

The Sentinel

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



Hi Everyone –

Summer is upon us – the season for beaches and barbecues. In keeping with that spirit, the Chapter is co-sponsoring a barbecue for the residents of the Tut Fann Veterans Home. It will be held on Saturday, 8 June, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It is open to all members. Come on out and help support this worthy cause.

On May 16th, 1st VP Norb Patla and I participated in an awards ceremony conducted by the Community Women's Club to present merit award scholarships to some outstanding young people. GEN Dennis Via, the AMC Commander, was the guest on honor. The chapter presented \$1500 to Miss Yvonne Chodaba, a freshman at Auburn University. Look for some pictures in the next *Sentinel*.

For all you golfers out there, the Chapter is sponsoring a golf tournament to raise funds for the afore-mentioned scholarship program. It will be held at the Link at Redstone on Friday, 13 September. If you want to get involved and help the committee organize and execute this event, let me know.

A reminder that the chapter's Summer Party is fast approaching. It will be held on 22 June at the recently expanded Overlook at Redstone. We have some nice picnic type food planned to help kick off summer, as well as the Dixieland Band ensemble from the AMC. See the flyer inside for details and to sign up. Hope to see you there.

On a final note, we have had upwards of 40 new members join the chapter in the past 2 months. This is a direct result of an e-mail and US Mail campaign to potential members in the area. Kudos to Chris Downing (Membership) and Rick West (Treasurer) for helping to make this happen.

- Bruce

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Legislative Corner	2
Concerns	3
X/Commissary	3
New Members	4
Carie's Notes	5
Fox Army Health Clinic	5
Chaplain's Corner	6
MOAA Widows Luncheon	6
Fox (continued)	6
Treasurer's Report	11
Birthdays	11
TAPS	11
Legislative (continued)	12

Get Involved!

REMINDERS

Monthly Membership Meeting: None in June – See you at the Summer Party instead!

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

Breakfast: Next breakfast is Saturday, 29 June 2013, 0900 hours at the Steak and Shake – Madison Square Mall.

Governing Board: Next meeting Thursday 13 June 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



Legislative Corner

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



I am taking the prerogative to paraphrase (and in some cases quote) a very important article from the National MOAA website for the benefit of those of you who may not look at the national website or who may have missed this article. It is entitled, **WHO SHOT YOUR GRANDFATHER?** and it is authored by Colonel Mike Hayden, USAF, retired. It deals primarily with the FY 2013 Defense Authorization Act which created the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission whose purpose is to “review and modernize” military retirement compensation programs. As you have probably heard, for years military and civilian defense leaders have stated that any changes to the retirement system would “grandfather” the existing force, and as you would assume, it too contains a “grandfathering” clause. Guess what. Anytime you see the thinly veiled term “modernize” when it refers to any form of benefits, your antenna should go up very high.

Adding on a grandfather clause in any retirement reform implies that a future change/modernization/reform will be, of course, a reduced benefit and, by reducing the benefit for the current force, would be a breach of faith.

And, here’s where the disconnect shows its face. The commission grandfathers currently serving personnel from any cuts to their future retired pay, but the Pentagon is more than willing to jack up the other major element of the retirement benefit -- health care -- which has the same effect of cutting retired pay, in some cases by \$2,000 or more per year.

The president’s FY 2014 budget submission contains yet another round of Pentagon-and administration-proposed TRICARE fee hikes for military retirees. It includes active duty dependents’ pharmacy co-pays. And these proposals come right on the heels of the increases in 2011 and 2012.

They include:

- Shifting \$25 billion-plus in costs to military beneficiaries over 10 years,
- Raising annual fees by \$1,000 or more for retired families of all ages,
- Imposing means-testing of military retiree health care where no other federal retiree faces
- Increasing pharmacy co-pays to approach the median of civilian plans

Pentagon officials assert that the new proposals would not impact active duty service members, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. All these fees will impact future retirees; those who are currently serving and hoping to make it a career will face these ever-increasing fees as soon as they remove the uniform. Senior defense leaders conveniently have separated retired pay and retiree health care, when they are far from being mutually exclusive.

Combined, they ARE the retirement benefit. It’s time defense leaders come clean and drop the caveats and semantics. The bottom line: The retiree health care fees schemes grandfather no one — not current retirees who have served two decades or more nor anyone in the existing force that plans to make it a career. DoD might as well just shoot the grandfather.

Continued on page 12

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

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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, biged992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Temporarily Vacant

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Vacant

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

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Chapter Historian: Vacant

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FAHCLiaison: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biged992K@aol.com

Golf: Vacant

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

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Life Membership Trust

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

CAPT William L. Howard, USN-Ret, 256-881-3168, whoward@juno.com (March 2013)

CW3 William C. Billingsley, USA-Ret, 881-0513, bill.billingsley@sparta.com (March 2013)



X / Commissary
CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret



Exchange

I have NO excuses for such a poor article except surgery (HSV Hosp) last week and surgery (Separate Surgical center) this week and lots of different medical appointments. June 5, I will be 80 with no apologies!!! I went into Military Clothing Sales but found the lanyards (UNITED STATES ARMY) I wanted near birthday cards. My family has been military (Army, Navy, Air Force) since WWI and I can usually find an appropriate gift in the Exchange (PX). The greeting card selection seems to be better in all categories. I can buy I-phone, I-pad, Kindle stuff, and all sizes of computers and connectors. I bought an awesome birthday card for my wife from a great selection. (Am I too old to use Awesome?) So far we have found everything we need for lawn and garden and I have picked our first strawberry.

Commissary

Today I saw a sidewalk sale and a case lot sale at the commissary. June 7th there will be a visit from the Bloodmobile. Concurrently there will be a table to introduce Gluten Free foods and Natural products. The Farmers Market (The Big One) will be in June. There will still be sidewalk sales and as I walked in on 22 May there was a sidewalk/case sale going on. Surprise! There is a new Acting Zone Manager, Michael Mertz, and I have NO idea what he does or what will occur. Seldom do I admit such Ignorance! I am struck and pleased with how many of the store employees smile and say "Hi!" I think it is a great store even when they drop an item we like. Sometimes our pressure can help get it back and sometimes it is the fault of someone in DECA way far away!! Keep 'em Flying! Anchors Away! And Go! Army!

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.

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

hal laurel@att.net

Air Force Representative:

Col Edward L. Uher

256-882-6824

biged992K@aol.com

MEMORIALS

In memory of our dear friend

LTC Dallas W Clark

From: LTC James K Scott

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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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO
HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

COL Harold Bakken, USA
Col Tommy Brazie, USAF
COL Douglas Brouillette, USA
MAJ Gordon Brown, USA
MAJ Sean Davis, USA
Lt Col Wayne Gardner, USAF
COL Eugene Hagewood, USA
LTC David Howard, USA
CDR Paul Jensen, USN
LTC Steven Palmer, USA
Lt Col Robert Reville, USAF
CW3 David Rowe, USA
COL Thomas Torrance, USA
MG David E White, USA
LTC David M White, USMC
COL Ray Woolery, USA

**Annual BBQ at the Floyd E.
"Tut" Fann Veterans Home**

2701 Meridian Street
Huntsville, AL

8 June 2013 – 11 AM to 1 PM

Sponsored by:

- Sergeant Majors Association
- Warrant Officers Association
- Association of the US Army
- Our Chapter

Come on out and enjoy some great
BBQ with the heroes who reside
there. All members are welcome.



Carrie's Notes

Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

MOAA Auxiliary

Our members met once again on Tuesday, May 21st, for cards. The winners for that day were Ursula Spicer (first) and Liz Townsend (second). Several of us enjoyed lunch at The City Café afterwards. Our next meeting will be at the same place on June 18th at 9:30 AM.

WOW Support Group

Twelve members were present for lunch at Gibson's Barbecue restaurant on Thursday, May 16th. We were happy to have Chaplain Paige Heard join us that day. The Summit at Redstone will be our next meeting place for lunch on June 20th at 11:00 AM. Please make a note of this.



Fox Army Health Center

Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret



Fox's Patient Satisfaction Exceeds Standard

When it comes to patient satisfaction, Fox Army Health Center makes the grade. The results of recent Army Provider Level Satisfaction Surveys are in, and scores indicate that patient satisfaction isn't just high at FAHC, but is on the uptick. From January 2013 to April 2013 the percentage of patients satisfied with their visit at Fox increased from 93.4 to 95.9, with a high of 96.7 for the month of February.

"The APLSS surveys are a critical way for Fox to hear how well we are serving our beneficiaries," said COL William Darby, FAHC Commander. "The surveys let us know where we need to improve to ensure that our beneficiaries are getting the care they deserve."

The MEDCOM goal for patient satisfaction is 95 percent. The actual Army MEDCOM average for January 2013 to April 2013 hovered near 93 percent.

After an appointment with their primary care manager, Fox beneficiaries may be randomly selected to complete the survey, which is mailed to them and covers topics such as staff courtesy, comfort and cleanliness of the facility, and phone service, allowing patients to evaluate their overall satisfaction with the visit. Beneficiaries may either complete the survey online, over the phone or mail it in. Once patients have completed the survey, they are then sent to the Office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General, where data is processed and then provided to Fox.

"It provides feedback from the beneficiary to the health center so that we can improve our processes and our customer service," said Faleshia Hill, patient advocate for FAHC. "It's important for leaders to know how staff is interacting with patients who come into the facility."

Continued on page 6



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

God Understands...

Armed Services Ministry in collaboration with Veteran Affairs (VA) chaplain consultants developed the God Understands... series: A resource created to provide healing, hope and comfort to Veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and the spiritual, physical and emotional brokenness brought on by active duty service.

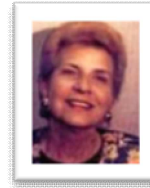
Based on the Spiritual Injury Scale used by VA chaplains, real life situations about Veterans are shared to help identify spiritual injuries that often lead to feelings of uncertainty.

There is a common human thread that flows through our frailties, our weaknesses, our heartaches and our sufferings—and a common thread of hope that so many have found through prayer and Scripture.

God understands: when you feel life is meaningless and without a purpose, when you feel angry, when you feel life is unfair, when you fear death, when you feel overwhelmed with guilt, when you feel despair and hopelessness, when you have doubts, or when you feel sadness and grief are the eight subjects that presented in the God Understands... series

Engaging this content can help you process your injuries and begin to heal. Start your own journey today. Go to <http://godunderstands.americanbible.org/>

These topics are also available in printed booklet.



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

14 June 2013

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 14 June at Casa Blanca, 7800 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL. Phone 256-771-0130.

Betty Ford, phone 256-882-8681, will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

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

Fox – continued from page 5

Not only do beneficiaries benefit from an improvement in patient care each time a survey is returned, but also from the money Fox receives for each survey that's returned. All money Fox receives goes towards the improvement of the facility, whether it's used for renovations, hiring staff or just finding new ways to provide patients with better, quality service.

“We want to thank our beneficiaries for completing those surveys and providing us their feedback on the services that we're rendering to them,” Hill said. 🇺🇸

From Alabama A&M University:

The ROTC Program has completed another successful year filled with numerous activities. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the Military Officer Association of America to the success of our awards program on 23 April 2013. Thank you for attending and presenting the MOAA award to Cadet Ezekiel Parrow. The ROTC Department is grateful for the continued support we have received from your organization over the years. We look forward to continued affiliation for many years to come.



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earned in Korea.
By our dad.**

Kathleen W. & Kristin S.,
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HCMOAA SUMMER PARTY

A Pre-4th of July Picnic

WHERE: The Overlook at Redstone
WHEN: Saturday, 22 June 2013 from 6:00 - 9:30 PM
PRICE: \$25.00 per person (gratuity included)



Reservations are required no later than Thursday, 13 June 2013
Mail the reservation form below with your check
Call Carrie Hightower for more info at 256-882-3992



Casual Dress / Picnic Attire

MENU



AMC Dixieland Band
Tennessee Ramblers

Cole Slaw
Fried Chicken (bone in)
Pulled Pork with BBQ Sauce
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
German Chocolate Sheet Cake
Vanilla Ice Cream
Coffee, Ice Tea, lemonade



Cash Bar
6 – 7 PM

Please reserve _____ spaces for me (us)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$25.00 per person) payable to HCMOAA

Please mail to: HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

The people in my party will be:

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____



We honor your dedicated, loyal service with ours.

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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	Interested in a chapter Life Membership?	
One year \$10.00		Contact us for pricing (based on your age)	
2 years \$20.00			
3 years \$30.00			
Optional hard copy Sentinel \$10.00 per year		Our award-winning newsletter, <i>The Sentinel</i> , is delivered via e-mail	
		If you would like to receive a hard copy through the US Mail instead,	
Total amount enclosed		please include \$10 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing	
First Name		MI	Last Name
Preferred Name		Birthday	Spouse's Name
Grade	Branch of Service	MOAA National Membership Number	
Active	Retired	Former Officer	Reserve
			NG
			Surviving Spouse
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Membership Statistics

Total Members: 464
 Life Members: 280
 Auxiliary Members: 82

For the month of May:
 New Members: 16
 Renewals: 3
 Deaths: 1



LEGACY PLANNING



Ken Askew, CIC Financial Advisor

2707 Artie Street, Suite 12,
Huntsville, AL, 35805

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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.



TAPS

LTC Dallas W Clark

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

26 Birthdays in June Happy Birthday!



CPT Rene Lemieux, USA
Lt Col James Murphy, USAF
LTC Dale Stevens, USA
LTC Johnnie Bone, USA
CPT Vernon Sutter, USA
Mrs Florence Garmen
CW3 Lewis Spencer, USA
LTC Robert Wendt, USA
CDR Robert Rolf, USN
LCDR James Conner, USN
MAJ Sherrill Chaffin, USA
COL Jimmy Wiggs, USA
CW4 William Wright, USA

Mrs Helen Kolankiewicz
LTC Stephen Rice, USA
MAJ Michael Tallman, USA
CAPT William Howard, USN
COL Michael Roddy, USA
MAJ John Wilson, USA
Capt Kenneth Shepard, USAF
COL Tom Albertson, USA
CWO Richard Demming, USA
LTC James Ivy, USA
Col Bernard Morgan, USAF
LTC William Brigadier, USA
CW3 David Rowe, USA

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

Beginning Balance	\$9907.09
Credits	1519.00
Debits	1515.41
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Ending Balance	\$9910.68





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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

(Legislative – continued from page 2)

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS:

How would a government shutdown affect you (us)?

Below are the likely affects of a continued squabbling Congress’s resulting Government shutdown, not a likely but nevertheless, possible outcome:

- Currently serving military pay: We know the troops still will be on duty. But if the shutdown includes a military payday, they might not get paid.
- Federal civilian pay: If there’s no money to pay them, many civilians would effectively be furloughed until funding restarts.
- Government services: During the 1996 shutdown, national parks were closed, passport applications weren’t processed, toxic-waste cleanups were stopped, and many federal contractors weren’t paid, among other things.
- Social Security: Checks for those currently eligible will continue, but processing of new applications likely would be suspended.
- Military and federal civilian retired pay and survivor annuities: Those checks would not be affected, because retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities are “entitlements” that aren’t subject to annual appropriations. But the Social Security answer raises at least some question of whether new retired pay and survivor accounts would be started.
- VA disability compensation and survivor benefits: These programs are treated like entitlements but are, in fact, subject to annual appropriations. According to a 2008 Congressional Research Service report, during previous shutdowns, “multiple services [for veterans] were curtailed, ranging from health and welfare to finance and travel.”
- Medicare and TRICARE for Life: They’re entitlements. But claims could be delayed if staff has to be furloughed.
- TRICARE: Money to pay claims could be delayed. Much could depend on whether contractors would continue to deliver services and process claims if the federal government stops paying them for a while. 