked to ensure a smooth transition back into society.

For Oregon, it was November 1944. State veterans partnered with civic, community and veteran service organizations to advocate the formation of the "Portland General Committee on Services to Veterans." Its purpose was to promote in every possible manner the coordination of agencies and organizations with state and federal agencies dealing with war veterans. Their goal was to ensure the veterans and their dependents not only received their rights under law, but the fullest possible meeting of our obligation to those that had "borne arms" for us to whatever extent that needed to be.

Oregon voters also voted to amend the state constitution to offer home and farm loans, and educational benefits that many of us have used. The Federal government also created the first GI Bill to provide education, training and unemployment compensation, and to guarantee home loans.

In March 1945, the Oregon State Legislature voted and passed a bill creating a new veteran agency. Just a few days after the American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, a newly formed "Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs" (ODVA) was born and the first director of the agency appointed. The agency was charged with administering earned state veteran programs and benefits, and the new Oregon Veteran home and farm loan program.

Much has changed over the years, but ODVA is still there, still working for our needs. Many of the programs are still in existence that were part of the original ODVA organizational plan.

Next month I will continue with more on our state Veteran agency. Kind of nice knowing we have a "Home Team."

Have a safe, wonderful Independence Day. Hopefully soon we will be together again.  
Ed Daley, Legislative Chair, Never stop serving



### **Corrections to the 2019-2020 Directory of Members**

Corrections: Charlene Hornick's new email address is [Charhornick@gmail.com](mailto:Charhornick@gmail.com)

#### **Use of this Directory**

This directory is not to be used for the compilation of mailing lists for commercial or political purposes. It is intended for the private, noncommercial use of the members of this club and is not for distribution without prior consent of the Board of Directors.

**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

Emerald Empire Chapter  
P.O. Box 767  
Eugene, OR. 97440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**E-mail:**

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*Thank You for  
supporting MOAA  
with your  
membership.*

**It's  
never  
too late  
to  
become  
a MOAA  
Life  
Member**



**Service, loyalty,  
honesty and  
integrity**

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**



MOAA is the largest veterans' organization for military officers in the United States, with approximately 380,000 members.

The organization represents those on active duty, former officers, members of the National Guard, Reserve, Retirees and their surviving spouses.

**Chapter Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is to advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

