



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

September 2010

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Country Gentleman in May

The Lewis & Clark Chapter is ending the summer vacation on Tuesday, September 21, by returning to one of our favorite spots, the Country Gentleman on Clearwater Ave., west of Columbia Center Blvd. We've always had great meals there; the menu this month looks equally promising. And we have an interesting speaker on the schedule.

Rampur Viswanath will talk about the Pakistani-Indian conflict. Rampur was born in India and came to the United States for his doctoral program in chemistry. Rampur is a Senior Scientist with Washington River Protection Solutions at the Hanford. He has held leadership positions in several professional organizations, including serving as the first International Ambassador of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), and as Founder and President of the Institute of Environment and Hazardous Materials Management in Bangalore, India and of the India Chapter of ACHMM. Rampur has also been active in Rotary, serves as a member of the Board of Directors/Vice President of LaClinica Community Health Center, and served as president of the Hindu Society of Eastern Washington.

Rampur and his wife Treja live in Kennewick, and have with

two children and two grandchildren.

Please make your reservations by **Friday, September 17.**

From Hq MOAA . . .

COLA?

As of the end of July, inflation was still in negative numbers for the year. It's doubtful that retirees will see a cost of living adjustment this year.

Parting shots from Secretary Gates

Defense Robert Gates announced his plans to retire sometime next year - he has been in charge of the Pentagon since late 2006, serving under both President Bush and President Obama.

The announcement comes on the heels of his plan to reallocate \$100 billion of the Defense budget over the next five years by streamlining the Pentagon's massive bureaucracy and tightening efficiencies.

Gates intends to implement this plan well before his departure. In a recent memo to military department secretaries, Gates directed "a series of initiatives designed to reduce duplication, overhead, and excess, and instill a culture of savings and restraint across the DoD."

Some of the key initiatives are:

- Reducing funding by 10 percent for service support contractors

- Freezing the number of defense agency, Joint Staff, and combatant command billets over the next three years
- Reducing at least 50 general and flag positions and 150 senior civilian executive positions over the next two years
- Recommending closure of Joint Forces Command in Hampton Roads, VA.

Gates described his initiative as just the beginning, insisting

every aspect of the defense budget will be reviewed -- *to include increases in retiree health fees* -- stating, "There are no sacred cows."

VASRD Revisions Coming - But Not Soon

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation announced the release of its July report to Congress. The Committee's focus is in three areas of compensation:

1. Requirements and methodology for updating the VASRD

2. Adequacy and sequencing of compensation procedures for transitioning service members
3. Disability compensation for non-economic loss

The Committee reiterated last year's recommendation for a systematic VASRD review. The VASRD, which has not been significantly updated since 1945,

Although the review of some VASRD components may be complete and published by late next year, the work is not scheduled to be completed until December 2016

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

Country Gentleman
 9221 W. Clearwater Ave
 Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30
 Dinner at 7:00
 \$26 per person

A reservation made is a reservation paid.

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 21

Reservations by
Friday, September 17

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

Menu

Tri-Tip Beef
 Stuffed Chicken Breast
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Seasonal Vegetables
 Strawberry Spinach
 Greek Pasta
 Rolls & Butter
 Triple Chocolate Cake
 Coffee/Tea
 No-host bar available