



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

December 2017

Chapter Officers

President
Mark Hanneman
Capt, USAF, Ret

1st Vice President
Ron Weed
LtCol, USAF, Ret

2nd Vice President
George Stotz
Capt, USA, Ret

Secretary
Bob Allen
Maj, USAF, Ret

Treasurer
Paul Seipt

Directors

Richard Ciccone
LTC, USA, Ret

Richard Evanoff
LtCDR, USN, Ret

Matt Boehnke
LTC, USA, Ret

Past President
Chris Buroker
LTC ArmyNatGuard

Extra Duties
High School ROTC
Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison
Matt Boehnke

Recruiting
Pat Kenny

Auxiliary Liaison
Richard Misener

Annual Christmas Party

This year's party will be at the Clover Island Inn. To avoid the holiday rush, we're meeting a week earlier than usual, Tuesday, December 12. That's just a week and a few days away, I'll need your reservation by this Thursday, December 7.

We have an extended holiday menu, which will cost \$35 per person. Check it out:

Holiday Island Buffet

Oven Roasted Turkey
Roast Beef
Northwest Field Greens
w/ House and Ranch Dressing
Warm Rolls and Butter
Bay Shrimp Bowtie Pasta Salad
Steamed Fresh Vegetable Medley
Stuffing
Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Fresh Fruit Display
Pistachio Salad
Bread Pudding
Coffee, Decaf, Tea or Milk

This will be a social evening with no scheduled speaker. If you have an interesting Christmas story from your career, be prepared to share it.

Reservations by
Thursday, Dec 7 to
Bob Allen
MOAA.TriCities@charter.net
627-6226

Dues Reminder

Annual dues of \$25 will be due in January. You can beat the holiday rush by sending your dues now to:

Paul Seipt
232 Somerset Street
Richland WA 99354

Make your check out to "L&C Chapter." Better yet, bring your dues to the party.

HQ MOAA sends . . .

This comment on the tax legislation just arrived:

December 1, 2017

Republicans are relying on tax legislation to be the crowning achievement of the year. With just a handful of days left on the legislative calendar, the clock is ticking loudly as Congress tries to smooth out some differences.

The bill passed the House early in November and will be up for a vote in the Senate as soon as possible - very likely before you have a chance to read this.

Though this legislation targets the entire American population, of which the military community is a relatively small piece, MOAA is keeping track of several provisions that could affect servicemembers in different ways than their civilian counterparts.

The list of our interests in the legislation doesn't end there. Also on the radar are mortgage interest rate deductions, qualified moving expense reimbursements, alimony payments, and more. Further, from a nonprofit standpoint, MOAA is concerned about charitable giving being affected by doubling the standard deduction and taxing nonprofits for licensing their names or logos.

MOAA's concern over these topics has been shared with key players responsible for constructing and pushing forward tax legislation on Capitol Hill. MOAA also participated in a White House discussion to dive in to some of these topics with respect to the military community.

Tax Bill Trading

Topic	House	Senate	MOAA's Take
Exclusion of gain from sale of a principal residence	Modified to require 5 years of residency from 2	Modified to require 5 years of residency from 2	Oppose both: Servicemembers move too often to benefit from new requirements
Qualified medical expense deductions	Repeals deduction	Preserves deduction	Support Senate: significant benefit for older veterans
Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)	Repeals WOTC	Preserves WOTC	Support Senate: Vet-hiring incentive must also be extended
Moving Expense Deduction	Preserves deduction for moves by order	Preserves deduction for moves by order	Support both: But use "uniformed services" vice "armed services"



COLA

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be 2% in 2018 which is the first substantial increase in years. However, it is a bit below the 2.2% cost-of-living increase that was projected by the Trustees who oversee the social security program. The 2.0% increase means the average social security recipient will receive about \$25

more a month or \$300 a year. COLA increases are based on the inflation measurement period of the 3rd quarter (July, August, and September).

Members of Congress this week agreed on a deal that would give servicemembers a 2.4-percent pay bump in 2018 - up from the 2.1-percent raise proposed by the president. But they are 2.9% behind the civilian pay index.

TRICARE

Administrative and structural changes to the TRICARE program will accelerate in the very near future, and will affect most beneficiaries except those using TRICARE for Life. We would all be wise to keep track of future proposals; TRICARE for Life may be next on the chopping block.