



# COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

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**April 2011**

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## Veteran's affairs featured

Our April meeting will focus on veterans and the state of Washington. Our speaker, Alfie Alvarado, is the Deputy Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. She is responsible for the day to day agency operations. She is the department's health officer and represents the agency locally and nationally in all matters related to veterans' health.

Alfie was born in Puerto Rico and served 22 years on active duty retiring in August 1993 having served as Command Sergeant Major and Troop Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center in Fort Lewis, Washington. During her military career, she was the recipient of numerous awards and decorations to include the Legion of Merit, Order of Military Medical Merit, Expert Field Medical Badge and Meritorious Service Medals.

Alfie Alvarado is the outgoing Chair of the Governor's Affirmative Action Policy Committee, serves on the boards of directors of the Madigan Foundation and Hire America's Heroes Foundation, and is a member of the Resident Councils of Washington Advisory Board, Hispanic Women's Network, and the National Association of Female Executives.

Also in attendance will be Stephen Prince, a service representative in the Washington State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America. During his Marine Corps service, he provided security for Marine POWs when they were released at the end of the Vietnam war, for President Nixon at the Western White House,

and at Camp David for both Presidents Nixon and Ford. Stephen has been active in the Vietnam Veterans of America, where his contributions have been recognized by many awards. Recently, he has assisted veterans with filing forms for medical claims. He will be available to talk to any of our members who have questions or problems with VA medical claims.

The meeting will be a new restaurant for us, the Red Lion in Kennewick, just south of Columbia Center Mall. Reservations to Bob by **Wednesday, April 13.**

## Hq MOAA reports . . .

### New Rules Changes Could Affect Military Legislation

The House of Representatives approved a number of new rules that could significantly affect the process of considering legislation.

First, the new rules bar commemorative legislation from being considered in the House. Nearly one-third of all bills passed by the previous Congress involved resolutions declaring National Deep Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month, honoring sports accomplishments, or commemorating other noteworthy people or events. Rep. Greg Walden said, "If Americans knew we spent this week...saluting golf legend Chi-Chi Rodriguez and commending the city of Jacksonville, Arkansas, while their taxes are about to go up and our national debt is exploding, they'd send us all packing."

More significantly, House leaders have dramatically changed the way they deal with legislation that comes before the House for action.

Previously, the party in power kept a tight rein on the amendment process, using the Rules Committee to limit floor amendments to issues the leaders were willing to consider. This year, individual members will be able to offer amendments for open debate.

Historically, the House quickly approved its version of the defense bill with few amendments, while the

Senate often had to consume a week or more, scheduling debate time on an agenda that included hundreds of proposed amendments. This year, that could be the scene in both chambers, which could be good or bad news.

Finally, the House has instituted new rules intended to block "pork" spending. The House Armed Services Committee Chairman issued

guidelines that no provision can be inserted in Committee action on the defense bill that designates money to be spent in a specific district or locality. Any alternate spending initiatives will have to be subject to open debate and vote, and any proposal to increase spending will have to be offset by an equivalent spending reduction.

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

Red Lion  
Columbia Center  
Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30  
Dinner at 7:00  
\$27.50 per person

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

## ***April Meeting***

**Tuesday, April 19**

Reservations by  
**Wednesday, April 13**

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

## ***Menu***

Macadamia Chutney Chicken  
Lightly marinated breast, char  
grilled, topped with pineapple  
macadamia chutney  
House salad  
Chef's choice starch  
Fresh seasonal vegetables  
Rolls, butter  
Chef's dessert  
Coffee, tea

Vegetarian meals available, ask Bob