Volume 52, Issue 3 March 2013

Huntsville Chapter Military Officers Association of America

The Sentin

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



Hi Everyone -

One of the chapter's main goals is to support a scholarship merit award program that is managed by the Redstone Community Wives Club. There were 67 applicants this year – their applications are currently under review. We intend to provide a \$1500 merit award to be presented in the May/June timeframe. The proceeds from our golf tournament made this possible.

The chapter has some volunteer positions currently open that we could use some help with. We need a membership person, a programs person, and several golfers. The positions are described in more detail on page 12. If you have an interest in helping out, please give me a call.

The summer party planning is underway. It's going to be held 22 June 2013 at the Overlook at Redstone – save the date. Enjoy the patio overlooking the golf course. There will be more details to follow in subsequent Sentinels.

Our monthly breakfasts at the Steak & Shake on University Drive, near the Madison Square Mall, have become quite successful. This past Saturday we had nearly 30 members in attendance. You get a lot of value for the price, and they have some new menu items. Come out and join us for some good food and camaraderie.

Finally, there are still a significant number of annual members who have not renewed their memberships. I encourage you to do so. You can't go out and get a decent lunch for the \$10 membership fee, which is one of the lowest in all of MOAA. So fill out the renewal and keep your membership current.

Bruce

In This Issue President's Message 2 Legislative Comer Concerns 3 X/Commissary Guest Speaker 3 5 5 Carrie's Notes Fox Army Health Clinic 6 Chaplain's Corner 6 MOAA Widows Luncheon 6 New Members Fox (continued) 8 8 X/Commissary (continued) Other Happenings 10 Treasurer's Report 15 15 Birthdays 15 **TAPS**

16

Legislative (continued)

Get Involved!

REMINDERS

Monthly Membership Meeting: Next meeting Wednesday 27 March 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club. Guest speaker is Chapter Member COL Bri Chabot.

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

Breakfast: Next breakfast is Saturday, 23 March 2013, 0900 hours at the Steak and Shake – Madison Square Mall.

Governing Board: Next meeting Thursday 14 March 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



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



Well, by the time you read this, we should know what the Congress/President did relative to "Sequestration." There has been much discussion, information and disinformation from all sides and especially the main stream media, as to what impact this may have on our current and near term way of life. While the proposed cuts (actually not 'cuts' at all, but decreases in the rate of increase in the budget) included in Sequestration are really a small percentage of the total federal budget, they are heavily skewed toward the Department of Defense.

"Sequestration." Now that's a popular term in current news. Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and the Joint Chiefs told the House and Senate Armed Services committees this week that military readiness will take a huge hit if sequestration-driven budget cuts take effect. With just two weeks left before massive sequestration-driven budget cuts kick in on March 1, Carter said, "The wolves are at the door." His warning comes on the heels of testimony in mid February by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that DoD faces the "greatest national security readiness crisis in more than a decade." The service chiefs said the cuts will force canceling deployments, reducing flying and steaming hours, curtailing maintenance, training, and travel, and furloughing civilian personnel for 22 days without pay. "We need to find \$46 billion for sequestration between now and the end of the year," Carter stated. "Furloughs only get \$5 billion ... we still have \$41 billion to go." The president has exempted military pay from sequestration for 2013, but Carter said the troops will be hit in other ways, including longer hours to do the work of furloughed civilians, cutting back on TRICARE access late in the year, and reducing family support programs. Next year, 100,000 extra troops will have to be cut.

"I began my career in a hollow Army," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno. "I do not want to end my career in a hollow Army." Many committee lawmakers expressed hope the Joint Chiefs' testimony would help force a bipartisan compromise deal. But with sequestration less than two weeks away and not a glimmer of any deal in sight, even more think the cuts will happen. It's beyond disappointing to MOAA that Congress refuses to change the sequestration law, which most people in both chambers and both parties acknowledge will impose dumb, massive cuts in ways that will harm military readiness. Sequestration — blind, across-the-board meat-ax cuts to every budget category — once again has turned out to be something elected officials hide behind as an excuse for refusing to do their job. Instead of making the best of a bad budget situation, they've chosen to make the worst of it and put their partisan objectives ahead of our national interests.

TRICARE Nail Biters: What will it take to put a "fix" into the "Doc Fix" for real Medicare payment reform?"

Continued on page 16

2012-2013 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

Treasurer: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rick675@hughes.net

Army Representative: LTC Amo Hoerle, USA-Ret, 256-837-6253, arhoerle@mediacombb.net

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, $\underline{biged992K@aol.com}$

Immediate Past President: COL Harold J. Hicks, USA-Ret, 256-233, 3548, halppat@ool.com

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Vacant

Programs: Vacant

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry.haynes@irtc-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, dburttram198@gmail.com

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164,

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

Audit: MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127,

szeremi@comcast.net

 $Chapter \ Chaplain: \ CH \ (LTC) \ Bert \ E. \ Wiggers, \ AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, \underline{chbwig@mediacombb.net}$

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

FAHC Liaison: 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

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)

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 (Formerly the PX)

Manager Roberto Montalvo was a great source of info for March. Also, his sister was born in Germany and "Monty's" wife lived/worked there for the Exchange 29 years ago. More people to practice on!

There will be a push on Outdoor Living in March. Back in 1940 Dad brought back a "Pup" Tent from the Armory. It had been promised about two months before and Dad had forgotten this is nearly two years in Seven Year old time. Despite being so much older we DID remember it had been promised which just shows you A) How really Smart we three boys were, and B) how really disciplined we were! (Yeah, Sure) That same tent was used when Dad was at Camp Forest but we were allowed to sleep in the house (Murfreesboro). I believe. I don't believe Exchange Manager Montalvo meant tents and asked. He said Patio Furniture, Grills, outdoor cooking stoves for camping, etc. Almost always there is ample support for grilling such as long forks and spatulas, covers, fuel, and Weber Accessories. My Uncle (Guadalcanal); Cousin and brother (Vietnam) and I (Gulf War) ate at the Weber Grill restaurant in Chicago recently. This endorsement is without compensation!!!

There is at least one book signing for March. I have three books of locals from three different signings including the pilot from "Gunship Down" who lived in Madison at that time.

As stated last month the start of construction on the new Express Facility will start in March at the corner of Mills and Martin Road. Look for trees knocked down first. It will be next to the new Redstone Federal Credit Union

Continued on page 8

Need Addresses

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

27 March Membership Meeting Guest Speaker Chapter Member COL Bri Chabot

COL Chabot was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer from the US Military Academy and served 29 years in the Army. His assignments included 2 tours in Vietnam, a Battalion Command at Ft. Sill, and Professor of Military Science at Augusta State University. Upon retirement, COL Chabot became active in the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), rising to Commander-in-Chief. He also helped to develop a MOWW youth leadership program. His talk is entitled "MOAA-MOWW Partners in Patriotism". He will also speak about an annual Youth Leadership Conference that he conducts.



Eric Jackson, CLTC Senior Market Specialist



Helping to prepare and protect your financial future with products designed to fit your needs...

Individual & Group Long Term Care Insurance • Life Insurance Annuities • Medicare Supplement Insurance

PO Box 4358 • Huntsville, AL 35815 Phone: 256 880.1839 • 256 533.5644 ejackson@genworthltc.com www.genworth.com/ericjackson



Long Term Care Insurance from Genworth Financial (1985).

Carrie's Notes



Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

MOAA Auxiliary

Having lost some of our Auxiliary Canasta players, coordinator Ursula Spicer, 256-881-4741, extends an invitation to other members who would be interested in joining us. Canasta is very easy to learn and fun to play. We meet every third Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM. We have lunch afterwards at a restaurant of our choice.

WOW Support Group

Once again the same scenario – illness, weather or prior commitments – kept the number of attendees small at our luncheon. Those of us that were present enjoyed the camaraderie and a delightful lunch. Our luncheon on 21 March at 11 AM will be held at 88 Buffet, 6125 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Please make a note on your calendars.



Fox Army Health Center Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret



Fox Adds Nearly 4K Patient Appointments in 2013

Access to patient care just got better for beneficiaries of Fox Army Health Center. Effective immediately, Fox Army Health Center is making way for nearly 4,000 more appointments for patients in 2013.

"This is a direct response to our beneficiaries feedback", said COL William Darby, Commander FAHC. "We took a hard look at our business processes to find where we could open up more appointment opportunities. This is definitely a Win-Win situation."

The increased availability is due to a change in the way FAHC trains its' staff and providers, who have been accustomed to closing at noon the first Thursday of every month for commander's call, in addition to training holiday in conjunction with Federal holidays. FAHC has canceled all training holidays for the remainder of the year except for July 5, 2013, and made the monthly commander's calls quarterly. The result is time for nearly 4,000 more patient appointments and increased access to care for FAHC beneficiaries.

"Providers will be able to see more of their patients," said Barbara Williford, chief of the clinical support division at FAHC. "Sometimes if we don't have enough time on a provider's schedule we will have to put that patient with another doctor, the demand is so high. This will give our providers more appointments and more availability to see the patients who are paneled to them."

The change will cut down on complaints the facility was receiving when beneficiaries either forgot or were unaware that FAHC was closed for commander's calls and training holidays, and patients still attempted to get their prescriptions filled or lab work done, only to find that FAHC's doors were locked.

"We really think it's going to be a huge benefit to the beneficiary population on the sheer number of appointments we're going to be making available to them and the access to their provider this change is going to allow right away per month," said Maj. Colleen Reichenberg, deputy commander for administration.

Continued on page 8



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

The Resurrection

Winston Churchill had planned his meaningful funeral before his death. The funeral took place in Saint Paul's Cathedral. He included many of the great hymns of the church and used the eloquent Anglican liturgy. After the benediction the funeral continued as he had planned. A bugler, positioned high in the dome of Saint Paul's played the traditional "Taps."

But then came a dramatic turn. This was not the end of Churchill's funeral. As soon as "Taps" was finished, another bugler on the other side of the great dome played "Reveille."

That was Churchill's testimony; that at the end of history the last note will not be "taps!" it will be "Reveille!" "Reveille" played after "Taps" is the perfect illustration of the resurrection.

Christianity begins where religion ends...with the Resurrection. –Anonymous

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible by you that God raises the dead?" Acts 26:8 (NKJV)



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

8 March 2013

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 8 March 2013, at Cheddars, 6125 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Liz Townsend, phone 256-721-9762, will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

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

MEMORIALS

In memory of: LTC Robert F. Sullivan

By: Peter D Schofield

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

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

CW5 Harry Hobbs, USA



USAA Auto Insurance. Earned once. Cherished from generation to generation.

At USAA, our commitment to serve the financial needs of our military members, veterans who have honorably served and their families is without equal. In fact, families regard USAA Auto Insurance so highly, 95% of USAA members plan to remain with USAA for life.1

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

usaa.com/insurance | 800-531-3550

Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice



We know what it means to serve?

¹Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

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. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, 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. © 2013 USAA. 139265-0113

X/Commissary – continued from page 3

and across the street from Child Development. It will dispense Gasoline and will have a Burger King and a Subway. There are 38,000 government workers on post and they need to eat, too. Back when I worked at Teledyne Brown Engineering (Unsolicited Plug) I used to take co-workers to the Pizza place at the PX. We thought it a great use of our lunch hour. Sadly, due to lack of interest by nearly all of us, it is being replaced by a Subway! (Yay!) which is one of the most popular franchises in the Huntsville Area.

A full time Human Resources manager is coming in April. I would think this will help in acquiring new employees. As long as I can practice my German on them OR my Spanish, I am strongly in favor. The Commissary Deli used to be the spot but they all retired!

Commissary

Mr. Crawford, Store Manager, stopped work on the End of The Month report immediately to tell me what will be happening in March. This is so typical of almost everybody in the store whether my wife or I have a question about Ancho Peppers (not stocked), Pretzels, or Deli items.

The Easter Candy is out! It is all over! Look for more sidewalk sales and in-store sales. Usually the items stacked up at the entrance are sale items or items they "bought right!"

There will be NO May Case Lot Sale! My guess is the cutbacks in Washington have a trickledown effect. I read on-line that the administration really wants to cut the Defense Department way down. This might be some of the fallout.

Fox – continued from page 5

The change is especially important for patients who have medical needs crop up and need to be seen within a certain amount of time, only to find out there are no appointments available at Fox and they must see a referred doctor off the installation. The patient's provider at Fox must then connect with the doctor that saw them off post to determine what instructions and medication their patient was given.

"We'll send less patients out," Reichenberg said. "It's good for our docs here, and it's good for the patients. This is all about the beneficiaries, having more appointments so they can be seen and taken care of."

The facility will continue to close the first Thursday of each month to allow for training, but rather than closing at noon will close at 2 p.m., with the last patient appointment at 1:40. Providers and staff have mandatory training requirements they must meet, but with a focus on time with the patient, have limited time to do so. The two hours each month will allow them to continue to complete the requirements with as little impact on access to patient care as possible.

"Our providers have to set aside time to get training done, so if you don't block time for training, it simply doesn't get done," Reichenberg said. "It's important, with a facility like ours, which is centered around see patients face to face that you block time to get training done."

Fox will continue to be closed for federal holidays.

Member Spotlight

COL Norb Patla, USA-Ret Chapter 1st Vice President



The Order of Saint Michael was established by the Army Aviation Association of America, aka Quad A, and the Army Aviation Center of Excellence in 1990 to recognize those who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers. The awardees must also demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence, and serve the Army aviation or civilian aviation community with distinction.

Recipients can receive the Bronze, Silver or Gold medals. Recipients of the Gold medal, the highest distinction, must have continued service to Army aviation and Quad A after retirement through professional writing in branch journals or other professionally oriented publications; professional speaking in support of Army aviation; serving as an Honorary Colonel, Warrant Officer or Command Sergeant Major of a Regiment; or actively serving in Quad A as an officer, member of the executive or scholarship boards, or in active support of association activities or events.

For 50 years, retired COL Norb Patla has been part of the Army's Transportation and Aviation communities, first as an R&D coordinator, then as a pilot and commander of fixed wing aircraft and helicopter maintenance detachment and company, then as a project manager of a major helicopter modernization program assisting in the development aircraft systems for the future and, lastly, as a key volunteer and industry representative dedicated to advancing Army aviation.

His aviation career began as an officer with tours in Korea and two back to back tours in Vietnam. During his second tour he met his now wife, then an Army nurse. After Vietnam, Patla continued in several aviation assignments and army developmental schools, and in the the 1980s, he saw Army Aviation being stood up as its own individual branch with significant growth over the years. His last assignment before retiring in 1986 was as the project manager for the Chinook-47 Modernization Program, which was part of the Program Executive Office for Aviation in St. Louis, Missouri.

After retirement, he worked for private industry in aircraft simulation. He came to Huntsville in 1997. He was recruited by Nichols Research, a systems engineering company that needed Patla's aviation expertise to develop its aviation customer base. He later worked for CSC and now works for the MITRE Corporation part-time, where his Army aviation perspective is important in the development of new Army aviation applications.

Col Norb Patla was recognized for his life of service to Army aviation on February 13th when he received the prestigious Gold Order of St. Michael award at the Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Support Symposium, hosted in Huntsville by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA).

Way to go Norb!



Northeast Alabama Craftsman Association



Annual Fall Craft Show

15, 16 & 17 March 2013 South Hall, Von Braun Center

FREE ADMISSION

Friday 9:00 M – 7:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM Sunday 12 Noon – 5:00 PM

ENJOY THE SHOW!

The show benefits Charities of Madison County Handcrafted wares from more than 150 exhibitors Save the Date - 22 June 2013

Annual Summer Party

The Overlook at Redstone

Details in the April Sentinel

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 508 Life Members: 279 Auxiliary Members: 87

New Members: 1 Renewals: 32 Deaths: None

Editor's Note:

In the President's Message of last month's *Sentinel*, the new National MOAA membership model was being discussed. In particular, there was a quote taken from the National MOAA web site concerning Life Membership that stated:

"Life - the regular commissioned component of MOAA membership, which represents half of all MOAA members today. MOAA will capitalize on the activism of Life members by encouraging them to continue to serve in their communities."

This quote caused some confusion with members, who thought that Life Membership was being restricted to regular commissioned officers. That is definitely not the case. National MOAA Life Membership remains unchanged. Unfortunately, they used some poor word choices on their web site.

January Membership Meeting



Charlie Marvin, President AL Council



Installation of Officers



Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Police Dept



President's Remarks

Positions Open

We have some very important volunteer positions currently open in the Chapter. I encourage you to read the descriptions that follow, and then consider stepping forward and helping the Chapter continue to succeed.

<u>Membership:</u> We need a leader for our membership team, someone to think strategically about recruiting and retention. Chris, Robert and I take care of the day to day membership details – databases, keeping track of renewals, and the like. We need a planner.

<u>Programs:</u> So in the last year we have had VADM Ryan from MOAA, Congressman Mo Brooks, and General Officers from the Arsenal speak at our meetings. They are honored to do so, and we are interested in what they have to say. We need someone who can continue to bring in top notch guest speakers. Leverage your network, and volunteer to manage our program.

<u>Golf:</u> Scholarships - the golf tournament funds them. Last year was the first time we tried it – overwhelming success. We are giving \$1500 this year to a deserving student. Next year we would like to give more. That's where you come in. All the lessons learned from last year have been duly noted. This year we just need to execute – 3 or 4 golf volunteers (I know you are out there) would really help us make this year another success.

Interested? Contact Bruce Robinson – <u>brobinso@mitre.org</u> – (256) 450-2252

The Officer Placement Service (TOPS)

Many MOAA chapters are looking for ways to attract younger members and second-career officers. More than 80 chapters now are working to achieve that goal by appointing a The Officer Placement Service (TOPS) liaison, who serves as the primary point of contact in their chapter for MOAA members and their spouses who are transitioning to a civilian job or looking for a new job.

TOPS liaisons tap into the resources available through MOAA's state networking program, comprised of more than 2,500 volunteers in every state nationwide. State networkers, who might or might not be chapter members, serve as job networking contacts for MOAA members and their spouses. They also provide information about area employers, share tips about how they landed a job in their field, and put members and their spouses in touch with other job networking contacts. Some even forward résumés to local hiring managers they know, although they are not obligated to do so.

Bruce Robinson, who is the Huntsville Chapter liaison, also serves as the Alabama state network coordinator. As such, he routinely exchanges job openings and resumes with the 40 or so members of the state network, as well as national MOAA. National MOAA then posts these job opportunities for free on their career center Web site, viewed by service members nationwide.

For additional information, or to volunteer to be a state networker, contact Robinson at (256) 450-2252 or brobinso@mitre.org.



We honor your dedicated, loyal service with ours.

Veterans and their families have made countless sacrifices in their service to our country. To those who have served, we thank you. And we believe the best way to honor you is by creating a community where freedom and independence are our cornerstones.

At Magnolia Trace you will discover a retirement lifestyle that empowers you to live life on your terms, among other people who share your values. And you'll have the security and financial independence of ACT'S Life Care[™].

We invite you to visit Magnolia Trace, and learn more about our special military offers. It's just one more way to give back to those who have given so much.

Call us today at **256.26I.I6I6** or **I.866.476.7570** to schedule a tour and discover the kind of retirement you've been looking for.



ACTS Retirement-Life Communities® is celebrating more than 40 years of strength as the leader in service to seniors.

One Clubhouse Avenue | Huntsville, AL 35802 256.261.1616 or 1.866.476.7570 | ACTSmagnoliatrace.org



	H	luntsville Chapter			
10/1	Military Off	ficers Association of A	merica		
		P.O. Box 1301			
	Hunt	sville, AL 35807-0301			
Membership A	pplication or Re	enewal Confirma	ation		
es! I'd like to add my voice to	the Huntsville Chapter.				
New	Renewal		Interested in a chapter L	ife 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	l-winning newsletter, <i>The S</i> e	<i>entinel</i> , is delivered via e	-mail
		If you wou	If you would like to receive a hard copy through the US Mail instead,		
Total amount enclosed		please incl	please include \$10 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing		
irst Name	MI		Last Name		
iist ivallie	IVII		Last Name		
Preferred Name	Birthday		Spouse's Name		
irade	Branch of Service	MOAA Nat	MOAA National Membership Number		
ctive Retired	Former Office	er Reserve	NG	Surviving Spouse	
Mailing Address			City	State	Zip Code



Attention Annual Members

A reminder that all annual memberships are renewable at the end of each calendar year. If you have not yet done so, fill out the renewal application above and mail it in with you check for \$10. Or lock the rate in for 2 or 3 years.

What does this fee buy you?

- Twelve copies of our informative newsletter, *The Sentinel*
- Ten membership meetings to socialize with friends and hear informative speakers
- A summer and a Christmas party
- Opportunities to support worthwhile veterans- related causes

You can't get a decent lunch for \$10 these days ... Membership is the best deal in town

LEGACY PLANNING



Ken Askew, CIC Financial Advisor

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

Phone: 256.536.7320

ken@legacyplanninghsv.com www.legacyplanninghsv.com

Investment advisory services offered through Investment Advisors, a division of ProEquities, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Securities offered through ProEquities, Inc., a registered Broker-Dealer, member of FINRA & SIPC. Legacy Planning, LLC is independent of ProEquities, Inc.

38 Birthdays in March Happy Birthday!



MajGen Melvin Bowling, USAF LTC Floyd Teller, USA LTC Raymond Livingston Jr, USA COL Byron Powers, USA LTC James Roy, USA LtCol Daryl Carpenter, USAF Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF MAJ Harold Meeker, USA MAJ William Parker, USA LTC Robert Westerfeldt, USA CAPT John Snyder, USN LtCol Robert Christian Sr, USAF Mrs Lou Johnston LCDR Richard Edgar, USN CW3 Willard Dodd, USA MAJ Rex Mills, USA MAJ Robert Szeremi, USA Capt David Stephens, USAFR Mrs Sonia Gojsza

CPT Albert Castelli, USA 1LT Victor Grimes Sr. USA COL Robert Feist, USA CW3 Eldred Bourne, USA Col Alvin Kemmet, Jr USAF Capt John Renfro, USAF LTC Rachel Walker, USA LTC Harry Durgin, USA COL John Fairlamb, USA LTC Thomas Miller, Jr, USA COL Donald Harmon, ARNG LTC Gregory Spears, USA CW3 Darrel LaCanne, USA COL David Pemberton, USA COL Christopher Murphy, USMC CDR John Inman, USN LTC Charles Long, USA COL Wilbur Parker, USA CPT Herbert Hayes, USA

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

None this month

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

Treasurer's Report CAPT Richard West, USN

For the Month of January 2013

Beginning Balance \$8773.12 Credits 2963.00 Debits 3132.89

Ending Balance \$8603.23





P.O. Box 1301 Huntsville, AL 35807-0301

HUNTSVILLE, AL PERMIT NO. 171

PRE-SORT STD

US POSTAGE PAID

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

Web Page: huntsvillemoaa.org

(Legislative – continued from page 2)

For doctors, seniors and TRICARE beneficiaries, the nail-biter has become a familiar. Lawmakers invariably defer the cuts in Medicare payments to providers, commonly referred to as the "doc fix" which was originally a payment reimbursement formula developed back in 1997. Everyone agrees this formula is broken and beyond repair. But these "kick the can" deferrals are always temporary due to the difficulty of finding offsetting funds, or cuts, to pay for a permanent fix. (This payment issue is important to TRICARE beneficiaries because TRICARE's reimbursement rate to its providers is tied to the Medicare payment rate).

In 2010 alone, Congress delayed the cuts with temporary patches five times -with the longest patch lasting one year. Now, what about this year? The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on Tuesday, (5 February 2013) lowered its estimated 10-year cost of freezing Medicare physician pay by a whopping \$100 billion-plus. This is a move viewed by many as a potential "game changer." In that this may help to create an opening for Congress to pass a permanent Medicare "doc fix" perhaps this year. CBO's latest estimate is \$138 billion, which is down considerably from its August 2012 estimate of \$245 billion to replace the current doc fix formula. The current physician payment patch doesn't expire until 31 December 2013, but lawmakers have said they want to tackle the issue as part of a broader budget discussion. The new CBO estimate makes that task a little more manageable, though still difficult, according some lawmakers during the hearings on the subject. Although it is vexing as to how best to move into a new payment model, there is broad consensus that any new model must reward quality and value, reward efficiency, and reward collaboration for a beneficiary centered approach to care. (Look out for how quality and value are defined as this evolves.) MOAA has long advocated for a permanent fix to this flawed formula. A repeal of the current formula would provide a stable payment system to providers - and most importantly, will protect access to care for seniors and TRICARE beneficiaries, now and into the future.

We will hope Congress and the administration will take advantage of the fact that the cost of repealing the doc fix is lower than it has been in many years and will replace this formula with a new system that encourages quality of care while reducing costs.