

A message from our President, Lonnie Mettler



Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Recognizes Future Leaders

Are you aware within ROA Department of Northwest, cadets enrolled in ROTC and JROTC get recognized for their achievements each year?

The recipients of the awards are selected by school officials in collaboration with the local ROA Department. The minimum criteria used for selection is the recipient should be:

1. Enrolled in the ROTC/JROTC Program
2. In the top 10 percent in ROTC/JROTC grades
3. In the top 25 percent in academic grades
4. Recognized for having contributed the most to advancing objectives of the ROTC/JROTC program, which includes:
 - a. Outstanding Dedication to Citizenship
 - b. Knowledge of Civic Responsibility
 - c. Military Orientation
 - d. Self-Discipline
 - e. Sound Work Ethic

For many years, the ROA Walla Walla Chapter has been a presenter of the ROA medal with the Walla Walla High School JROTC. In 2023, the program was expanded to include presentations to Kennewick High School Air Force JROTC and to Washington State University Army ROTC. This partnership between the Walla Walla Chapter and the ROTC/JROTC units in the states of Washington and Idaho has grown to seven schools for 2024.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please reach out to Capt Bill Howard to line up for next year.



Walla Walla Team

Walla Walla Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

MAJ Lonnie Mettler, USA (Ret.)

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LTC Sarah Bro, USA (Ret.)

SECRETARY

Capt William Howard III, USAF (Ret.)

TREASURER

CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)

Walla Walla Chapter Committees

INVESTMENTS

LTC Allen Aplash, USA (Ret.)

VETERAN HEADSTONE PROJECT

LTC Allen Aplash, USA (Ret.)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PO3 Gene Gossett, USNR
SGT Ted C. Hanson, ARNG

Walla Walla Chapter Advisors

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

1LT Michael Howell, USAR

CHAPLAIN

RDML Darold Bigger, USN (Ret.)

FLAG PROGRAM

CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)

HISTORIAN

MSgt David Raappana, USAF (Ret.)

LEGISLATION

LTC Ben Morris, USA (Ret.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)
MAJ Lonnie Mettler, USA (Ret.)

PROGRAMS

MSgt David Raappana, USAF (Ret.)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

LTC Sarah Bro, USA (Ret.)

Activities Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the Executive Committee meetings. They take place at the Fort Walla Walla Museum Conference Room at 9:30 a.m. See dates below:

May 20, 2024

July 22, 2024

June 24, 2024

August 26, 2024

The luncheon takes place at noon, at the Walla Walla Country Club.

May 3, 2024 – SrA Rocco Shanks USAF
Saudi, Dhahran, Riyadh AF Bases

June 7, 2024 – LTC Beau Ruff, Army
Reserve Ambassador for the State of Washington

August 2, 2024 – Mr. Dan Clark, Civilian
Battle of Walla Walla Indian

September 6, 2024 – RDML Darold Bigger
USN Military Chaplaincy 9/11



What is a Quilt of Valor?

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted.

It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran touched by war. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

What does "Touched by War" mean?

Only Service Members or Veterans of the Armed Forces know what "touched by war" means to them. It must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

If you would like to honor a Veteran with a quilt, please contact Dr. Pam Murray, Quilt of Valor Chapter coordinator.

Public Outreach

Email Public Outreach:

roa21@gmail.com

Web Page ROA NW-21:

www.roaww.org

Facebook ROA NW-21:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090403814151

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnist and do not necessarily reflect those of Walla Walla Chapter, Department of Northwest, or ROA.

Program Speakers

By Capt William Howard III



Cybertechnology and its Use and Application in the Military.

February 2, 2024, Guest Speaker Maj Tammy Jones, USAF (Ret.), was the Director of Operations and Acting Commander 914th Communications Squadron

Major Tammy Jones, USAF (Ret.), discussed the importance of cybertechnology and its application in the military. Major Jones served in the Air Force for over 20 years. She highlighted the Air Force's responsibility to protect the country's cyberspace from foreign threats while ensuring the mission stayed on track.

Additionally, she explained how the Air Force oversees system installations, facility layouts, and training programs. Maj Jones shared examples of personal experiences and discussed China's cyber strategy against the US while also providing a handout on how to talk to children about the challenges of the digital world.

Capt Howard joined the Twin W Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol in 1987 and has since held various roles, including Communication Officer, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, and Commander (twice). As a Mission Pilot in Civil Air Patrol aircraft, he has flown for over 1,000 hours. Currently, he is the primary instructor for Senior members nationwide, helping them with advanced Professional Development, including the Wing Message Station communication network. He has been recognized twice as Wing Communicator of the Year and holds the rank of Lt. Col. He has achieved the highest Professional Development Level in Civil Air Patrol.



Mission – Make the Arts Accessible to Everyone in the Area.

April 5, 2024, Guest speaker Monica Boyle, Executive Director of Gesa Power House Theatre

Monica shared valuable insights on the significance of the arts in building bridges, strengthening communities, and providing hope. She highlighted the collaboration between the Walla Walla Veterans Home, the Red Badge Project, and the Walla Walla local School District. She also provided the history of the Gesa Power House Theatre, a world-class, 300-seat performing arts theater located in downtown Walla Walla, Washington. The 120-year-old building was once the Walla Walla Gas Plant. Overall, her presentation was very insightful and enlightening.



Civil Air Patrol United States Air Force Auxiliary

March 1, 2024, Guest Speaker Capt. Bill Howard III, USAF (Ret.) Civil Air Patrol Communication Mission

Captain Howard gave the attendees an informative update on the ongoing mission of the Civil Air Patrol. He also discussed the crucial role that the organization plays in the Air Force's nationwide communication network, which comprises approximately 140 stations across the United States. As one of the responsible station commanders, Capt Howard highlighted his team's efforts to ensure seamless communication and effective response in times of need.

New Member

Col David A. Reinholz, USAF (Ret.), has returned as an active chapter member. We are delighted to see him back.

If you know of a local veteran, please invite them to join us for lunch on the first Friday of each month (excluding January and July).

Chapter News

By CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)



PVT Kelly Mattocks

Chapter Flag Program

One of the Walla Walla Chapter members, PVT Kelly Mattocks, has volunteered to lead the Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery's flag program.



Fort Walla Walla Museum

The Fort Walla Walla Museum hosted an open house on April 6, 2024, where visitors were able to enjoy free admission for the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for locals to explore the museum's various exhibits and learn about the history of the area. The museum offers an engaging and informative experience for the entire family, making it a must-visit destination for everyone in the surrounding community.

MAJ Mettler presented SGT Ted Hanson with a Letter of Appreciation for his outstanding contributions to the ROA Walla Walla Chapter. Ted has played a vital role in establishing the Walla Walla Chapter as a Wreaths Across America sponsoring organization. Additionally, he has been serving as the Co-leader for the Walla Walla Chapter Youth



MAJ Lonnie Mettler &
SGT Ted Hanson

Development Program in collaboration with the Civil Air Patrol Twin W Composite Squadron. His dedication and willingness to do whatever is necessary to benefit the chapter have been appreciated.



Walla Walla ROA Chapter Booth

The museum was lively and bustling with activity as fifteen community vendors set up booths throughout the museum. The Walla Walla Chapter ROA was also present with a booth manned by LTC Sarah Bro, MAJ Lonnie Mettler, and CSM Terry Atchison.

The open house was a resounding success, with an impressive turnout of visitors, vendors, volunteers, and staff all joining hands to make it a grand event.

ROA Recognizes Future Leaders

Walla Walla High School JROTC Blue Devil Battalion



The JROTC Competitive Team Dinner and Auction held in 2024 was a remarkable achievement, made possible by the dedicated leadership of the JROTC Battalion and Walla Walla High School Army JROTC Boosters. The tireless efforts of the event coordinator, Jillice Beko, and the Booster's President, Heidi Kincheloe, played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the event. ROA Walla Walla Chapter was a "Title Sponsor" of this event.



Washington State University Army ROTC Pullman, Washington

On Saturday, March 29, 2024, the Washington State University Army ROTC hosted its Dining Out and Award ceremony, attended by MAJ Lonnie Mettler and CSM Terry Atchison. During the event, MAJ Mettler awarded the Reserve Organization of America ROTC awards to three deserving cadets: Kevin Sette, Dominic Murillo, and Lizbeth Augilar-Paniagus. Additionally, MAJ Mettler presented each cadet with an ROA coin as a token of their excellent work.

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University of Idaho Navy ROTC, Moscow, Idaho



On April 20th, 2024, Rear Admiral Darold Bigger attended an event hosted by the University of Idaho's Navy ROTC Battalion. The battalion is well-known for its exceptional training programs preparing students for the Navy or Marine Corps commission. During the event, RDML Bigger



was honored to present the ROA awards to three exceptional midshipman, Jun Figueredo, Keilani Skelton, and Jaden Eckstrom (who could not attend). These brilliant midshipmen have achieved a lot and serve as an inspiration for all. RDML Bigger also presented an ROA Challenge Coin to each of the midshipman.

This is a photo of Midshipman Kailani Shelton with Rear Admiral Darold Bigger. There is no photo of Jun Figueredo and Jaden Eckstrom available.

Chaplains Corner

By RDML Darold Bigger, USN (Ret.)

Our Best Selves

The major “Abrahamic religions” –those who consider Abraham a founder, specifically Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—all have had major religious events last month.

We are now at Passover time for the Jews when they remember their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, where they had been slaves for hundreds of years.

The Muslims (Islamic religion) have finished Ramadan, the annual commemoration of Muhammad’s first revelation. During this period, Muslims observe and participate in fasting rituals (during daylight hours), prayer, and charity.

May the God of Abraham lead us from our worst and help us find our best selves!

Christians concluded Holy Week that includes Palm Sunday (when Jesus was paraded triumphantly into Jerusalem), Maundy Thursday (the night of the feet washing and the Lord’s Supper),

Good Friday (when Jesus was crucified), Holy Sabbath (when Jesus rested in the tomb), and Easter Sunday (when Jesus rose from the dead). How sad that during all three of these religious events, conflict rages between and among the followers of these religions. Our aspirations for peace are shattered by war and suffering, and our hopes for contentment are haunted by famine and poverty. The current situation is far from the ideals of any of our religions. We need to be rescued from ourselves and each other!

Department of Northwest

The Walla Walla Chapter hosted the 94th Annual Meeting of the Department of Northwest from April 19th to April 21st, 2024. The event started on Friday night with a Crazy Hats & Ties Reception.



From left to right: Mr. Steve Ford, Secretary, Lt. Col Judy Ford, President, CAPT Rickey Thomas, Treasurer and LTC Peter Halver, Vice -President for the Army

During the General Session business meeting Saturday, Lt Col Judy Ford gave the attending members important updates on various Department and National business matters. At 12 PM, a Joint Service Luncheon was held, and Trey Criner, ROA Director of Operations, delivered a compelling presentation on the state of military readiness, which was well received. After lunch, business continued with the election of officers for the coming year. Incoming LTC Peter Halver, President, Steve Ford, Secretary, and CAPT Rickey Thomas, Treasurer. Walla Walla Chapter SSG Chad Bro, elected to Army Jr. Vice-President, and P02 Robert McCoy, elected to Navy Jr. Vice-President. We celebrated with a dinner after a day of collective effort and hard work. The atmosphere was filled with joy as everyone enjoyed playing games and participating in an auction.

LTC Peter Halver presided over the council meeting on Sunday morning. During the meeting, he presented his objectives for the upcoming year. After a thoughtful discussion, the meeting was concluded as there was no other business to attend to.

State of Military Readiness

By Maj. Gen (Ret.) Jeffrey E. Phillips
Published 09/29/2023.

Could a Presidential Commission Solve America's Military Readiness Crisis

Part 2 – Military Readiness

In Part 1, it was discussed that the all-volunteer military is currently facing recruitment challenges, which has raised concerns about America's security. Despite the Pentagon's efforts, recruiting goals are not being met, and urgent action is needed to address this issue.

This places the military world and therefore the political world on notice that this vast power, linked to our tremendous resources, wealth, and production, is immediately available.

Such exposure, without the waivers that so corrupted the Vietnam-era draft, would help close the "Civil-military gap" and likely generate recruits around young people who discover an affinity for military services (surprise, surprise!)

The Pentagon did not cause the pressures that drive down recruiting. In the Sept. 21 Washington Post op-ed, "The all-volunteer force is dying. Here's how to save it," former Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper writes: "The scope and scale of these trends are beyond the means of the Pentagon alone to remedy. Given the consequences, this is a challenge to our national security that must be addressed at the highest levels."

Esper echoes an idea that ROA had advanced: a White House commission not unlike the Gate Commission that ushered in the all-volunteer force in 1973. Such a commission, convened at the highest level of the American government, would immediately establish urgency and the importance of finding solutions to the issue. ROA agrees with Esper's suggestion to support Junior ROTC and focus on increasing the pool of young people who are qualified to serve and interested in serving.

ROA would urge such a commission to examine our military and national security requirements to ensure appropriate structure and strategy. For example, the reserve components are increasingly "reserve" in name alone. Does that make sense and is it sustainable? Among other advocates, the concept of a presidential commission is supported by the generals, admirals, and ambassadors of the American College of National Security Leaders, as well as a growing list of America's businesses.

As Secretary Esper states: "America's all-volunteer force is slowly dying. And unless we take action soon to reverse the trend, we are putting our nation's future security at risk. "ROA, supporting military readiness through a focus on the reserve components – as it has since its 1922 founding by Ge, John "Black Jack" Pershing, and 12 dozen veterans of World War I – has marched into the solution phase of the operation.

Military History

The book "American Military Leaders from
Colonial Times to the President" is authored by
John C. Fredriksen.

Deborah Sampson

Most Celebrated Female Veteran of the American Revolution

Deborah Sampson remains the most celebrated female veteran of the American Revolution. Unlike *Mary Ludwig Hays* ("Molly Pitcher"), she did not accompany her husband as a woman. Instead, she wore a uniform and fought in several battles as a man before her gender was discovered.

Sampson was born in Plympton, Massachusetts, on December 17, 1760, into a poor farming family. Her father died at sea, leaving her mother to care for six young children, and she was raised by an elderly family member.

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At the age of 10, Sampson became an indentured servant to farmer Jeremiah Thomas and spent the next several years working to obtain her freedom. Years of toiling in the fields rendered her tall, strong, and hardy for a young woman. However, she was also determined to improve herself by education, and being unable to attend school, Sampson studied by herself at night. In 1778, at the age of 18, she was finally released from her indenture and taught for several years as a schoolteacher. The Revolution was then in full swing, and thoughts of patriotism and adventure appealed to her. In 1782, she decided to join the Continental Army. Disguising herself as a man, Sampson signed up at Middleborough under the name Timothy Thayer and accepted the usual enlistment bounty. Unfortunately, she spent her money at the local tavern, became drunk, and her true identity became known. Angry authorities discharged her and retrieved the money, while neighbors expelled her from the local Baptist church. Sampson had better luck a few months later when she repeated the attempt at Uxbridge, Massachusetts, 70 miles away. There, she signed on for three years as a private in Capt George Bebb's company of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, enlisting under the name of Robert Shurtleff.

Following the dramatic American victory at Yorktown in 1781, military action in the final phase of the American Revolution was restricted to picket skirmishes and raids. Sampson, true to her adventurous nature, managed to be in the thick of things. In the summer of 1782, her company was posted near West Point, New York, a region noted for Tory activities. She fought in several skirmishes at Tappan Bay, receiving a sword wound on the head that she bandaged herself to avoid detection. Several weeks later Sampson was shot in the thigh during a skirmish at East Chester. Again, she refused proper medical treatment and the ball remained lodged in her leg, but her gender remained a secret. Despite pain from an unhealed wound, Sampson conducted surveying work in the Ohio Valley and became known as an excellent soldier. In 1783, she became an aide to Gen. John Patterson in Philadelphia. Her wound, however, grew infected and she collapsed from fever. When the doctor treating her uncovered the charade, he informed Patterson. The general was bemused and paraded Sampson in front of her regiment in a dress. So careful had she conducted her ruse that none of her erstwhile compatriots recognized her. She was then honorably discharged from the service in October 1783 by Gen. Henry Knox, who commended her for 18 months of service to the country.

A year after the war ended in 1784, Sampson met and married Benjamin Gannett and they settled on his farm in Sharon, Massachusetts. She remained in poor health as a result of her wounds and by 1790 the couple was desperate for money to raise their three children. Accordingly, Sampson petitioned the state for a military pension and received \$34. In 1797, she also published an account of her military experience entitled *The Female Review*, which further spread her notoriety.

Sampson began touring New England in 1802 to supplement her income further and discuss wartime experiences, decked out in her old uniform. She thus became one of the first female lecturers in the country. In 1804, Sampson approached Congress for additional funding with a recommendation from Paul Revere. Through his intercession, she was placed on the Massachusetts In-valid Pension Roll at \$4 per month. In 1818, When Congress passed additional veterans' legislation, this amount was increased to \$8.

Deborah (Sampson) Gannett died in Sharon on April 29, 1827, and she was survived by her husband. This placed Richard Gannett in the unusual position of being a widower eligible for a military pension based on his wife's prior service. He died before this eventuality came to pass, but in 1838, Congress authorized payment of \$466.66 to the children of Deborah Gannett in recognition of her service to the county.

In 1944, the Liberty ship Deborah Gannett was also christened in her honor.



Thank you! I am writing to express my gratitude to those whose hard work and dedication made Wreaths Across America in 2023 a success. Thanks to your efforts, the chapter met its goal of ensuring that every veteran at the Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery was honored with a remembrance wreath.

The scene especially moved me on December 16, 2023, when the chapter members gathered to pay their respects to America's fallen heroes. Despite the chilly and overcast morning, everyone who was present placed wreaths and said the names on the tombstones aloud, ensuring that each veteran's sacrifice would never be forgotten.

MAJ Lonnie E. Mettler

