

Volume 53, Issue 12  
December 2014

### Award Winning

- Newsletter
- Website
- Legislative Reports

Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel



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



Hi Everyone –

Well, another year has come and gone. It is already December – the weather has cooled off, Christmas lights are going up, and Alabama is poised for another National Championship.

I recently returned from attending the National MOAA Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA, where some key legislative issues were debated. The focus this year will be on capped pay increase for the still serving, TRICARE fee increases, housing allowance decreases, and the reduction of Commissary subsidies. Let your elected officials know where you stand on these issues.

Our Christmas Party is fast approaching on 13 December. The theme this year is “An Old-fashioned Christmas”. Entertainment will be provided by “Divide by Zero”, a 5 piece blues / classic rock cover band that plays both acoustic and electric. We are also going to have a voluntary “Secret Santa” gift exchange – details are inside. It’s not too late to sign up – a reservation form is inside.

December also means that it is time for annual members to renew their membership in our award-winning chapter. A renewal form is inside.

The hardcopy Sentinel changes to a quarterly issue beginning the first of the year. I encourage everyone to receive the Sentinel electronically via e-mail.

We still have a several key vacancies on our board – Publicity Chair, Chapter Historian, and Fox Army Health Center Liaison. If any of you are interested in stepping up and helping out, please let me know.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Bruce

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## Get Involved!

### REMINDERS

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** No meeting in December. Enjoy the Christmas party instead,

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

**Breakfast:** No breakfast in December – Merry Christmas!

**Governing Board:** Next meeting is Thursday 11 December 2014, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



## Legislative Corner

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



### • National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published, in the Federal Register, a proposed rule to amend the existing definition of eligible applicants by expanding the types of individuals who may request headstones or markers on behalf of decedents. The amendment addresses concerns that the existing applicant definition is too restrictive and results in identified Veteran gravesites going unmarked.

Because VA shares the public's desire to appropriately recognize the service of our Veterans, VA worked on these revisions to the definition to allow more individuals to apply for headstones or markers, including memorial headstones or markers. VA is seeking input from Veterans, family members and other stakeholders regarding a proposed change to its definition of who may apply for a headstone or marker. Those wishing to review and comment on the proposed changes are encouraged to do so by searching for "National Cemetery Administration" or "2900-AO95" at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The Federal Register was published on 1 October 2014 and the comments must be received on or before December 1, 2014.

See more details at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/features.asp#3>

### • Do Sustain 1.8% Active Duty Pay Raise; Don't Cut Active Duty BAH: and Don't Raise TRICARE Rx Fees

This issue is still quite alive. Congress soon will debate an increase in TRICARE pharmacy fees, a 2015 military pay cap, and increased out-of-pocket housing costs for service members when it takes up the Defense Authorization Bill. The House rejected all of these cuts, but the Senate Armed Services Committee accepted them.

I strongly believe it is in the best interest of national security for the full Senate to take up the defense bill and debate the pending amendments before the bill goes to conference. It would be totally disheartening if the Senate cannot find the time to debate the defense bill and sends only the committee markup to conference. Senate leadership should take the time to allow consideration of important pending amendments.

In full-page ads in today's *The Hill* and *Politico* newspapers, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) calls on the Senate to consider three key amendments that would protect pay, housing, and health care benefits for those who wear the uniform:

- Sen. Marco Rubio's amendment (#3906) to sustain the 1.8-percent active duty pay raise established in law
- Sen. Mark Begich's amendment (#3714) to block cuts to the Basic Allowance for Housing

*Continued on page 10*

#### 2013-2014 GOVERNING BOARD

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, [brobinso@mitre.org](mailto:brobinso@mitre.org)

1st Vice President: COL Norb Patla, USA-Ret, 256-890-3340, [norbpatla@oteco.net](mailto:norbpatla@oteco.net)

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

Secretary: Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, [don.kimminau@gmail.com](mailto:don.kimminau@gmail.com)

Treasurer: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rick675@hughes.net](mailto:rick675@hughes.net)

Army Representative: LTC Arno Hoerle, USA-Ret, 256-837-6253, [arhoerle@mediacommbb.net](mailto:arhoerle@mediacommbb.net)

Navy Representative: CW4 Louis J. Kubik, USMC-Ret, 256-859-3054, [lkubik@mediacommbb.net](mailto:lkubik@mediacommbb.net)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [hged992K@aol.com](mailto:hged992K@aol.com)

Immediate Past President: Col Hal Hicks, USA-Ret, 256-233-3548, [halhpat@aol.com](mailto:halhpat@aol.com)

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

##### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8022, [inman331@msn.com](mailto:inman331@msn.com)

Programs: LTC Earl Freeman, USA-Ret, 256-479-6735, [earl1906@gmail.com](mailto:earl1906@gmail.com)

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, [jerry15@hiwayy.net](mailto:jerry15@hiwayy.net)

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, [mrbill5779@comcast.net](mailto:mrbill5779@comcast.net)

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, [janetecamp@aol.com](mailto:janetecamp@aol.com)

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

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164, [rolf@att.net](mailto:rolf@att.net)

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

Audit: MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, [szeremi@comcast.net](mailto:szeremi@comcast.net)

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Commissary & Post Exchange: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov](mailto:gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov)

FAHC Liaison: Vacant

Golf: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8802, [inman331@msn.com](mailto:inman331@msn.com) / Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, [don.kimminau@gmail.com](mailto:don.kimminau@gmail.com)

ROTC: Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

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##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, [szeremi@comcast.net](mailto:szeremi@comcast.net) (June 2017)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, [monte.washburn@heartlandis.com](mailto:monte.washburn@heartlandis.com) (July 2015)

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



**PX / Commissary**  
**Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR**



**Main Exchange:**

Stop by your main Exchange often and be ready to pick up the Black Friday Flyers when they are on display! There are sure to be bargains that you will not want to miss! Plus, Christmas is coming up next month!

**Commissary:**

Celebrate the Holidays. General Mills is offering high value in-store coupons on various cooking and baking items in addition to online Commissary Rewards Card discounts.

"Get Your Turkey Free – When You Buy All the Fixin's!" This worldwide promotion revolves around a 16-page recipe booklet with coupons valued at more than \$41. The coupons provide extra savings on holiday meal essentials applied toward free turkeys. Participating vendors include Kraft Foods, Kellogg's, ConAgra Foods, Campbell's, Pepperidge Farms, General Mills, Hefty/Reynolds Wrap, Presto, Fresh Express, Nabisco, P&G, Heinz and Nexium. Look for these recipe booklets in your local commissary beginning Nov 1st, with coupons good through Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Fresh turkeys. On Nov 17th stateside commissaries will begin offering customers fresh turkeys at low prices. Customers can check out the sales flyer on the Sales & Events page for more details.

**PX Shopette:**

2014 Custom Redstone Arsenal Knob Creek Single Barrel bottle etching days! Our VERY OWN barrel of Knob Creek Single Barrel has arrived. Here is the schedule for custom etching of your bottle (they make great Holiday gifts!): 14 & 21 November, 5 & 19 December. Purchase your Knob creek Single Barrel Redstone Bottle and a representative from Knob Creek will etch your bottle with a custom inscription (Character quantity limits apply). Bottle(s) will need to be left for the day of etching and must be picked up that evening or other time arranged when bottle left for etching. You may purchase unlimited quantities of bottles until they are sold out. One full barrel was chosen, packaged, and received specifically for Redstone Arsenal. So, once it is gone, it's gone... 🍷

**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:

**Mrs. Ursula Spicer**  
**COL Ken Kawano**

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

**LTC Arno Hoerle**

256-837-6253

[arhoerle@mediacombb.net](mailto:arhoerle@mediacombb.net)

Navy/USMC Representative:

**CW4 Louis J. Kubik**

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Air Force Representative:

**Col Edward L. Uher**

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Personal Affairs Officer

**COL William Stevenson**

256-424-1334

[Mrbill5779@comcast.net](mailto:Mrbill5779@comcast.net)





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HVAC Technician

**JASON**  
Comfort  
Consultant

**DAVID**  
HVAC  
Technician

### Chapter Members Recognized during Veteran's Week Activities

Two of our chapter members received some very significant recognition at the Veteran's Day dinner held at the Von Braun center on Monday evening, 11 November.

LTC Arno Hoerle, USA-Ret, Chapter Army Service Representative, was inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes for acts of heroism performed during aerial operations in Vietnam.

CAPT Richard West, USN-Ret, Chapter Treasurer, was named the Huntsville – Madison County Veteran of the Year for the many hours he dedicated to Chapter and Community activities throughout the past year.

Congratulations to Arno and Rick – they bring great credit to the Huntsville Chapter of MOAA.



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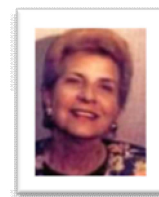
**U.S. Army Chaplain (RET)**





**Mrs. Carrie Hightower**  
**256-882-3992**

## **Widow's Activities**



**Mrs. Liz Townsend**  
**256-721-9762**

### **WOW Support Group**

In spite of last minute cancellations, we had a nice turnout for our luncheon at the Summit Club on Redstone Arsenal on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our next luncheon will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Cracker Barrel, 2001 Drake Avenue in Huntsville.

On behalf of our members we would like to extend a speedy recovery to Ursula Spicer.

### **MOAA Widow's Luncheon**

**12 December 2014**

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 12 December, at the Summit Club on Redstone Arsenal.

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



## **AUXILIARY CORNER**

**Mrs. Jan Camp**  
**256-464-8622**

Some years ago my husband, Howard, wrote a book, "Campfire" dealing largely with his WWII experiences as a fighter pilot. It was sold mainly at military bases, local restaurants, local book stores, The Jetport, and satellite airports and went into reprint three times before sales dwindled. We were both amazed at how many people like to hear or read "war stories". In rereading some of these stories, it occurred to me that all of you probably have memories of war experiences as told to you by your husbands. Many military wives have lived through or heard about their husband's experiences. I'd love to read and possibly publish in The Sentinel any of these stories you'd care to share.

I'd also like to meet all of you in time, possibly at a MOAA general meeting, the Christmas Party which promises to be a dandy this year, the summer party, or some other function. Actually the general meetings are informative and are a great way to socialize if you're so inclined. I attend as many as I can.

If you have any concerns or comments you need brought before our Chapter Officers, please let me know and I'll be certain to pass them on.

And last but not least ... its membership renewal time again. Many of you are Life Members of our Auxiliary and need do nothing, but for those of you who are not life members, please be certain to renew your membership before the end of this year. It's one of the few bargains still available to us -- only \$10 for an entire year.



## SWITCH TO THE AUTO INSURANCE WHERE 92% OF MEMBERS PLAN TO STAY FOR LIFE<sup>1</sup>



*USAA members Robert Griffin III,  
Washington Redskins quarterback,  
and his parents, U.S. Army veterans*

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<sup>1</sup>92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey. <sup>2</sup>Forrester Research, Inc., Customer Advocacy 2013: How U.S. Consumers Rate Their Financial Services Firms, November 2013. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2014 USAA. 208787-0914



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

#### **Christmas Thoughts**

A little boy saved one piece of candy that was given to him at the church Christmas party. His mother asked him why he was saving the candy, and he answered, "I am saving it to give to the Baby Jesus when he grows up." To people of all ages, Jesus is still the innocent baby in the manger scene.

But Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52) He grew into adulthood and was the Lord and Savior. He was God in human flesh who became man and dwelt among humans like us. He still dwells in human hearts, as we open our lives in faith and let Him in.

Because Jesus was a baby that first Christmas, this season has a special significance to the child. The eager anticipation, the thrilling excitement, the gracious generosity, and the cordial goodwill toward the entire little child somehow rubs off on us for little time at Christmas time. There is something of the charm of our childhood that returns each Christmas. We are reminded of how much we have lost along our growth into adulthood. We do not know when we lost it, but it is gone.

Jesus said to adults, "Except ye become as little children ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) We have reversed His words and have said to our children, "Except ye become as adults ye shall not enter the kingdom." (Matthew

God, help us to recover some of the childlike traits we have lost – senses of humility, innocence, and trust. Amen.



### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

**Mrs. Billie Jones**

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 or more scholarship each year to a deserving student.

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

### **TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line**

The holidays are here TRICARE beneficiaries! As you go over the river and through the woods to visit friends and family, remember that you are more likely to get the common cold, flu or any other illness that comes with cold weather. Illnesses and ailments can happen anytime, anywhere, especially when traveling to and from our loved ones for the holidays.

You should always make sure to get all routine care before you travel. If you or a member of your family becomes ill at Christmas dinner, suffers a mishap while cooking that holiday meal, or just have a health concern while you are traveling, you can call the Military Health System's new Nurse Advice Line (NAL) for advice and assistance. For more information on accessing the NAL while on the go, visit the TRICARE website.



## Chapter Happenings



Receiving the 5-star LOE streamer from  
MOAA Chairman GEN John Tilelli



Chapter vehicle lined up for the start of  
the Veteran's Day Parade



Veteran of the Year Award presented  
to CAPT Rick West



Gold Bar Recipients – November Meeting



MG Clark LeMasters – Guest Speaker  
November Meeting



Alabama A&M ROTC Department presents an  
Award to the Chapter for Support of their Program





## **Fox Army Health Center**

### **Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret**



### **Diabetes: Increase Your Awareness, Decrease Your Risks**

When blood glucose levels rise and remain outside of the normal range, you can develop a disease called diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease that can lead to other serious health risks. It is important for beneficiaries with diabetes to understand these additional risks and to highlight steps to prevent diabetes for those who don't.

Many of the foods that we eat are turned into glucose, or sugar, that our bodies use for energy. Our bodies produce insulin which helps to get glucose into our cells. When sugar builds up in our blood and is not processed by insulin either because we don't make enough insulin or because the insulin that we make is not effective, this can lead to diabetes. A person with pre-diabetes has a blood sugar level higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. When you develop diabetes, you are at a greater risk for heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and other serious illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Beneficiaries with diabetes can manage their condition by remembering their ABCs.


"A" stands for the A1C Test; it is different from daily blood sugar tests and measures average blood sugar levels over the past few months. Knowing this number and working with your provider to keep this number below certain levels can help you make sure this number doesn't increase over time.

"B" is for blood pressure. Blood pressure is the force of your blood against the walls of your blood vessels. If your blood pressure gets too high, it makes your heart work too hard, can injure blood vessels and can lead to a heart attack or stroke, and can damage your kidneys and eyes.

"C" is for cholesterol. High-density lipoproteins, also known as good cholesterol, help remove low-density lipoproteins, or bad cholesterol, from your blood. Know what your cholesterol levels are, what they should be, and work with your provider to maintain those numbers. Working with your health care provider is the best way to manage your diabetes.

Even if you have pre-diabetes, you still have the power to prevent or slow the progression of this disease by taking care of yourself. The National Institutes of Health offers some helpful advice and tips; stop smoking, exercise more, make healthy food choices and lose extra weight.

TRICARE covers diabetic supplies through both pharmacy and medical benefits. You can get certain diabetic supplies from a military pharmacy, through home delivery or at any TRICARE network pharmacy. Additionally, certain diabetic supplies are covered as durable medical equipment. For details visit [www.tricare.mil/diabeticsupplies](http://www.tricare.mil/diabeticsupplies).

Beneficiaries with diabetes can continue to live long and healthy lives. With information about your age, race and language, the National Diabetes Education Program offers publications tailored specifically for you to help you beat diabetes. TRICARE beneficiaries can also visit [www.tricare.mil/livewell](http://www.tricare.mil/livewell) for advice on how to make healthy choices. 

- Sen. Kay Hagan's amendment (#3789) to block proposed TRICARE pharmacy copayment increases

MOAA is the leading association looking out for your earned benefits. We need your help to ensure the Senate includes these three amendments when it negotiates a final version of the defense bill. Join the fight to prevent the Pentagon from balancing the defense budget on the backs of those who serve and have served.

**Act now and send your senators a strong message on these important issues.**

- **Some News from the Veterans Administration about Treatment and Benefits.**

- **Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses**

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems. VA refers to these illnesses as "chronic multi-symptom illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses." We prefer not to use the term "Gulf War Syndrome" when referring to medically unexplained symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans. Why? Because symptoms may vary widely, you should see more details at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#sthash.Bj8AlxyF.dpuf>

- **Military service connection:**

Gulf War Veterans who meet the criteria below do not need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses in order to receive VA disability compensation. VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations (See: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/military-service.asp>), or by 31 December 2016, and be at least 10 percent disabling.

These illnesses include:

- **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- **Fibromyalgia**, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.
- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.
  - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#sthash.Bj8AlxyF.dpuf>
- **It's Time to Fix a Long-Standing Medicare/TRICARE Physician Reimbursement Issue.**

A new estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) offers hope that Congress can finally tackle a long-standing Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement issue that continually threatens patient access to health care. Medicare uses a formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) to annually adjust reimbursement rates to health care providers. However, the flawed formula routinely calls for reductions in physician reimbursement rates while the cost of providing health care continues to rise.

*Continued on page 16*

## *Summit Club - Holiday Menu*



### **Holiday Dinner**

Sliced honey glazed ham  
Over roasted turkey breast with giblet gravy  
Corn bread dressing with giblet gravy and cranberry sauce  
Candied yams with marshmallows  
Green beans almandine  
Yeast Rolls & Butter  
Ice Water – Coffee – Sweet or Unsweetened Iced Tea  
Pumpkin pie / Pecan pie

## **HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SUMMIT CLUB  
SATURDAY EVENING, 13 DECEMBER 2014**

**COCKTAILS - No Host/Cash bar - 6:00 pm**

**President's Remarks and Dinner - 7:00 pm**

**MUSIC – "Divide by Zero" - a 5-piece blues / classic rock cover band**

**DOOR PRIZES**

**OPTIONAL "SECRET SANTA" GIFT EXCHANGE (See rules on page 14)**

**DRESS: Military Dress Uniform/Coat & Tie for the men - Cocktail Dress/Formal for the ladies**

**\$15.00 PER PERSON (Members & Family) - \$20.00 PER PERSON (Guests)**

**RSVP by 8 December 2014 (with check made out to HCMOAA) to:**

**CDR Christine Downing  
116 Spring Tanner Road  
Hazel Green, AL 35750-8483  
256-828-9740  
[csdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:csdowning@bellsouth.net)**





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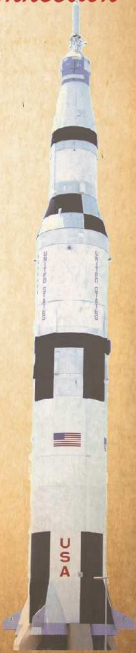
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### **LEST WE FORGET (OTHERS HAVEN'T)**

About six miles from Maastricht in the Netherlands lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who died in "Operation Market Garden" in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall/winter of 1944.

Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been adopted by a Dutch family who minds the grave, decorates it, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" American soldier in a place of honor in their home. Annually on "Liberation Day" memorial services are held for "the men who died to liberate Holland." The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always "Il Silenzio," a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation.

### **Hardcopy Sentinel**

As mentioned several months ago, the Chapter is discontinuing its current process of publishing & mailing the hardcopy *Sentinel*, effective with the January 2015 edition. Even with members paying the nominal \$10 per year fee to help defray the costs (and not all do), it is still not a cost effective process. Beginning the first of the year, the newsletter will only be delivered electronically via e-mail.

The Chapter strongly encourages those members who this will effect to provide an e-mail address, so that you can continue to receive the *Sentinel* electronically.

Those members who chose not to provide an e-mail address will stop receiving the newsletter as they know it. The Chapter has studied alternative forms of communication to keep those affected members informed of what is going on, and a decision was made to provide a hard copy newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Members who paid a multi-year fee for hard copy *Sentinel* delivery will have the balance refunded to them.



Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1301  
Huntsville, AL 35807-0301

### **Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation**

Yes! I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter.

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		
<input type="checkbox"/> One year \$10.00	Interested in a Chapter Life Membership?		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$20.00	Contact us for pricing (based on your age)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$30.00			
_____ First Name	_____ MI	_____ Last Name	
_____ Preferred Name	_____ Birthday	_____ Spouse's Name	_____ Period(s) of Active Duty i.e. 1965 - 1990
_____ Grade	_____ Branch of Service	_____ MOAA National Membership Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
			<input type="checkbox"/> NG
			<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
_____ Mailing Address		_____ City	_____ State
			_____ Zip Code
_____ Telephone Number		_____ Email address	

## **Attention Annual Members**

It's not too early to renew your membership for next year – why wait until the last minute

The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

***You can't even get lunch for \$10 these days!***

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate

Don't know when your membership expires? Contact Chris Downing at  
256-828-9740 or [csdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:csdowning@bellsouth.net)

Don't want to worry about renewing ever again - consider becoming a Chapter Life Member –  
contact Robert Szeremi at 256-883-5127 for the details

ACHIEVING  
RETIREMENT DREAMS  
THROUGH COMMON SENSE  
AND DEDICATION,

ONE CLIENT  
AT A TIME.



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- Wealth Management
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visit our website at [www.cloudfinancial.com](http://www.cloudfinancial.com).

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## Membership Statistics

Total Members: 450  
Auxiliary Members: 71  
Life Members: 234

New this month: 1  
Deaths this month: 1  
Renewals: 4

## MOAA Connect

MOAA's Social Media  
Application

Go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), and  
on the pull-down menu  
"Connect with MOAA" select  
"MOAA Connect"

Set up your profile, and  
begin collaborating with  
MOAA members across the  
country

Give it a try!



## **"Secret Santa" Gift Exchange - Voluntary**



If you want to participate, you buy a gift (\$20 value) and wrap it. It should be a nice gift - something that you might want to receive. Gifts are put on a table when you arrive for the party. Everyone who brings a gift is given a number – from "1" to "N". Number 1 starts the process. He/she picks a gift from the table and opens it for all to see. Number 2 goes next, and has the choice of picking a gift from the table or stealing number 1's gift. If he selects a gift from the table, he opens it for all to see. If he steals the gift, then Number 1 selects a new gift from the table and opens for all to see. Continue in this fashion with Number 2 going next. Once a gift has been stolen twice it is safe and can no longer be taken. The person with the last number is special and can either take the last gift on the table, or steal ANY gift, even the safe ones. If he chooses to steal, the person stolen from gets the last gift on the table. Then the gift exchange is over.



## 44 Birthdays in December Happy Birthday!



Mrs Esther Gober CW3 Donald Wagoner, USA MAJ Francis Thonus, USA Mrs Billie Jones COL Thomas Devanney, USA COL George Newman, USA Mrs Stella Myers LTC Eugene Small, USA LTC Kenneth Barnwell, USA Lt Col Robert Barnes, USAF Mrs Eva Braun Mrs Carol Russell COL David Wyatt, USA CW4 Ronnie Rodgers, USA CWO3 Osceola Cloud, USN COL Dahl Cento, USA MAJ Shepard Newell, USA LTC Royal Lewis, USA Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF COL Scott Wilson, USA LTG Patricia McQuisttion, USA CAPT George Skezas, USN	COL John Walsh, USA Maj William Burke, USAF Col Eric Silkowski, USAF LTC Malcom Sams, USA LTC Robert Senn, USA COL David Carpenter, USA LTC LaVerne Gehm, USA MAJ James Kirsch, USA LTC William Katholi, USA LTC Thomas Means, USA MAJ Bruce Robinson, USA LTC Arno Hoerle, USA Lt Col Charles Zavadi, USAF CAPT Thomas Jones, USN Mrs Dalila Carrasquillo COL Larry Pigue, USA COL Edmund Dowling, USA Mrs Edwina Morse MAL Latona Harris, USA LTC Richard Levan, USMC COL David Byers, USA MAJ Jonathan Westbrook, USA
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### **TAPS**

Our deepest sympathy to the  
families of our departed friends

**Mrs. Martha Delaney**

### **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

In memory of:

By:



alroosters.com

2710 Carl T. Jones Dr.      256.270.7197

475 Providence Main St.      256.489.0886

Mon-Fri 9-7    Sat 9-4

#### Menu of Services

Roosters Club Cut... Precision cut, shampoo, hot towel and style...	\$26.00
Hot Towel Shave... Our special seven step process...	\$22.00
Gentlemen's Choice... Club cut AND hot towel shave...	\$45.00
Hero Cut... Club cut for active duty servicemen, police and firemen...	\$22.00
Head Shave... Same special seven step process as the face...	\$22.00
Beard Trim...	\$12.00
Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline...	\$18.00
Littlemen... Age 10 and under...	\$18.00

### **Treasurer's Report**

**CAPT Richard West, USN**

For the Month of October 2014

Beginning Balance	\$14523.64
Credits	230.00
Debits	810.47

Ending Balance      \$13943.17





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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Sentinel* is published monthly primarily for the membership of the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (HCMOAA), P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807-0301. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of HCMOAA, its officers or its editor.

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](mailto:brobinso@mitre.org)

**Web Page: [huntsvillemoaa.org](http://huntsvillemoaa.org)**

### *Legislative - continued from page 10*

Because TRICARE rates are tied to Medicare reimbursements, this issue affects military beneficiaries of all ages. Over the years Congress repeatedly blocked the scheduled cuts with short-term fixes for a few months to a year at a time. Each time Congress passes a short-term fix and kicks the can for another year, the scheduled cuts grow in size. If Congress doesn't act, Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates will be cut by 22 percent in April 2015. Such a drastic cut would devastate access to care. The silver lining is that CBO lowered its 10-year cost estimate of freezing Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians to \$119 billion. Repealing and replacing the existing flawed reimbursement formula permanently would cost \$144 billion.

These numbers seem daunting, but represent a significant reduction in previous estimates to the cost of reform. Previous estimates ranged anywhere from \$250 to \$300 billion over ten years. Finding the funding offset to pay for a long term fix – either through revenue increases or spending cuts – has proven unsuccessful. Because Congress has historically waited until the last minute to provide short-term patches, the threatened cuts create uncertainty for thousands of physicians around the country. This uncertainty has led some providers to refuse Medicare and TRICARE patients. MOAA has consistently advocated for a permanent fix to the SGR formula. CBO's lower scoring provides a possible opportunity for a long-term legislative solution to establish a sustainable and workable payment system. **Act now** and send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message asking them to work towards a bipartisan, long-term Medicare/TRICARE fix.

- See more details at: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=62956216> 