

The Sentinel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dr. Bruce T. Robinson, MAJ, USA, Ret



Hi Everyone –

I have a couple of items to report on. You may not be aware that MOAA National instituted a chapter membership drive earlier this year. They provided us the names and addresses of potential chapter members living in the area. Our membership team then initiated a targeted letter writing campaign, with excellent results. Since April, our chapter has signed up 47 new members. That is the most by any chapter in the country. Actually, it was more than the entire state of California recruited. Even with this success, the best recruiting tool remains you. Talking about the chapter to your friends and associates, bringing them to a meeting, and getting them to join. That is how we will stay healthy as a chapter.

Our annual golf tournament is fast approaching. It will be held on 13 September at the Links at Redstone. The tournament is the chapter's primary fund raising activity, and all proceeds go towards our scholarship program. We are still in need of sponsors. If you know of any businesses that might be interested in sponsoring the tournament, please let me know. Also, be sure to tell your friends and associates about the tournament - it is open to all. You can download a flyer from the chapter website.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware that the chapter has a Personal Affairs chairman on the board. COL Bill Stevenson fills that role. He serves as the primary point of contact for issues associated with military rights and entitlements, with special emphasis on survivor benefits information. He also deals directly with National MOAA's Benefits Information and Financial Education Department for advice. If you have any issues or questions along these lines, give Bill a call.

- Bruce

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Get Involved!

REMINDERS

Monthly Membership Meeting: Next meeting Wednesday 28 August 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club. Guest Speaker is Will Webb, president of Still Serving Veterans.

Auxiliary, WOW Support Group & MOAA Widow's Luncheon are scheduled. See articles inside for dates & times.

Breakfast: Next breakfast is Saturday, 31 August 2013, 0900 hours at the Steak and Shake – Madison Square Mall.

Governing Board: Next meeting Thursday 8 August 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



Be Sure Your Legislators Hear from You in August

Congress must make some big decisions in the second half of this year:

- Provide service members with a 1.8% pay raise dictated by current law to match private sector pay growth, or cap pay adjustments at 1% as proposed by the Pentagon and supported by the Senate Armed Services Committee
- Pass an alternative budget reduction plan by 1 October 2013 to avoid additional sequestration cuts, or institute another round of dramatic cuts to the defense budget forcing the Pentagon to institute major force reductions and benefit cutbacks

With all of these major challenges arising at once, it's imperative that we let our legislators know how we feel about them. As you are aware, during the month of August, most elected officials will be back home in their districts meeting with constituents. This is a great opportunity for you to visit your legislators' local offices and advise them of your and MOAA's concerns on these matters. To assist you in preparing for these meetings, we've developed all the tools you'll need for success. A key point is that these aren't just "defending our rice bowl" issues; they're critical matters for sustaining retention and readiness – the core of our national defense – over the long term. To assist you in preparing for these meetings, we've developed fact sheets and talking points on the two key issues listed above. We don't have to be experts on every issue. But National MOAA has designed some packages that include a "key points" summary to talk from, along with one-page fact sheets on each issue that can be printed and sent or delivered to the legislators and/or their staffs. You're probably aware that MOAA has been successful on Capitol Hill and one of the main reasons is that we have members who are willing to contact our legislators and express our views on issues that are important to us. And the grassroots support of MOAA members has never been as important as it is now.

First, the proposed FY2014 Defense Authorization Bill assumes that sequestration will be repealed, but if it isn't the Pentagon will be forced to resort to even more draconian measures. In July, Secretary Hagel released a statement that outlines the following harmful impacts if sequestration remains in effect:

- Acceleration of force draw downs
- Reductions in flying hours and training drills and 10% reductions in operations/maintenance accounts
- 15-20% cuts in modernization accounts
- Involuntary reductions-in-force to reduce civilian personnel costs & hiring freezes

Continued on page 4

2013-2014 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

1st Vice President: COL Norb Patla, USA-Ret, 256-890-3340, npatla@mitre.org

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

Secretary: Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, don.kimminau@gmail.com

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Navy Representative: LCDR Harold F. Swanson, USN-Ret, 256-527-6217, halaurel@att.net

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bged992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Temporarily Vacant

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glennscrawley@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Vacant

Programs: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8802, inman331@msn.com

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry.haynes@irc-hq.com

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, mrbill5779@comcast.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): CH (COL) Danny W. Burttram, USA-Ret, 256-651-6378, dburtraml98@gmail.com

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Chapter Auxiliary & Hospitality: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164, rrolf@att.net

Constitution and By-Laws: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glennscrawley@comcast.net

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Chapter Chaplain: CH (LTC) Bert E. Wiggers, AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, chbwig@mediacommbb.net

Commissary & Post Exchange: CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret, 256-883-4456, www33@knology.net

FAHCLiaison: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bged992K@aol.com

Golf: Vacant

ROTC: Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

THE SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

Life Membership Trust

MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, szeremi@comcast.net (June 2014)

CH (COL) Danny W. Burttram, USA-Ret, 256-651-6378, dburtraml98@gmail.com (July 2015)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2016)



X / Commissary

CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret



Exchange

“Montie”, the store Director popped out of his office but saw that Silvia was pumping me full of information, as usual, and just waved. Besides Exchange news, I learned that Silvia’s son will be going to college in Indiana on a fully paid scholarship for football. I met him some weeks back and he looks big enough! When the Huntsville community celebrates its “Tax Free Days (Aug 3 – 5),” the PX will “Meet the Competition” by matching other stores and then giving us an additional 8% reduction. Look for 20% off food purchases in the PX Food Court during this time.

The store will have Laptop computers on sale during August. As usual, I already have a laptop on lay-a-way and missed this. Darn!! I neglected to see if this included I-Pads as well so ask if you are interested. Can’t hurt!

Starting 1 August the Greeting Card display will be restocked entirely by American Greeting Cards. Until then the racks are empty.

Commissary

For both the Exchange and the Commissary, next month is back to school. Robin Daniels, the commissary director, said the Commissary will have Back to School promotions such as Campbell, Kellogg, General Mills, etc, Box top offers and other offers for Back-to-School such as snacks and ideas for the lunch box.

Some of us grew up carrying a paper sack of sandwiches, fruit, and if we were really lucky, a Snickers or Mars bar. War Orphans were treated better after the war and sometimes we got to eat cafeteria food. This was NOT always better! Watch along the shelves for coupons and contests to enter. I was a \$300 winner my first few years here. The more you enter, the better your chance. Look for melons and other fruit. We have gone through three watermelons already. Three times in July we had steamed corn on the cob. I put the ears with husks on but exterior corn silks off under water for at least 40 minutes (or until I “can’t wait”) then put them at the sides of my Weber Grill for about 30 minutes with the top on and the vents half open. Pull the husks down for a handy handle, butter well and enjoy. The center of the grill has Brats, Hot Dogs, or Burgers. This goes well with Watermelon (Cold --- Not grilled). 🇺🇸

Need Addresses

None this month

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

Concerns

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

LTC Arno Hoerle

256-837-6253

arhoerle@mediacombb.net

Navy/USMC Representative:

LCDR Harold F. Swanson

256-527-6217

halaurel@att.net

Air Force Representative:

Col Edward L. Uher

256-882-6824

biged992K@aol.com

MEMORIALS

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to:
Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box
1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

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JASON
Comfort Consultant

DAVID
HVAC Technician

Legislative – continued from page 2

- Halting all accessions, promotions, permanent-change-of-station moves & discretionary bonuses

Cutting an additional \$52 billion from the defense budget for the next fiscal year would be a disaster as we continue to send our service men and women into harm's way in Afghanistan, and face potential new threats from other countries hostile to our national interests.

The MOAA Position: While debt reduction is a national priority, such a disproportional share of this burden must not be foisted on the backs of military families who already have sacrificed more for their country than any other segment of Americans. *Congress must put partisan politics aside and develop an alternative debt reduction package that more fairly balances required sacrifices and avoids disproportional penalties for service members and retirees and their families.*

Second, at issue: A military at war must be protected against pay raise cutbacks.

Background: Sustaining pay raises comparable to the average American's is a fundamental tenet of the All-Volunteer Force. Historical experience with capping military raises below private sector pay growth shows that, once pay raise caps start, they're continued until they undermine retention/readiness. When extended pay raise caps hurt retention in the 1970s, Congress had to enact two double-digit raises to correct. Congress has worked diligently for the last 12 years to fix the 13.5% pay gap (and the resulting retention problems) caused by repeatedly capping military raises below private sector pay growth in the 1980s and '90s. In 2003, Congress explicitly tied annual military raises to private sector pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index (ECI).

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Carrie's Notes

Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

MOAA Auxiliary

It will be nice to get back to our regular routine as the summer months have taken a toll on our attendance. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 20 August at 9:30 AM. Please come and join us. Winners in July were Ursula Spicer (first) and Fran Tyra (second).

WOW Support Group

No report for this month. We will return to our regular schedule on September 19th. Hope you are enjoying the summer break. See you soon.



Fox Army Health Center

Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret



Fox Army Health Center Furlough Message

We kindly ask your patience and indulgence as we work through staffing adjustments necessitated by the sequestration and mandatory furloughs.

You can rest assured and be confident that our quality and standard of care will not be compromised or diminished as we work through necessary adjustments resulting from furloughs.

Army Medicine will protect healthcare areas such as behavioral health, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, and Warrior care.

At this Medical, Dental and Veterinary facility, our quality of care remains non-negotiable while we operate under the sequestration and mandatory furlough constraints.

Beneficiaries may contact our local Patient Advocacy Advisor at 256-876-8621 on issues/concerns related to access/quality of care.

For after hour care beneficiaries may contact our Advice Nurse Line at 256-955-8888, and call 911 at all times for medical emergencies.

Fox Army Health Center hours of operation during Furlough starting 12 July 2013-20 September 2013 is as follows:

- Normal operating hours Monday-Thursday
- Closed Friday(s)

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Chaplain's Corner
CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, AUS-Ret

Respect

In Guideposts Joann C. Jones wrote:

"During my second year of nursing school our professor gave us a pop quiz. I breezed through the questions until I read the last one: 'What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?'"

"Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times; but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank."

"Before the class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our grade. 'Absolutely,' the professor said. 'In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant.

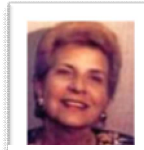
They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

"I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy."

We have not begun to show love to others until we have treated them with respect.

**"Live together in harmony, live together in love, as though you had one mind and one spirit between you. Never act from motive of rivalry or personal vanity, but in humility think more of one another than you do of yourselves."
Philippians 2:3-4 (J. B. Phillips)**

"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." 1 Peter 2:17 (ESV)



MOAA Widow's Luncheon
Liz Townsend
256-721-9762

9 August 2013

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 9 August at 88 Buffet, 6125 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Phone 256-971-9870.

Liz Townsend will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

Please call the telephone committee: Fran Tyra, 256-881-6938 for reservations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

**LTC Richard Levin, USMC
Lt Col Barney Barrons, USAF
COL Darryl Goldman, USA
Lt Col Lewis Alford, USAF**

HCMOAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or ray.kw@juno.com.

Scholarships



The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Norb Patla for details.



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Kathleen W. & Kristin S.,
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Military Officers Association of America
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Huntsville, AL 35807-0301

Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation

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New

Renewal

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Total amount enclosed

First Name

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Last Name

Preferred Name

Birthday

Spouse's Name

Grade

Branch of Service

MOAA National Membership Number

Active

Retired

Former Officer

Reserve

NG

Surviving Spouse

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number

Email address

Become a MOAA Networking Contact

Over 2,500 MOAA members in the civilian work force across the country have volunteered to be networking contacts for fellow MOAA members in transition. The assistance many are providing is invaluable to MOAA job seekers. The network contact program is one of the most important transition services TOPS provides.

MOAA's networking contacts are sources of information for MOAA members in job transition. They may be in a field of employment that greatly interests a MOAA job seeker and can help educate the job seeker on the requirements of the work, or they may simply be working in a geographical area where the MOAA job seeker wishes to work. In general, this is what we ask that they do when contacted by a MOAA member who is seeking employment.

To become a networking contact, go to <http://moaa.org/career>, and click on "Become a Networker". Then fill in the registration form. (You must be a member of MOAA.) Your contact information will then be forwarded to your state's coordinator.



**Ken Askew, CIC
Financial Advisor**

2707 Artie Street, Suite 12,
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**38 Birthdays in August
Happy Birthday!**



Mrs Carrie Hightower
MAJ John Yelverton, USA
Lt Col Ronald Harvey, USAF
Mrs Doris Prince
LTC Merrill Rising, USA
LTC Henry Arnold, USA
COL William Holbrook, USA
Mrs Martha Delaney
MAJ Michael Wood, USA
COL Michael Barron, USA
COL Richard Dean, USA
COL William Roberts, USA
COL Thomas Sharp, USA
LTC Norman Hopkins, USA
Mrs Marjorie Hines
COL George Sisson Jr, USA
LCDR Harold Swanson, USN
BG Eric Smith, USA
MAJ Richard Quinones, USA

Mr Alvin Jupiter
CAPT James Newman, USN
Col Frederick Driesbach, USAF
COL Ruford Fowler, USA
LTC Philip Bradley, USA
MAJ Warner Davis, USA
Mrs Margot Snyder
COL Joseph Goss Jr, USA
LTC Terris Lewis, USA
LTC Richard Carter, USA
Lt Col Robert Reville, USAF
CH (MAJ) Frank Turnbow, USA
COL Ronald Crowley, USA
COL Jack Wilson, USA
CPT Camden Kent Jr, USA
Capt William Jackson, USMC
COL John Rivenburgh, USA
COL Norbert Vergez, USA
COL Ronald Funderburk, USA



TAPS

None this month

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

**Treasurer's Report
CAPT Richard West, USN
For the Month of June 2013**

Beginning Balance	\$8746.69
Credits	1305.00
Debits	1140.23

Ending Balance \$8911.46




Legislative – continued from page 4

Now, the FY2014 Pentagon budget request and the Senate Armed Services Committee draft of the National


Defense Authorization Bill (NDAA) propose a 1% pay raise cap (vs. the 1.8% indicated by the ECI, and supported by the House NDAA). Because the President and Congress have acted to freeze federal civilian pay raises, some have opined “the military should share that sacrifice.”

The MOAA Position: It would be singularly inappropriate to cap/freeze the military pay raise for troops and families at war. Compensation is pay divided by the level of effort required to earn it. If cash is increased 10% while required sacrifice is increased 50%, that’s not a pay raise. US troops and families already are extremely overstressed from having to bear 100% of America’s wartime sacrifice for the past 12 years –no civilian sacrifice comes close. The troops’ last three raises averaged less than 1.6% -- already the lowest in 50 years. History shows comparability can’t work unless it’s sustained through both good and bad budget times.

Recommendation: Sustain the statutory 1.8% military pay raise for FY2014 **by rejecting the Senate Armed Services Committees provision (Sec. 601 of S. 1197) to cap pay at 1.0%.** 🇺🇸



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August Membership Meeting

Wednesday 28 August

Guest Speaker: William L. Webb



William L. Webb III currently serves as President of Still Serving Veterans (SSV), a service organization proactively committed to helping wounded Veterans and their families reintegrate into post-military careers and optimized new lives. He co-founded the Huntsville, Alabama based service organization in 2006, and to date it has helped over 5,000 wounded warriors and Veterans, and has secured over \$63 million additional salaries and benefits for its Veteran clients. In October 2009, SSV was presented the Army's annual Spirit of Hope Award, "for patriotism and outstanding service that epitomize the values of Bob Hope and significantly enhance the quality of life of service members and their families."



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Convert to the e-mail-only version of this newsletter and increase the funds we allocate for charities. New members automatically receive the e-mail version unless a print copy is requested. To convert to the e-mail version please contact: brobinso@mitre.org

Web Page: huntsvillemoaa.org

Fox – continued from page 5

TRICARE Service Center (TSC) located on the 2nd floor of FAHC operating hours during the furlough will be 0700-1730, Monday-Thursday, and closed on Friday(s).

Important Information Concerning School/Sports Physical, Immunizations

Children ages 4-18 needing school/sports physical, immunization and the Alabama blue cards, please make their appointment now. You will need to bring the following items to the appointment:

- All pertinent form(s) from your child's school. Please complete your portion of the form (s) in advance.
- Your child's shot records or copies of the latest blue card.

Once we receive all of the appropriate documents, we will have 72 hours to complete the blue card and return it to you. When the furlough starts, we will have fewer appointments to prepare for the start of school. Please contact us at 256-955-8888 to schedule an appointment.

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

All students 11 and older entering the sixth grade in Alabama schools must have a tetanus-Diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. This is required because of the change from tetanus-diphtheria (Td) to (Tdap) vaccine. The Tdap vaccine will protect adolescents from pertussis and keep them from spreading the disease to siblings, other family members, and other students. In addition to receiving the shots on a walk-in basis from 0800-1530 Hours at Fox Army Health Center, you may obtain the shots at the Madison Health Department or from your private physician. 🇺🇸