



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



June 2026

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Richard Misener

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Chapter Website
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Time and Location Change

The June meeting will be on **MONDAY, the 15th**.
We will meet at **La Bella Vita**, located in
The Franklin at 1515 George Washington Way,
between **Van Giesen & Torbett**.

Hq MOAA Guest Speaker

Our speaker at the June meeting will be Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret).



Captain Frank J. Michael

During his career, he commanded a Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light 47, based in Atsugi, Japan, and led Navy helicopter relief efforts following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. He also commanded the USS Boxer (LHD 4), a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. The Boxer participated in the 2011 Captain Phillips rescue operation in the Indian Ocean, and Capt Phillips was transported to the

Boxer for medical examination and rest after his rescue

As Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, Capt Michael, is responsible for direct support of MOAA's robust nationwide network of more than 400 active and engaged affiliates as they influence legislation, serve their local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA brand awareness nationwide. He coordinates with senior headquarters staff, as well as national oversight committee and board leadership, to improve and support the vibrancy and effectiveness of MOAA's affiliate network. Michael also provides in-person support to council and chapter activities and events, and plans and organizes quarterly council and chapter leader in-person workshops and other training opportunities.

He has been asked to talk about current legislative initiatives, MOAA scholarships, the surviving spouse program, and current challenges MOAA is addressing.

As noted above, we are meeting on Monday this month to accommodate Capt Michael's schedule. And, since Zintel Creek is closed on Mondays, we are meeting at La Bella Vita. Social hour starts at 5 pm, dinner at 6. This will be the last meeting before our summer break, please get your reservations in by Thursday, June 11.

Gary Boehnke

We are sad to announce that Gary passed away on May 22. The Vietnam veteran was a retired Lt Colonel in the US Army, with over 30 years active and reserve. He had been a member of the Lewis & Clark Chapter since 2011. Our condolences go out to Matt and Bonnie.

HqMOAA sends . . . COLA update

Last month we reported that the inflation calculator was 2% above last year's reading at the same time. Now it's at 2.9%. That's as of April. The retired pay will be adjusted in January based on the average of July, August, and September inflation.

One group's estimate put the COLA at 3.9%, while an independent analyst predicted a 4.2% hike, according to a CNBC report.

Both are up at least a percentage point from the

previous month's projections, and either would be the largest increase since the 8.2% added to checks in 2023. The increase has only topped 4% three other times since 2000: A 5.9% hike in 2022, a 5.8% increase in 2009, and a 4.1% boost in 2005.

The good news is we're in for a nice raise. The bad news is we're going to need it.

VA Health Care and Tricare for Life

Having access to VA health care provides additional flexibility for retirees who qualify for both programs. First, you must understand that these programs don't mix! If you use TRICARE or Medicare/TRICARE for Life, the VA won't pick up any copays.

If you use VA health care, TRICARE or Medicare/TFL won't pick up any residual deductibles or copays.

To access VA health care services, you must be enrolled (VA Form 10-10EZ; PDF download) in the program. The VA will then determine your Priority Group, which is based upon your VA disability rating.

The VA will always provide free health care services to treat service-connected disabilities. Veterans with a disability rating of 50% or higher are in Priority Group 1 and can generally receive all their health care needs from the VA at no cost.

Veterans with lower priority group levels may still get treatment for non-service-connected health care needs, but they may incur some copays.

Veterans with no disability rating have very limited access to VA health care.

Military History in June

1775 – The U.S. Army was founded when the Continental Congress first authorized the muster of troops under its sponsorship. The Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

1952 – The USS Nautilus, the first atomic submarine, was dedicated in Groton, Connecticut.

1965 – U.S. planes bomb targets in North Vietnam, but refrain from bombing Hanoi and the Soviet missile sites that surround the city.

1999 – About 15,000 NATO peacekeepers spread out across Kosovo, including a convoy of about 1200 US Marines.

2001 – Pres. Bush spoke in Poland and strongly backed the expansion of Nato into Eastern Europe.

2003 – With a deadline passed for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons, U.S. forces fanned out across Iraq to seize arms and put down potential foes.

La Bella Vita
1515 George Washington Way
Richland

Social hour: 5:00
Dinner: 6:00
\$32 per person members
\$35 per person on the web

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid*

June Meeting Monday, June 15

Reservations by
Thursday, June 11 to
Email:
moaa.tricities@gmail.com
On line:
<http://www.tricitiesmoaa.org>

Menu

Caesar Salad
Italian Bread Sticks
Chicken Parmigiana
Lasagna
Grilled Vegetables
Ice water & Ice Tea