

# THE ROGUE REPORT



# NCOA®

## January 2020

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## Desk of Our Chairman

January is upon us and we look forward to this next decade starting off in a memorable way. The Christmas and New Year holidays usually mean family, time off from work, and an up-lift for our outlook. Many of you will celebrate traditional New Year's resolutions and we hope that they survive long enough to make a difference in your lives.

The swamp in DC clouded the waters to end last year and we can only hope that 2020 takes an upswing. I pray for good health for all of you. I pray for patriotism to gain momentum and that all that have and are currently serving will experience peace and unity this coming year.

Our National Commander, Vince Patton, shared a thought recently that gave me something to think about. 20/20 vision is what we all hope for to see clearly and avoid the many pitfalls that may lay before us. We are now in the year 2020 and it seems appropriate to equate 20/20 vision to what NCOA's vision will be going forward. I know what I and the Board of Directors would like to see, but in order for you—our valued members—to support the vision we focus on, it is best to ask you for your opinions. So I am asking each of you to spend a little time pondering what you would like to see for NCOA. We are trying to formulate some ideas on how we can work together with the other veteran and military service organizations to strengthen our unified voice as well as to cut costs. We are searching for projects and missions to engage our members to support our troops and their families.

The Rogue Chapter leadership and I do value each and every one of you and what you have to say. Ideas that provoke thought, even if we disagree on the pretext, can ultimately help us change course to achieving goals even better than previous years. Every input received, whether I agree with it or not, gets sent to all of the leadership. Change is not always negative, but stagnation can truly harm any organization. So put on your thinking-helmets and send me an email. Your ideas might just turn out to be the best we have going and can bring us all together as a team.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, either contact headquarters or contact me at [chairman@ncoausa.org](mailto:chairman@ncoausa.org) and I can assure you that your leadership will take note.

Strength in Unity & Leadership By Example,

**Terry M. Haines**  
**Chairman, Rogue Chapter & International Board of Directors**  
**MCPO (SCW), United States Navy, Retired**



*"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."*

*--George Washington*

## WARRIOR'S PIPELINE

*Updates for Veterans and Service Members*

The **NCOA Scholarship Fund** is one of the most important entities within the Association.

Established in 1970, its sole purpose is to help dependents of NCOA members continue their education beyond high school.

Consider donating by visiting [www.ncoarogue.org/donate](http://www.ncoarogue.org/donate)

All donations received are used for scholarships and grants. No administrative or overhead expenses are deducted from the donations received.

Your donation will help enable the NCOA Scholarship Fund continue to be a valuable resource for NCOA members and their dependents!

## 2020 is the Year of Parks and Recreation!

Great news for Veterans with a VA disability rating of 10% or higher! The National Park Service in collaboration with several other U.S. Federal agencies are offering free lifetime access passes to participating Federal parks and recreation sites. They also offer varying discounts on amenity fees including camping, swimming, tours, and launching boats.

In terms of the State of Oregon, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department offers free camping and parking at any parks that charge a day-use fee to all active duty military and Veterans with any disability rating (including 0%).

Make sure to visit the Oregon State Parks site at [oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org) or the USGS Store's website [store.usgs.gov](http://store.usgs.gov) for exact

details as each state and federal park have their own Access Pass policies.

You are able to order a pass online or visit any location where passes are issued, but there will be a simple \$10 processing fee either way you choose.

So, get out there and see the great outdoors, be situationally aware, and have fun!

## Commissary Privileges for Veterans in 2020

You read that right, beginning on New Year's day any Veteran with a service-connected disability rating, a Purple Heart, or was a POW will have commissary, PX, and MWR privileges online or in person.

Access is also granted to individuals designated as primary family caregivers for Veterans approved by the VA.

Veterans must possess and show their Veteran Health ID Card that displays the necessary Veterans eligibility criteria to gate guards and at facility entry points. VA authorized caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from the VA's Office of Community Care and will be required for entry.

If you do not possess the required VA ID card, you

will not be permitted access in-person, but you still have full access to online exchanges and Armed Forces Travel.

Veterans are encouraged to visit [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) or any VA facility to apply for an ID card. Caregivers should visit [caregiver.va.gov](http://caregiver.va.gov) or more information

## Oregon National Guard: 1-186 Infantry Battalion

As many of you may know, the 1-186<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of Oregon's National Guard mobilized for deployment training this past October and are now arriving at their bases and outposts overseas in Africa.

If you have been deployed during the holidays, you understand how the distance and lack of communication can be straining for service members and their families back home. If you would like to offer some cheer or offer assistance to families please contact us by email or phone (see last page) to see what you can do.

If you'd like to stay in the loop KOB-5 is reporting and sharing the stories of different deployment families on television and their website.

## Ron's Crime Prevention Corner: Tips and Tactics

By Ron Kohl, Treasurer/Trustee



There is a new widespread scam targeting U.S. veterans. The scam uses sophisticated technology that generates VA operating signatures, thus, giving the impression via caller ID that the veteran is receiving a telephone call from the VA. Most veterans will see the following on their call ID system: "Department of Veterans Affairs, 1-800-827-1000." The scammers claim to be VA personnel. The scammers use scripted material to mimic the culture of VA personnel by implementing processes that would be used when a Veteran contacts the VA. The scammer then proceeds to request that the Veteran verify personal information. Do not provide/verify personal information over the phone.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>

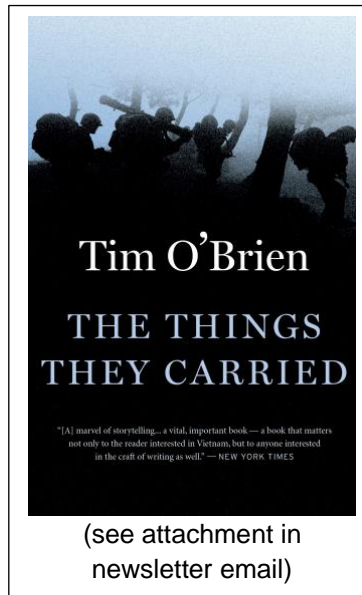
### Recent Rogue Chapter Accomplishments

- \$16,000+ raised for 3<sup>rd</sup> annual VeteRun Charity Event
- Mailed 36 care packages to Oregon National Guard troops in Africa and Afghanistan
- Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness Press Conference

## Reading of the Month

"The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien

Tim O'Brien's award-winning book, *The Things They Carried*, offers short stories based on the Vietnam War. O'Brien offers poignant and psychological vignettes of the soldiers who fought in this war. His title story, "The Things They Carried" is his most famous and relates to the reader by making a connection with objects from home and for warfighting. The reader finds morality, superstition, love, hate, escapism, and the yearning for home in the different objects each member of the platoon carries with them. For instance, the Platoon Leader 1LT Jimmy Cross carries a letter and a pebble sent to him from his girlfriend back home that signifies love. Although these are light, simple items, they carry an emotional weight and burden of breakup as time goes by. *Can you remember the personal items you carried while deployed or in training?*



### Thought to Consider:

*What are the differences between a manager and a leader?*

## War Story or Letter to the Editor

Do you have something you'd like to say to the NCOA in terms of what we could do better, what we should focus on, or how we can better help the Veteran community? Please write a letter between 100-200 words for consideration in next month's *Rogue Report!*



*Do you have an interesting military story or joke? Consider sharing it in writing (in 150-250 words) for possible publication in our next newsletter. Send your text and/or picture (keep it rated PG-13) to [rogue.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rogue.newsletter@gmail.com)*

# MEET YOUR ROGUE CHAPTER TRUSTEES

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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“Strength in Unity!”



## NCOA Creed

*“It is with the conception and full understanding that many things of great need and importance can be accomplished in unity and cooperation. Thus, do the members of the Non-commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America agree to join their efforts and strength to work together for the well-being of the individual, the group, and for the greatest benefit of our beloved nation.”*



(From left to right: Bud Cordes, Knight Advisor; Bill Parks, Trustee; Dan Reno, Trustee & Editor)

**Terry Haines, Chairman:** Terry enlisted in the US Navy for active duty between 1971-1977, honorably discharging as an E5. He then served in the US Naval Reserves between 1982-2006, retiring as a Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9), and he deployed twice for Iraqi Freedom between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006.

**Ron Kohl, Treasurer/Trustee:** Ron served in both the Air Force as a Tech Sergeant, and the Army as a Staff Sergeant before he retired. He also served in law enforcement and is committed to helping locals avoid fraud and scams.

**Bud Cordes, Knight Advisor:** Bud Cordes was a USAF Tech Sergeant who retired after 20 years of service in 1978. He served in Vietnam between 1968-1969.

**Bill Parks, Trustee:** Bill spent 3 years active and deployed on two, 9-month, west Pac Cruises while aboard the USS Enterprise. He then served 21 years in the Naval Reserve with NMCB-18, achieving 1st Class Petty Officer (E-6), acting as the NMCB-18 Battalion Career Counselor for his last 6 years.

**Dan Reno, Trustee:** Dan is an Army Veteran, Sergeant, who served between 2010-2015. He had one combat deployment to Logar Province, AFG for Operation Enduring Freedom ('12-'13). Dan is also *The Rogue Report* Newsletter Editor and contributor.

**Stephen Bobian, Trustee:**

## NCOA MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the lifeblood of the Association!

The NCOA was established in 1960 to enhance and maintain the quality of life for the entire enlisted force in all branches of the Armed Forces, past and present, their families, and their survivors. In recognition of the Association's work, NCOA was granted a Federal Charter by the U.S. Congress in 1988.

Today the NCOA remains avital fraternal, benevolent non-profit organization and acts as a conduit between the military and civilian communities in local areas and promotes positive community relations. The Association is proud of its efforts in three primary areas: Legislative Representation; Social and Fraternal Programs; and Member Benefits in the area of specialized services and discount programs. NCOA has much to offer its members and you too can join our numbers. Membership in NCOA is open to all, however, you must meet certain criteria to be a voting member of the Association, but this does not prevent you from being an Associate member and supporting our organization and reaping the benefits of being a member.

If you are already a member, please promote this fantastic and beneficial membership to fellow service members and Veterans looking for a supportive military community. If they are interested or have questions have them contact us or visit [www.ncoa.org/membership](http://www.ncoa.org/membership).