

# Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



May 2026

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## South Korea: a changing culture

Our May meeting will feature Major General William E. Souza, who retired from the US Marine Corps in 2026 after 41+ years of service, including 8 years enlisted. His last command was as the Commander of Marine Forces Korea. South Korea has undergone a lot of change and MGen. Souza will talk about modern day Korea.



**Major General William E. Souza**

Major General Souza is an all-around ground-combat-arms officer. He is the only US Marine Corps General to have commanded a Tank, an Assault Amphibian, and an Infantry Regiment. He has held staff billets from the Company to the Division; and deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism to the Philippines, Iraq and Afghanistan. His general-officer assignments have included Deputy Commander Marine Forces Reserve; Deputy Commander Marine Forces Command / Fleet Marine Force Atlantic / Marine

Forces North; Commanding General 4th Marine Logistics Group; Commanding General United States Marine Corps Forces Korea and his last billet was as the Deputy Commanding General for Training and Education Command.

Major General Souza's highest military awards are the Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the Cheonsu Korean Order of National Security Merit from the President of Korea.

Major General Souza is the owner of a consultancy, Souza Strategy Group LLC. He is also a published author on leadership and health & fitness books under the pen name W.E. Souza. Currently Major General Souza, known to his friends as Wes, resides with his wife Jodi in Richland Washington.

We will continue to meet at Zintel Creek, social hour at 5, dinner at 6. This month's MOAA meeting is open to all Veterans and their guests. Please extend the invitations to all! If you make a guest's reservation and bring them with you, the charge is \$30. For on-line reservations through the website it's \$35 to cover the cost of the on-line payment service.

## President's notes

The April door prize was generously donated by Kari & Bob Allen. The winner of the door prize was Nancy Pochert. Thank

you Kari & Bob for your generosity!

The plan for the June meeting is for a MOAA National representative will be our speaker. The meeting may be moved from Tuesday the 16th to Monday the 15th to accommodate their travel schedule. We will update all as soon as we have a definitive plan.

We will be taking the months of July and August off from meeting and resume again Tuesday 15 September 2026.

### New Tri-Cities VA Clinic Proposed

[From NonStopLocal FaceBook post, 4/29]

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has selected a site in Kennewick for a proposed new outpatient clinic that would expand care for

veterans in the Tri-Cities region.

The proposed clinic is a 130,000-square-foot clinic with as many as 700 parking spaces on 11.8 acres at 3811 Plaza Way, just south of the Trios Southridge Hospital. The project is meant to address space limits and operational problems at existing clinics in the VA Walla Walla Health Care System. According to the project's draft environmental assessment, the current Richland VA clinic at 825 Jadwin Ave. would close after the new clinic opened and its services would move to the new site.

The VA said the clinic would be staffed by about 231 full-time employees. It would provide primary care, mental health-related services, pharmacy, prosthetics, radiology, pathology and laboratory medicine, rehabilitation and other

support services.

Construction would take about 18 to 24 months, according to the draft assessment.

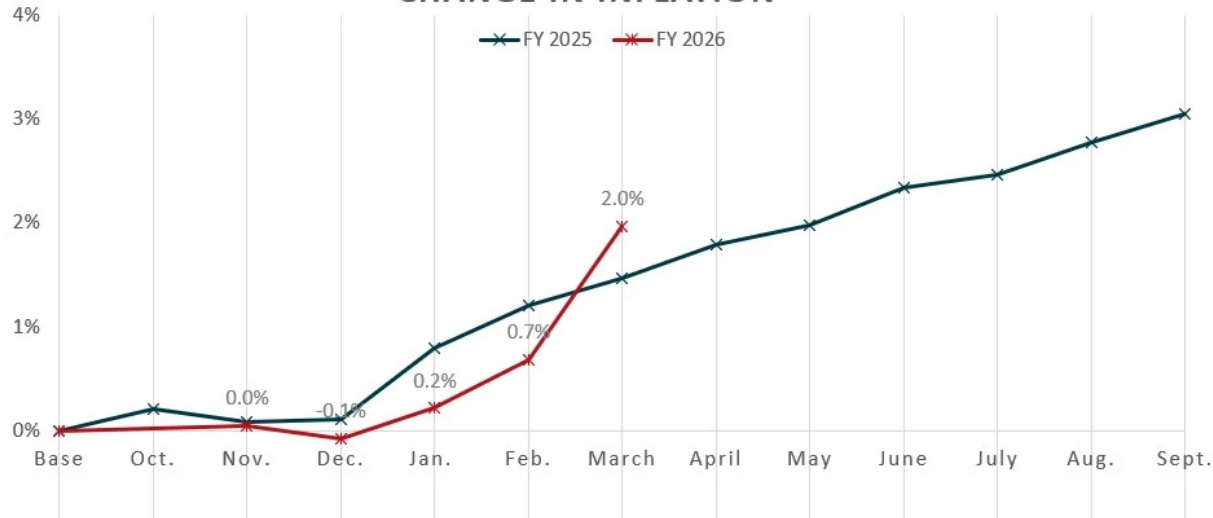
Traffic would increase once the clinic opened, the draft said, but nearby roads were projected to keep working at acceptable levels for the next 20 years.

### HqMOAA sends. . .

#### COLA

The cost of living is increasing faster than at this time last year. The bad news is things cost more. The good news is retirees will get a raise in January based on consumer price index increase averaged over the last 3 months of the fiscal year, July, August, and September..

### CHANGE IN INFLATION



Zintel Creek  
314 N Underwood St  
Kennewick

Social hour: 5:00  
Dinner: 6:00  
\$30 per person members  
\$35 per person on the web

*A reservation made  
is a reservation paid*

### May Meeting Tuesday, May 19

Reservations by  
**Thursday, May 14** to  
Email:  
moaa.tricities@gmail.com  
On line:  
<http://www.tricitiesmoaa.org>

### Menu

#### Pasta Bar

- Lasagna
- Alfredo pasta
- Seasonal vegetable
- Caesar salad
- Garlic bread
- Dessert
- Beverages