



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

March 2010

Local Medical Humanitarian

Our speaker at the March meeting will be Dr. Lewis Zirkle, a Tri Cities orthopedic surgeon who has made a significant contribution to alleviating suffering around the world. From his work as an Army surgeon in Vietnam he saw firsthand the lack of adequate medical care in third world countries. His work with civilians there grew into a network of 2,000 surgeons in 41 countries who have over 50,000 patients walking who would have been crippled without his efforts.

To carry out this effort, Dr. Zirkle formed a non-profit organization, the Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN), which focuses on training doctors to treat fractures using an implant designed by Dr. Zirkle. The training recognizes that equipment and power in developing countries may be below U.S. standards. SIGN doctors also respond to natural disasters, including Tsunami Relief 2004, Pakistan Earthquake Relief 2005, Indonesian Earthquake Relief 2006, Myanmar Cyclone Relief 2008, Indonesian Earthquake Relief 2009, and most recently, Haitian Earthquake Relief 2010.

Should Dr. Zirkle be called to Chile to help with the earthquake response, noted photographer John Clement is standing by to fill in.

We will meet at the Tri City Country Club, where we enjoyed a great meal last April. Because they are closed on Tuesdays, we will meet on **Wednesday, March 17**. A map showing the Country Club is on the reverse. Reservations to Bob Allen by Thursday, March 11.

Annual Dues

Annual dues were due in January. If there is an X next to your

address on this newsletter, we have not received your dues. Please pay your dues or you will be dropped from the chapter roster. Send \$15 to

Paul Seipt
232 Somerset St
Richland WA 99354

or bring it to the meeting.

HQ MOAA Reports . . .

Where's the Money?

The federal budget is expected to grow to \$4.4 trillion in 2015 -- a seven-fold increase since 1980.

The projected FY2015 defense budget of over \$600 billion shows a roughly similar pace of growth -- about 500% since 1980.

OMB's figures highlight Medicare, Social Security, and interest on the national debt among the biggest areas of growth.

The Medicare budget was only about one-third the size of the defense budget in 1980. Social Security spending totaled a little less than the defense budget at that time, and interest on the national debt was only about 40 percent of defense spending.

By 2015, net interest and Medicare are projected to nearly match defense spending, while the Social Security budget will cost nearly a third more than defense.

And the disproportional growth in Social Security and Medicare will only continue as many more millions of baby boomers retire after 2015.

If Congress is going to have to make hard choices on Social Security and Medicare (as it will), then defense and military/federal retirees are extremely unlikely to escape unscathed.

MOAA will continue to monitor this situation and protect, as much as possible, our interests.

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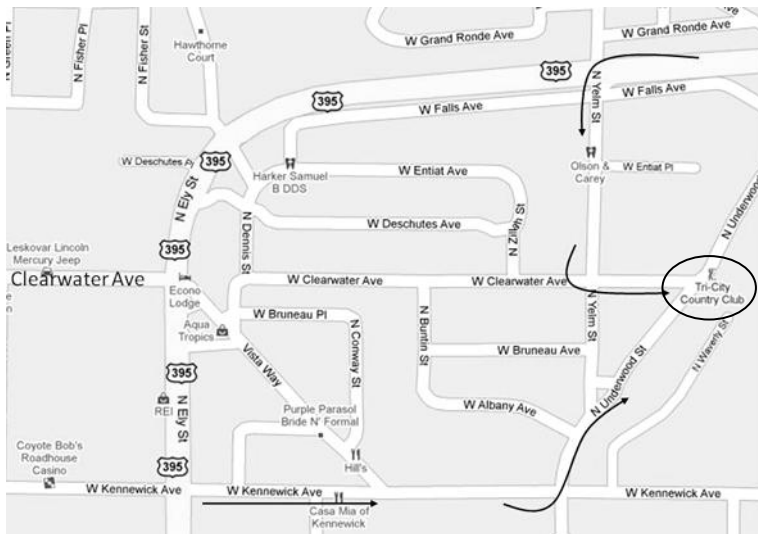
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The Tri City Country Club is on Underwood Ave in Kennewick.

From Ely Street (US 395), go east on Kennewick Ave. two blocks to Underwood, turn left and bear right on Underwood.

Coming from Richland on Hwy 240, take the Kennewick/US 395 exit, turn left at Yelm, then left on Clearwater.

Lewis and Clark Chapter
 Military Officers Association of America
 106 Hills West Way
 Richland WA 99352-9446

Note special meeting date

March Meeting

Wednesday, March 17

Tri City Country Club
 314 Underwood
 Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30
 Dinner at 7:00
 \$27.00 per person

***A reservation made
 is a reservation paid.***

Reservations by

Thursday, March 11

Bob Allen
 627-6226
 MOAA.TriCities@charter.net

Buffet Menu

- Chicken Fettuccini
- Pan Seared Salmon
- Tossed Green Salad
- Fruit Tray
- Veggie Medley
- Roasted Red Potatoes