**Making Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) Donations from your IRA**

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was passed into law, creating the most substantial updates to the laws governing retirement accounts since the Pension Protection Act in 2006. One notable change resulting from the SECURE Act will be the increase in age at which Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) must begin. Prior to the SECURE Act, individuals with IRA accounts or qualified employer-sponsored retirement plans were required to take RMDs beginning in the year in which they turned 70 ½ with a deadline (for the first RMD only) of April 1 of the following year.

Beginning in 2020, however, the new age at which RMDs must start is age 72 (also with a deadline of April 1 of the following year). Notably, RMDs for individuals who turned 70 1/2 in 2019 are not delayed, and instead, such individuals must continue to take their RMDs under the same rules prior to passage of the SECURE Act. Despite the delay in the starting age for RMDs, though, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRAs will not be affected by the SECURE Act; accordingly, QCDs may still be taken from IRAs as early as age 70 1/2.

A QCD generally is an otherwise taxable distribution sent directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution was made. The maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is very generous.

Simply put: the QCD can directly reduce your taxable income and thus your taxes, and you don’t have to itemize to use it. If you’re in the 20% marginal tax bracket, a $1,000 QCD reduces your tax bill by $200. Again, consult your tax advisor to determine, for sure, that the math works for you. And if so, please open your hearts and your (IRA) checkbooks and make a generous donation to the Scholarship and/or Support the Troops Fund.

Your QCD should be mailed to the **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF), PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668**. It must be made **payable to the Foundation** (not the Chapter) to be considered as eligible for tax free consideration. Our IRS EIN is 47-4776049.