

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Huntsville, Alabama Chapter
General Membership Meeting Minutes
27 Feb 2013

President Bruce Robinson opened the meeting at 1130 hours at the Summit Club

Opening Prayer: Bert Wiggers

Pledge of Allegiance: Bruce Robinson

Welcomes: Members and Guests

- President Bruce Robinson recognized and welcomed our guests:
Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle
Renata Hoerle Wilda Szeremi Margo Chabot
Elaine Miner Angela (can't read last name) Alabama A&M students
- President Bruce Robinson recognized our new members and first-timers
Bill Maroney Eugene Marchetti John Swan
- President Bruce Robinson recognized our previous Commander in attendance
Steve Crawley

Reports:

- Secretary's Report: Don Kimminau presented the General Membership Meeting minutes for January which were approved as written.
- Treasurer's Report: Rick West presented the January Treasurer's Report which was approved as written

	Opening Balance	Closing Balance
Dec 2012	\$8773.12	\$8603.23

- January's major expenditures included Communications (\$590.44 - Postmaster, Newsletter); Socials (\$1897.90 - December Social, future door prizes); Travel (\$137.55 - CoC mileage); Unbudgeted (\$432 - Gold Bar Lunch).
- Membership: President Robinson provided a membership update and stated we are currently looking for volunteers for Membership, Programs and Golf Tourney Chairpersons.
- Branch Concerns:
 - Army: Arno Hoerle, no concerns
 - USAF: Ed Uher, no concerns
 - USN/USMC: Ed King, no concerns
- Legislative: Jerry Haynes was not present
- Hospitality: Carrie Hightower presented status of June Social: plans are being finalized for the social on 22 June at Redstone Arsenal's Overlook.

President's Comments:

- Presented Scholarship update: President Robinson is one of the Redstone Wives' Club panelists who are reviewing 69 applications for 7-8 scholarships including the chapter's \$1500 scholarship.
- Announced that Army Community Services will be hosting a Volunteer Lunch on 16 April and invited members who have turned in hours to the event.
- Informed the membership that 1st Vice President Norb Patla was recently awarded the prestigious Gold Order of Saint Michael award by the Army Aviation Association of America for his more than 50 years of service to the Army aviation community.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Executive Committee meeting: 14 Mar, 1130 at the Summit
 - Breakfast: 23 Mar, 0900 at Steak & Shake
 - Membership Meeting: 27 Mar, 1130 at the Summit; Guest Speaker, COL Bri Chabot

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New business:

- 50/50 drawing of \$31 was won by Rick West, who donated the winnings back to the chapter.

Guest Speaker: Mayor Tommy Battle was re-elected for a second term in August 2012 by an unprecedented 81 percent of the vote.

Mayor Battle's leadership skills were strongly tested in his first term as he took office in the midst of the nation's most challenging economic recession. Under his leadership the City emerged in an enviable position of economic stability and growth potential that earned it national and international acclaim.

Huntsville's performance has been recognized by Bloomberg, USA Today, Forbes, CNN, Money Magazine, NBC, FOX, Moody's, The Wall Street Journal, Monocle and Milken Institute. Kiplinger's Personal Finance named the City No. 1 in America in 2009, and "Relocate America" repeated the honor in 2010, applauding Huntsville for receiving AAA ratings from both Standard and Poor's and Moody's. The City was recently awarded both AAA ratings again for 2011.

When crippling snowstorms and violent tornadoes struck Huntsville in early 2011, Mayor Battle united teams of emergency responders to handle the aftermath. Their outstanding work garnered more important recognition, this time by the Department of Energy and Homeland Security.

With his focus on Huntsville's economic future, Mayor Battle is committed to his space, geo, cyber and energy initiatives, which aggressively work to unite the City's rich intellectual capital with new opportunities. Further, the Mayor reshaped the City's urban planning department to positively steer future growth and development.

Tommy Battle was born in Birmingham in 1955. He moved to Huntsville in 1980 after receiving a business degree from the University of Alabama, and four years later was elected to the Huntsville City Council. His successful career as an entrepreneur and businessman, along with nearly 30 years of community service, effectively prepared him for the demanding role as the City's chief executive officer, recruiter, and champion of its future.

Mayor Battle:

- Mayor Battle opened his remarks by describing the effects on the local community's economic development of the Recent DoD BRAC actions which ended here in 2011.
- Mayor Battle went on to discuss what he saw as the upcoming challenges and opportunities in Huntsville's "very bright future."
- Mayor Battle is concerned about recent Alabama State Legislative discussions to repeal the Common Core Standards for Education. He believes a repeal will hit the military communities and families in Alabama harder than other communities because it will make it more difficult for military children to transfer coursework when moving into and out of Alabama.
- Mayor Battle described recent positive economic activities including the move of Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command to Redstone Arsenal as well as many contractor's gains. He also noted that the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce has over 20 open files for companies that are interested in moving to the area.
- Mayor Battle talked about sequestration and the possible loss of expertise due to reduction in government civilian salaries. He is even more worried, however about upcoming deliberations in the US Congress about the FY13 Budget/Continuing Resolution and the FY 14 budget. He described his recent trip to Washington DC to visit with Alabama legislators and to stress the importance of solving these issues to the long-term planning efforts of local communities.

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Closing Prayer / Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1245.
Respectfully submitted by Don Kimminau