



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

February 2023

Chapter Officers

President
Ron Weed
LtCol, USAF, Ret

1st Vice President
George Stotz
Capt, USA, Ret

Secretary
Bob Allen
Maj, USAF, Ret

Treasurer
Paul Seipt
LTCOL, USMC, Ret

Directors

Richard Ciccone
LTC, USA, Ret

Richard Evanoff
LtCDR, USN, Ret

Matt Boehnke
LTC, USA, Ret

Past President
Mark Hanneman
Capt, USAF, Ret

Extra Duties
High School ROTC
Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison
Matt Boehnke

Auxiliary Liaison
Richard Misener

Helicopters and Giving Back to the Community



The February meeting will return to the restaurant at the Zintel Creek Golf Club, where we had our Christmas event luncheon. This will be a sit-down dinner, not a buffet, so an accurate head count is needed. Please make your reservation by Thursday, February 16.

Our speaker will be Tobaski Snipes. Many of you met him at a pre-covid meeting; a regularly scheduled Tuesday meeting prevented him from attending chapter meetings.

Tobaski is a retired Army warrant officer; he was an Army helicopter pilot. He is now director Snipes H3, a transitional housing program for homeless young adults ages 18-24. The program's mission is to help our program participants by providing them with coping and life skills training, mentors, companionship, school services for those requiring high-school completion (class assistance,

attendance, supplies, homework, and tutors), support, case management, leadership, trade skill exposure, as well as food security and dietary needs. A natural coach and mentor, Tobaski uses his military training and personal passion to see others thrive as the framework for the program. Tobaski's ability to network and his involvement with numerous human services organizations and individuals who are leading grassroots programs provides him with partners that provide real-world, practical and actionable life skills training and education and other services young people need.

The work he has done in a short amount of time is nothing less than remarkable. He has done it all from being an assistant coach for the state championship Kamiakin football team to personally providing housing and hope to over 100 young adults. He currently has 6 males and 4 females thriving in his 12-bedroom facility. His motto is "Be All You

Can Be at Snipes H3". Tobaski now enthusiastically calls Kennewick home.

Tobaski, a father of two, is a Tri-Cities implant of about 6 years and originally from North Carolina. He is a board member at SARC, Empower Life, and the Big Bro Joe Foundation. He does all of this while owning 4 businesses including karaoke host and wedding DJ.

Dues

We haven't collected dues for the last 2 years, but with the end of the lockdown and restart of meetings, it's time. Dues are \$25, unchanged since 2014, what a deal! Send your dues to

Paul Seipt
381 Clovernook St
Richland WA 99352

Make your check out to "L&C Chapter." Better yet, bring it to the February meeting.

Hq MOAA sends . . .

New ID Cards

DoD officials have yet to set a specific date for the complete changeover to a new, more secure type of ID card in the coming years, but retirees with "indefinite" cards of the old variety can have them replaced at their convenience.

The transition to the Next Generation Uniformed Services

Identification Card began in July 2020, replacing paper-based cards with plastic ones boasting updated security features. It's set for completion in 2026. Those with indefinite ("INDEF") expiration dates on their older cards were asked to wait until 2021 to begin the changeover, and office closures and other COVID-related protocols made a sometimes-challenging process even worse.

(We got our new cards at the Yakima Training Center. The cards are white with lots of bar coding on the back.)

Cutting Your COLA: How 'Chained CPI' Would Reduce Your Military Retirement Benefit

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) proposal to cut the federal deficit by more than \$250 billion over 10 years would remove that money from the pockets of federal beneficiaries, including military retirees, VA disability pension holders, and Social Security recipients.

The plan, outlined in the CBO's regular report to the new Congress, appears simple on its surface: By indexing the annual cost-of-living increase (COLA) received by military retirees and others to a different set of figures, the government would save \$256.5 billion over 10 years. The new

metric – known as "Chained CPI," a variant of the Consumer Price Index – "has grown by an average of about 0.25 percentage points more slowly per year than the traditional CPI measures," per the CBO report.

It's not a new plan – MOAA voiced opposition to a change in 2018, for instance – and it hasn't gotten any better with age. Switching from the current CPI-W (the figure tracked in MOAA's COLA Watch) to a chained CPI would chip away at the military retirement benefit over time, with older retirees seeing compounded effects after decades of smaller checks. Even worse, the chained system may not reflect cost-of-living increases felt by the elderly population, adding to the problem of the lower baseline increases.

MOAA is no stranger to the COLA fight. We helped defeat a planned COLA reduction in 2013 by breaking down the true costs of these "savings" proposals for legislators, ensuring they could see the damage they could do to the military retirement benefit and the financial security of those who served and their families.

February Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 21

Zintel Creek Golf Club
314 N. Underwood,
Kennewick

Social hour: 6:30
Dinner: 7:00
\$32.50 per person

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid*

Reservations by
Thursday Feb 16 to
Bob Allen
(509) 554-6992 voice or text
moaa.tricities@charter.net

Menu

Creamy Tuscan Chicken
Wild Rice Pilaf
Seasonal Vegetable
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread Sticks
Water, Coffee, Tea
Cheesecake & Chocolate
Cake