



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

October 2019

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Friends of Disabled Veterans

Our October meeting will feature retired Sergeant First Class Brian Moore, the founder and CEO of Friends of Disabled Veterans. Sgt Moore enlisted in the U.S Army in July 1981. His service included tours in Frankfurt, Germany, and the Port of Brindisi, Italy, supporting US forces deploying to Kosovo. He retired after more than 20 years of active duty service in March 2002. After retiring from the Army, he worked at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation managing a portion of the cleanup efforts at the 105K East facility. Then in 2005, Brian was given an opportunity to work as a manager with BNSF Railway, where he still works full time within the mechanical department.

Since his retirement from the Army in 2002, Brian's passion has been helping his fellow veterans get in contact with local groups and organizations that support veterans' needs. He is working with business leaders in the community to provide assistance and has donated countless hours to local non-profits that provide assistance to veterans. In 2016, some of his friends and family suggested that he start a local 501c3 charitable organization, and with that, Friends of Disabled Veterans was established.

Friends of Disabled Veterans supports disabled veterans by offering a place where they can

enjoy indoor activities and outdoor adventures with their family and friends. Members have helped design and create unique scissor lifts on trailers that veterans use to reach heights up to 20 feet, allowing them to view the surrounding area for their hunt.

This is an environment of support, appreciation and respect. The goal is to help disabled veterans feel completely accepted and included in a fun, relaxing environment.

The meeting will be on October 16 at the Clover Island Inn. We will have a plated dinner, not a buffet, so accurate and timely reservations are needed. Please make your reservation with Paul Seipt by Thursday, October 10.

HqMOAA sends . . .

New Per Diem Rates

The new per diem rate is up to \$96 for lodging and \$60 for meals and incidentals. It's more in high cost areas, but that's the basic rate: \$156 per day. When your editor started going TDY, in 1966, the maximum was \$16 if you stayed off base.

Recommended Changes to Arlington Cemetery Burial Eligibility

The Army announced recommendations for eligibility changes at Arlington National Cemetery – changes which would reduce those eligible for below-ground burials but still offer above-ground inurnment of cremated remains for many veterans.

In addition to preserving 1,000 gravesites for current and future Medal of Honor recipients, the proposed revised criteria for those who honorably serve the nation are as follows:

For below-ground interment:

- Killed in Action, to include repatriated remains of service members
 - Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
 - Recipients of the Purple Heart
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
- Former Prisoners of War
 - Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States
 - Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

For above-ground inurnment:

- World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees
- Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
- Veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels

of public service

These proposals follow months of deliberation and input from veteran service organizations like MOAA and two independent surveys with over 250,000 responses.

“The nation’s premiere military cemetery is at a critical crossroads in its history,” Army officials statement. “Nearly all of the 22 million living armed forces members and veterans are eligible for less than 95,000 remaining burial spaces.”

“The Army’s decision to restrict retirees from in-ground interment may be a concern for those whose end-of-life plans included this traditional burial at Arlington,” MOAA president Atkins said. “While the changes do accommodate above-ground inurnment, we will need to assess the impact to all previously eligible service members.”

The proposed changes will not affect any planned burials which are in the queue at the time changes are effective.

The Army’s proposed changes differ notably from the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) report submitted in December of 2018, which recommended future inurnments be altered to reflect selected “levels of service and sacrifice” as follows:

- killed in action, recipients of MOH, recipients of Purple Heart, Silver Star and above, died on active duty, or former POW
- above ground inurnment remain available to WWII and Korean War veterans

- Recipients of Distinguished Service Medals (DSM).

The most noteworthy variance between the Army’s proposal and the Advisory Committee’s is the inclusion of retiree and veterans for above ground inurnment, as well as Presidents, Vice Presidents, and government officials with “significant contributions” to national security and public service at a high level.

MOAA's recommendations are:

- No action is taken restricting eligibility for the military retiree population, other than reserving a set number of plots for specific honorees, such as those killed in action or those who receive a Medal of Honor;
- Continued appropriated funding to undertake acquisition and development of adjacent land, including the Southern Expansion project currently underway; and
- Appropriated funds for the study and eventual acquisition of noncontiguous land to be used as an Arlington annex.

Veterans and their families will still have multiple options in planning for their burials. The National Cemetery Administration oversees 138 National Cemeteries, which serve as a sacred resting place for over 4 million veterans. Additionally, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) plans to activate several more cemeteries around the country by next year, ensuring their mission that “No Veteran Ever Dies.”

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 16

Clover Island Inn
Clover Island
Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00
\$30.00 per person

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid.*

Reservations by
Thursday, October 10 to
Paul Seipt
375-5112
pama227@charter.net

Menu

Grilled Salmon
Fresh steamed vegetables
Baby red potatoes
Side salad with house dressing
Rolls
Cookies