Reserve Organization of America

Walla Walla Chapter (NW-021)

Walla Walla FORTE

2024 19th Sword & Pen Award Recipient

2024 1st Ben Franklin Journalism Award

August 2025 | Volume 6 | Number 2

A message from our President, LTC Sarah Bro

ROA: What We Do!

Many people with or without a personal or family military background will recognize almost immediately the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the American Legion as noted veterans service organizations. Not many, however, know about the Reserve Organization of America. "ROA? Never heard of them…"

This year we have been making a concerted effort to increase our presence at local festivals and gatherings. Our goal is to *raise awareness* in the public's eye of our 103-year-old organization as well as show our community what our chapter does for veterans. Here's where we've been:

Our newest brochure **"What We Do"** premiered at Fourth of July in the Park! In it you will see the principal initiatives of our chapter:

- **Veteran Headstone Preservation and Restoration**, with efforts at Mountain View and Fort Walla Walla Post cemeteries
- **Wreaths Across America**, serving as a registered sponsorship group to bring a wreath to every local veteran's grave
- **JROTC/ROTC recognition** events
- Partnering with **Quilts of Valor** Foundation, covering veterans touched by war with beautiful, handmade quilts
- Promoting **Veteran-Owned Businesses** on our website
- Presenting our **Monthly Luncheon Speaker** program, providing lectures of historical, military, and personal interest

Help us to **NEVER FORGET A VETERAN**. If you can step forward to staff our display at festivals and markets, come to meetings with a friend, be the next speaker, inspire an ROTC/JROTC cadet, sponsor a wreath, we *will* broaden our presence in the community, so that anyone, when asked, will say "The ROA? I know them!"

Walla Walla Team

Walla Walla Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT
LTC Sarah Bro, USA (Ret.)

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Vacant

SECRETARY
Capt William Howard III, USAF (Ret.)

TREASURER
CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
MAJ Lonnie Mettler, USA (Ret.)

Walla Walla Chapter Committees

INVESTMENTS
LTC Allen Aplass, USA (Ret.)

MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT
MAJ Lonnie Mettler, USA (Ret.)

VETERAN HEADSTONE PROJECT
LTC Allen Aplass, USA (Ret.)

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
SSG Chad Bro, USA (Ret.)

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

Walla Walla Chapter Advisors

CHAPLAIN
RDML Darold Bigger, USN (Ret.)

FLAG PROGRAM
CSM Terry Atchison, USA (Ret.)

HISTORIAN
MAJ Lonnie Mettler, USA (Ret.)

LEGISLATION
LTC Ben Morris, USA (Ret.)

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

PUBLIC OUTREACH
LTC Sarah Bro, USA (Ret.)
SSgt Scott Keller, USMC

QUILTS OF VALOR
Dr. Pamela Murray

PROGRAMS
Capt Gordon "Mick" McLean, USAFR (Ret.)

Activities Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the Executive Committee meetings. They occur at the **Fort Walla Walla Museum Conference Room at 10:00 a.m**. See the dates below:

Aug 25, 2025	**Oct 27, 2025**
Sep 22, 2025	**Nov 24, 2025**

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

Sep 5, 2025 – LTC Amy Roznowski, USMC (Ret.) on the "VFW Post #992 Reboot

Oct 3, 2025 – RDML Darrold Bigger, USN (Ret.) "911 Chaplain Response"

Nov 7, 2025 – COL James Baker, USA (Ret.) Admiralty Law as Applies to Corps of Engineers

Dec 5, 2025 – LTC Sarah Bro, President Annual Business Meeting

Jan, 2026 - No Luncheon Meeting

ROA Walla Walla New Chapter Members

MAJ Garth Beavon, USA
SGT Michael L Braden USA
COL William M. Brady, USA (Ret.)
Mrs. Carolyn Elworthy, USA Civilian Spouse
Mrs. Teri Lynn Elworthy, USA Civilian Spouse
Capt Verna M. Garrett, USAF (Ret.)
CDR Heather M. Kostechi, USCG
Maj Robert LaGrange, USMCR
Ms. Pamela Morse, USA Civilian Spouse
LTC Clyde Reynolds, USA (Ret.)
LCDR Michael L. Thorpe, USN
Capt Jeffrey M. Weaver, USAF
MAJ James Womac, USA (Ret.)

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

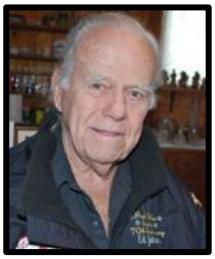
May 1, 2025, Guest Speaker
Dr. Pam Murray "History In My Hands"

Dr. Pam Murray has always had a passion for adventure. She grew up in Walla Walla and earned her bachelor's degree in modern Languages from Washington State University. While her career started at the Boeing Company, her genuine enthusiasm for exploration flourished when she launched her own company, teaching leadership and communication to corporate, civic, and academic clients.

Dr. Pam Murray presented an informative lecture titled "History in My Hands." In it, she shared her insightful experiences from an archaeological dig that connected diverse historical narratives. She utilized a collection of photographs, artifacts, stories, and documents to illustrate this intriguing period in local history, providing her audience a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

June 6, 2025, Guest Speaker
Capt Mick McLean, USAFR Spotlight on personnel at Pearl Harbor

Captain Mick McLean delivered an inspiring talk about his dear friend, Ed Johann, a courageous survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack. Johann enlisted in the Navy at just 17 years old and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese assault in 1941. During this pivotal moment, Johann played a vital role in rescuing survivors from the U.S.S. Arizona, West Virginia, and Oklahoma, who were fighting for their lives in the waters of Pearl Harbor during and after the attack. After finishing his military service of more than four years, he spent another 27 years working for the fire department in Portland, Oregon. He also took part in mountain rescues, saving people at great risk to his own life.


Ed Johann, Sailor

Ed stated: "In spite of the damage, the ships' American flags continued to soar. It gave me a comforted feeling to see the flag in all of this attack."

August 1, 2025, Guest Speakers Mike Eggleston - Veterans Treatment Court, and Stefanie Parrish Community Court Coordinator.

Mike spoke about the history of the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and its origins in Walla Walla. The VTC became a part of the Community Court process in Walla Walla County. Establishing the VTC has been a goal of the Veteran's Relief Advisory Board (VRAB), which Mike Eggleston co-chairs. The VTC addresses issues faced by veterans who have found themselves involved in the legal system, often due to alcohol or drug addiction, as well as mental health challenges.

The VTC is designed specifically for veterans navigating the legal system, often due to the challenges posed by alcohol and drug addiction, as well as mental health issues. Mike emphasized the critical role of the mentoring program associated with the court. This program pairs qualified veterans with individuals who have criminal histories and addiction challenges, helping to provide invaluable guidance and support over a year-long mentoring relationship.

Mike emphasized the importance of the mentoring program, where individuals with criminal history, and – when applicable- relevant addiction issues, and who qualify for assistance are matched with dedicated veterans. These experienced mentors are committed to providing invaluable guidance and support, which typically spans over a year.

Stefanie Parrish, Community Court Coordinator, confidently highlighted the vital role the court plays in assisting veterans in addressing their criminal charges. The court serves as a lifeline for veterans facing criminal charges. She described the supportive environment where veterans not only confront their past but also receive guidance and resources to reform their futures. She emphasized that this is a collective effort involving everyone on the team. She indicated that the VCT program essentially has a different path for veterans who have been charged with misdemeanor crimes, criminal history, and status of addiction.

ROA Recognizes Future Leaders

By SFC Mark Mebes, USA (Ret.)

Cadet 1SG Chase Green and PO2 Bob McCoy

Cadet First Sergeant Chase Green was awarded the Reserve Organization of America (ROA) Medal during the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Military Ball. The medal, along with an ROA coin, was presented by PO2 Bob McCoy.

Cadet Green has been a dedicated member of the JROTC for the past two years, starting his journey as a junior and assuming the role of First Sergeant for Delta Company in his senior year. He has actively participated in the sporting rifle team as well as our battalion fitness team, with exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence.

Cadet Green Chase has chosen to enlist in the Army National Guard as an infantryman. He will be heading to Fort Benning, Georgia, for Basic Training, followed by Advanced Individual Training. Upon completing his military training, Chase plans to return this fall to his unit while pursuing an engineering degree at Walla Walla University.

Chaplain Corner

By RDML Darold F. Bigger, USN (Ret.)

Measure Our Days

Floods, wars, shootings, illnesses remind us that life is tenuous. In seconds, disaster can sweep us away, attacks can disable or kill, medical diagnosis can drastically alter the course of life. We've seen it happen in Texas, Ukraine, Gaza, Virginia Mason and the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle and Providence Saint Mary in Walla Walla.

Those of us who have survived for decades, who have had careers and retired, and become grandparents, whose hair has changed color or disappeared, who visit doctors more often now and enjoy friends saying "It's good to see you" because being seen is better than being viewed, we know this is true. Life is tenuous.

But what can we do about it?

Psalm 90 is labeled as a prayer of Moses and begins like this:

[1] Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

[2] Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

[3] You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

The kicker in this Psalm, the advice we would do well to heed, comes in verse 12:

[12] Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

National News

Maj Gen. Hashem

John B. Hashem, Maj Gen., USA (Ret.) Selected to serve as ROA's Next Executive Director

General Hashem was selected for the role of Executive Director due to his extensive leadership experience and strategic acumen, demonstrated over a distinguished 40-year military career. As a retired Major General, he has a deep understanding of the Reserve Components and has served in various capacities, from enlisted to officer, providing him with a comprehensive perspective on military operations and policy

Community Activities

By CSM Terry R. Atchison, USA (Ret.)

Spring Museum Open House

April 1, 2025, families had free entry to the museum! The Fort Walla Walla Museum Open House allows the community to explore the latest exhibits at the historic fort.

They had an April Fool's Scavenger Hunt! Modern items were hidden in some of the museum's exhibits, and young and old eyes alike could work together to find these historical inaccuracies. As you discover stories from the past, from the Oregon Trail to the horse-powered wheat harvest, kids could record things that were out of place. If you can list enough of them, you would win a small prize in the Museum Store! A fun way to talk about the exhibits and identify some things that don't quite belong.

The Museum features a 17-building historic pioneer settlement, beautiful gardens, and five sprawling exhibit halls housing thousands of artifacts. The Entrance Building also houses an admission-free Museum Store filled with books, heritage gifts, local goods, and more.

Walk through old Walla Walla, starting at the Museum's iconic stagecoach. Discover stories from the Oregon Trail, see the oldest locomotive to operate in Washington State, watch a 33-mule team harvest a wheat field, and lock yourself in an old bucket cell from the Washington State Penitentiary.

CSM Atchison & MAJ Lonnie Mettler

The ROA Walla Walla Chapter set up a booth to showcase its mission activities and impact on the community.

Chapter News

By CSM Terry R. Atchison, USA (Ret.)

2d Lt Alexa Williams

Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps

University of Idaho Commissioning Ceremony

On May 10, 2025, the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Idaho held its Spring 2025 Commissioning Ceremony. During the event, Terry's wife, granddaughter, 2d Lt. Alexa Williams, a ROA Walla Walla chapter member, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. She will be a Logistics Officer. First duty station will be Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. She joined: "To serve a purpose greater than myself, pushing my limits in a structured, high-expectation environment alongside like-minded individuals."

That afternoon, she graduated from the University of Idaho's College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Sociology.

Did You Know?

What do Green Porch Lights Mean?

What Do Green Porch Lights Mean?

According to the **United States Army Reserve**, changing one porch light to a green bulb is part of the "Greenlight a Vet" campaign. This campaign was established to give people a way to show "visible national support for our veterans." If all your neighbors' porch lights are green, they've probably chosen that color as an aesthetic choice. However, a single green bulb most likely means the residents are participating in this campaign.

Continue Page 6

Community Activities – Continued from Page 5

VA Medical Center - ROA Booth

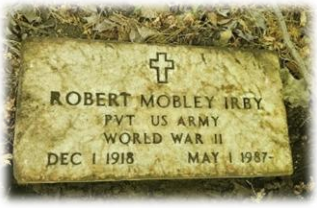
On May 21, 2025, the Walla Walla Chapter of the ROA was invited to set up a booth at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the National "2K Walk and Roll" event. This special occasion not only served as a touching tribute to our brave veterans but also as a delightful opportunity to engage with the community and strengthen our bonds. The booth was manned by MAJ Lonnie Mettler and CSM Terry Atchison.

College Place Market Event

Members of the ROA Walla Walla Chapter decided to participate in the College Place Market by registering for events on four Thursdays through the summer.

Community Activities Continued on Page 7

Community News



Veteran Headstone Discovered During Private Land Cleanup in Walla Walla

A grave headstone was unearthed during the cleanup of private property in the process of preparing the land for sale.

The property owner expressed unfamiliarity with the veteran, Robert Mobley Irby, Private (PVT) in the US Army, who served during World War II.

Two members of the Walla Walla Chapter ROA, LTC Sarah Bro and SSG Sherilyn Jacobson, were asked to assist with getting the headstone to the proper cemetery. Contact was made with the cemetery in Arlington, OR who had first hand knowledge of Robert Irby's burial in 1987.

After the headstone was retrieved and cleaned it then was transported to the cemetery in Arlington, OR. The military headstone will be placed in front of the current family headstone.

Because of veterans taking care of veterans, PVT Robert Mobley Irby's memory will be preserved within his community. **Never Forget Those Who Served**.

Did You Know? Continue from Page 5

Why Green?

The United States Army Reserve explains that "green is the color of hope, renewal and well-being. 'Greenlight' is also a term commonly used to activate forward movement." Given that veterans are often overlooked when they return home from their tour of duty, "the simple action of changing one light to green is intended to spark a national conversation regarding the recognition of veterans." The hope is that by having a single green light up, neighbors will stop to ask about the light and start a conversation about veterans and their needs once they come home. It is also a way to "'greenlight' them forward as valued members of our communities."

Is This Campaign Year-Round?

The informational poster distributed by the United States Army Reserve makes it clear that the campaign is intended to run in perpetuity. It's not limited to Veterans' Day, Memorial Day or any other holiday that acknowledges veterans. Rather, it's intended to keep the conversation flowing at all times so that different communities can discuss, organize and support their local veterans.

Source
***Greenlight a Vet**, United States Army Reserve.*

Community Activities – Continued from Page 6

The 4th of July, or Independence Day, is a federal holiday in the United States celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It marks the nation's independence from British rule and is celebrated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, and patriotic displays.

In Walla Walla, several organizations and groups participate in the celebrations, including the Reserve Organization of America, Walla Walla Chapter, Volunteers Love Serving Veterans, Combat Veterans, Civil Air Patrol, Twin W Composite Squadron, Walla Walla High School JROTC, Blue Devil Battalion, American Legion (Walla Walla Post 32), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (Mathew Fazzari Post # 992).

By COL Denise A. Enders, USA (Ret.)

DD FORM 214
Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

Thanks to ROA's advocacy efforts with the 118th Congress and passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Department of Defense (DOD) was tasked with developing and implementing procedures to issue the DD FORM 214 to include Reserve Component Service Members (meaning Reserve & National Guard). Chartered in 2015 under the authority of Assistant Secretary of Defense and the Management Reform and Accountability (ASD(MR&A), the DOD Separation Standardization Working Group was formed and consisted of functional and technical representatives from the Military Departments' Manpower and Reserve Affairs offices, the Coast Guard, the Joint Staff, the National Guard Bureau, the Defense Manpower Data Center, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and ad hoc members as needed. The working group not only streamlined the DD FORM 214, but it also created the DD FORM 214-1 specifically for the Reserve Components. (RC) The DOD also made changes to the procedures for issuance of DD FORM 215, which facilitates corrections to DD FORM 214.

In accordance with Section 1168 of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), the DD Form 214 represents the discharge certificate or certificate of release from all active-duty service, to include active duty and full-time National Guard duty. Pursuant to Section 570 of Public Law 116-92, the DD Form 214-1, in conjunction with the DD Form 214, represents the standard record of service for members of the Reserve Components.

By DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1332.14 and DoDI 1332.30, the DD Form 214/5 Series is the official record of separation and characterization of service. These forms are restricted from public access due to their sensitive nature. Appropriate governmental agencies with an authoritative source of personnel information that they require for the administration of State and Federal laws applicable to personnel who have been transferred between Services, released, discharged, transferred to another component of a Service, or have had another change in status. This associated data will be provided electronically to expedite the adjudication of veterans' benefits by appropriate governmental agencies, such as but not limited to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Labor (DOL), and State or Territory Departments of Veterans Affairs. Service Secretaries are tasked with providing Reserve Component members who are separated or released from their component a DD Form 214 and DD Form 214-1 containing a concise summary of service, as directed below:

DD Form 214 Issuance.

(1) The following members will be issued a DD Form 214:

(a) Members who are separated or released from active service.
(b) Recalled retirees reverting to retired status, regardless of the period of active-duty service.
(c) Members who are separated for cause or physical disability, regardless of the period of active service.
(d) Personnel being separated, when they have served 90 days or more or when required by the Secretary concerned for shorter periods, from a period of active duty for training, full-time training duty, or active duty for operational support.
(e) Reserve Component personnel ordered to active duty for a contingency operation for a period of greater than 30 days.
(f) Members who change their status or component while serving on active service.
(g) Members who are issued a DD Form 214-1.

DD Form 214 Certificate of Release Continued on Page 9

DD Form 214 Certificate of Release – Continued from Page 8

DD Form 214-1 Issuance.

(1) The following members will be issued a DD Form 214-1 in conjunction with a DD Form 214:

(a) Members who are separated or released from a Reserve Component.
(b) Reserve Component members transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve or the Inactive National Guard.
(c) Reserve Component members transferred to the Standby Reserve or Retired Reserve.
(d) Recalled retirees reverting to retired status.
(e) As prescribed under other circumstances determined by the uniformed service concerned.

(2) The DD Form 214-1 is not required to be issued for:

(a) National Guard members who transfer to States.
(b) Personnel whose Reserve Component service is terminated by death.
(c) Every issuance of a DD Form 214.

(3) The DD Form 214-1, in conjunction with a DD Form 214, will normally be issued by the separation activity from which the member was separated. The DD Form 214-1 will never be issued on its own and will always be accompanied by the DD Form 214. In those instances where a DD Form 214/214-1 was not issued by the separation activity from which the member was separated, the uniformed service concerned may establish procedures for the administrative issuance of the form.
(4) If the separation activity cannot complete all items on DD Forms 214 and 214-1, the forms will be prepared as completely as possible and delivered to the separating member before their departure. The version number of the serial number will be 0 (zero).

(a) The member will be advised that updated DD Forms 214/214-1 will be issued by the uniformed service concerned when the missing information becomes available, and that it will not be necessary for the separating member to request updated DD Forms 214/214-1.

(b) The updated DD Forms 214/214-1 will reflect an appropriately incremented version number in the serial number.

The Secretary of the Army issued Directive 2025-05 on March 25, 2025, which establishes an effective date of August 17, 2025, when Reserve Component Soldiers who are separated or released from their component will be provided with a DD Form 214 and DD Form 214-1 containing a concise summary of their service.
Although we have made great strides with the implementation and execution of these procedures, more work may be required in the following areas:

- The procedures outlined in DODI 1336.01, February 17, 2022, exclude the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Although the VA, DOL, and State or Territory Department of Veterans Affairs will be provided with data electronically to expedite the adjudication of veterans' benefits, the state laws may need to be changed to accept DD FORM 214-1 as a source document for benefits.
- Although we have seen the Army's Directive establishing a timeline for implementation, evidence of other Service Directives and implementation dates needs to be closely monitored.

More Information at DoD Instruction 1336.01 – Certificate of Uniformed Service (DD Form 214/5 Series)

Taps

COL Dick Martin

COL Richard (Dick) L. Martin, USA, (Ret.) passed away on January 1, 2015

Dick dedicated 37 years to his military service before retiring. He began his military career as an enlisted soldier for seven years before transitioning to a commissioned officer. With a series of promotions, he achieved the rank of Colonel and served as the 2nd Brigade Commander of the 104th Division in Pasco, WA, until his retirement.

LTC Clyde J. Reynolds

LTC Clyde J. Reynolds, USA (Ret.), passed away on July 9, 2022

LTC Clyde James Reynolds, a dedicated serviceman, retired after an impressive 28-year career in the military. Born on April 7, 1933, in Pasco, Washington, he lived a full life until his passing on July 9, 2022, at the age of 89. Known for his commitment not only to his country but also to his family, Clyde was married for 47 wonderful years.

No Photo

MAJ Evelyn Virginia "Jenny" Hazen, USA Army (Ret.), passed away on August 8, 2022.

Major Evelyn Virginia in the USA (Ret.) was born on March 5, 1942, in Franklin, Warren County, Ohio.

Her ashes are inurned at Mountain View Cemetery in Walla Walla, WA.

LCDR Donald E. Casebolt

LCDR Donald Edward Casebolt USN (Ret.) Passed away on May 13, 2024.

LCDR Donald Edward Casebolt, 96; born August 19, 1927, The Dalles, Oregon; died May 13, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington.

Surviving: sons, Douglas and Keith; daughter, Connie Casebolt Carver; brothers, Wilfred and Bryce; sister, Lillian Christian; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

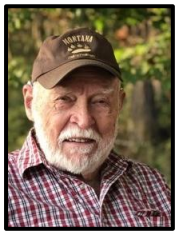
No Photo

LTC John Nansen – No Obituary or background information

No Photo

CW04 Nathan Duane Patton, USCG (Ret.) Passed away 0n July 13, 2023

CW04 Nathan D. Patton was an individual whose life spanned many significant moments in history. Born on February 5, 1930, in Union Gap, Yakima, Washington, he dedicated a substantial part of his life to serving his country. As a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in the U.S. Coast Guard, he played a vital role during the Vietnam War.



COL Dee G. Meek

COL Dee Gray Meek, USA (Ret.) Passed away on April 15, 2024

After serving two years in the United States Army at Fort Lewis, WA, COL Meek continued in the Army Reserves Veterinary Corps as a Citizen Soldier until his retirement at the rank of Colonel.

Capt Rabideau

Capt Clarence "Jim" Rabideau, USN (Ret.) Passed away on August 31, 2024.

He enlisted in the Navy as an aviation cadet, attending college In California and North Dakota before flight training. Graduating from Eastern, he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War, serving as a legal officer on the USS Salisbury Sound AV-13 based in Japan and later at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA.

LTC Dudley Brown

LTC Dudley Buck Brown USA, (Ret.) Passed away on February 15, 2024.

LTC Brown was a lifelong resident of Grandview, Washington. He graduated from Grandview High School and Washington State University. LTC Brown had a distinguished career as an officer in the U.S. Army, ultimately retiring from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his military retirement, he continued to serve as a civilian employee in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Veteran Graves Without a Headstone Marker (Update)

MAJ Lonnie E. Mettler, USA (Ret.)

Since 2017, the ROA Walla Walla Chapter has been inventorying veterans' graves in Mountain View Cemetery, Walla Walla. In 2024, inventory work moved from the veteran sections to the general population inside the cemetery. Initially, about 40 veteran graves without markers were discovered.

This discovery became the driver for the Executive Committee, Walla Walla Chapter, to initiate a matching funds project to cover the cost of setting headstone markers on the graves of veterans without markers. As you are aware, a veteran meeting the requirements for a headstone is given a headstone at no cost. This does not include the cost to set the headstone.

A goal was set to seek donations of $6,000 to be matched with another $6,000. We have been fortunate to receive this amount of money and have a process to submit applications of veterans without headstones to the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Once names are approved, headstones are built and provided to the City of Walla Walla.

The Walla Walla Chapter has initiated the setting of 10 headstones, which were completed in June. We are now able to pay for 30 additional headstones to be set once we have enough names approved. However, we should not stop there.

The original 40 headstone need has grown to somewhere near 100. Not all names identified will be eligible.

We want to continue this project. With that said, we ask you to continue seeking donations. All donations received will be matched.

How better can we, as an organization, maintain the memory of those veterans who served and ensure they are never forgotten?