

Volume 64, Issue 4
April 2025



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CAPT Richard C. West, USN (Ret.)

Greetings all!

It's mowing season again! Where I grew up in Nevada, we had great lawns but had to water a lot to achieve them. Now, due to water shortages, most (probably >90%) of the homes out there have little or no lawn – just rock and bush landscapes that mostly look very nice. Something to be said about that!

I think all that attended really enjoyed March's membership meeting! We had a large attendance, and Sheriff Turner gave a great presentation. When I left after 1300, he was still there talking to attendees! I also got to present a check for \$18,000 from the Scholarship fund to the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club for the Merit Award program. Even the food was excellent!

Our next luncheon is Wednesday, April 30th. See details on page 17. This will be our annual Gold Bar Ceremony where we will host the commissioning ROTC Cadets and present them with their first set of Gold Bars. Please RSVP now! **RSVP to John Vanderbleek at jvbleek78@gmail.com or 256.893.1565.** Family and guests are always welcome. We have two goals for this Ceremony: (1) fill the Bob Howell room to the brim! and (2) **RSVP EARLY** to keep Rick's blood pressure down! 😊

Membership Renewal. After starting with 57 members due for renewal, we ended up dropping just over a dozen from the rolls. Several of those were (or already had) moved out of the area. Thanks to all those that got their renewals submitted and to those that converted to LMT.

Keep an eye out for emails on future events we are supporting and please consider joining the fine group of volunteers working them: the Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, JROTC/ROTC award presentations, the Tut Fann annual BBQ for the Vets and many others.

As always, many thanks to all of you for being members of the **biggest and BEST MOAA Chapter in Alabama!**

Rick

The next member meeting is on 30 April – the guest speaker is MG Vincent Boles, USA (ret)

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Note: National MOAA and the Huntsville Chapter are non-partisan organizations



Legislative Corner

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Federal Legislation:

[The Support Military Families Act](#) (H.R. 977), remains in House committee deliberation. The bill ensures military spouses shall be exempt from requirements to return to full-time in-person work and may engage in telework or remote work making job portability possible when the military member is reassigned.

H.R.1277 — the Promote Military Spouse Act, expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of a qualified military spouse. The WOTC permits employers who hire individuals who are members of a targeted group such as qualified veterans or long-term unemployment recipients to claim a tax credit equal to a portion of the wages paid to those individuals. This bill remains in committee and is one of the 5 MOAA priorities for advocacy action this year.

For the first time ever, the U.S. government will operate on a full year CR which leaves most spending levels at 2024 levels but increases the defense budget by \$6 Billion and reduces non-defense spending by \$13 billion. So-called safety net programs are not changed and, in some cases, there are small increases. Bottom Line: a full year CR hurts DOD planning and operations because CRs delay contracts and grants, delay hiring affecting DOD's ability to provide capabilities in a timely manner and increases bureaucratic workload reducing productivity.

Alabama Legislation:

Note: The Alabama Legislature 2025 session began February 4th and is limited to 30 meeting days (normally 2 each week) in a 105-day period, so it could run until May depending on recesses. We are at the 17th meeting day. The Governor can call a special session but the specific issues to be dealt with have to be listed.

You will see and hear the legislature has passed a slew of bills but many of these only apply to a certain jurisdiction. For example: HB 378 allows the Pickens County Commission to levy a \$10 vehicle registration fee to fund ambulance services. Unless a bill applies statewide or to Madison or Limestone County, I won't mention it.

On 18 March, Gov. Ivey signed SB 67, which reorganizes the chain of command within the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and allows her to appoint the department's commissioner. She immediately selected retired Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Newton to serve as the new Commissioner. Brig. Gen. Newton had been serving as interim commissioner the past six months. SB 67 reforms [the State Board of Veterans Affairs](#) to change the membership and powers of the board. The bill makes the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) an [appointed position by the governor](#) and makes the board an advisory body.

A comprehensive resource center for Alabama veterans approved by Gov. Ivey

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2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

1st Vice President: CW4 Edward J. Banville, USA-Ret, 256-683-4127, ed.banville@hotmail.com

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Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, m.barron468@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vacant

Army Representative: LTC Nicholas M. Mikus, USA-Ret, 256-604-7767, nicholasmikus@comcast.net

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Air Force Representative: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, avatamax@gmail.com

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinsol1976@gmail.com

Programs: COL John Vanderbleek, USA-Ret, 256-893-1565, jvbleek78@gmail.com

Legislative Affairs: COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net

Personal Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

Chapter Hospitality: Vacant

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2026)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2027)

Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net (July 2025)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Garden plants anticipated to arrive by next month. Come by and get yours for best selection! Also, in the garden shop a wide variety of seeds.

New gun counter and on-line sale starts 4 April. Stop by and check out the latest savings.

Don't forget to apply for the AAFES Star card and get at least 10% your first day's purchases with additional per cent off during periodic store specials, an additional 10% off at all food court items always, and as always 5 cents off per gallon (with more during special events) at the gas pumps!

The Exchange Optical Shop has their very popular buy one get one free offer for glasses going on now. Tax season is upon us and the software to make it easier is available at your Exchange! Easter savings are blooming and specials are on! The Main PX has Mother's Day savings on jewelry, clothes, shoes, and other items mom is sure to appreciate! Stop in before Mother's Day (May 9th) and check out the savings! Your Exchange also has a wide assortment of lawn care equipment, chemicals, fertilizer, and patio items all on sale. Come by and check it out!

Check the <https://www.shopmyexchange.com> web site every day for the super daily special. At this site, you can also see the latest specials, weekly sales, and sweepstakes.

Shopette

Be sure to check out the "What's New" section (spirits and wines) and the "Wine of the Month" for special selections and sales! Your Shopette now has an even wider selection of local craft brews!

Woodbridge wines – the official partner of the Alabama Crimson Tide – has a display with wide selections. Next to that check out the Highland Scotch whisky selections.

Also check out the display of limited time specials.

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Need Addresses

We have lost track of the below members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 to update their personal information.

None this month

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 Nicholas M. Mikus
256-604-7767
nicholasmikus@comcast.net

Navy/USMC Representative:
COL Raymond G. Regner
256-851-5903
rgregner58@gmail.com

Air/Space Force Representative:
Col Gerald C. Maxwell
256-606-5282,
avatarmax@gmail.com

Personal Affairs Officer
Lt Col Gerald Haynes
256-882-7857
jerry15@hiwaay.net



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VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
256-715-0094
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Fox Army Health Center
MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret



Learn How TRICARE Covers Laboratory Services and Diagnostic Imaging

[Laboratory services](#) and [diagnostic imaging](#) are vital tools for maintaining your health. These tests can help you and your provider catch potential issues early, before they become serious problems. They can also help you monitor your health, if you have a chronic condition or other existing concern. TRICARE covers many of these services, including some as part of your [preventive health care](#) benefit, as described in Chapter 7, Section 2.1 of the TRICARE Policy Manual. Keep reading to learn more about getting these services with TRICARE.

Why get laboratory tests?

Laboratory tests can reveal important information about your overall health. They can help:

- Detect diseases before symptoms appear
- Monitor existing health conditions
- Check if medications are working properly
- Provide a baseline for future comparisons

Many health conditions don't show symptoms in early stages. Regular laboratory services help identify these hidden problems when they're most treatable.

Which tests are covered?

TRICARE covers some of these tests as part of your preventive health benefit. Some common covered tests include (but aren't limited to):

- [Blood lead testing](#) (for children between 6 months and 6 years old)
- [Cholesterol screening](#)
- [Cardiovascular screening](#)

Has your provider ordered [diagnostic imaging](#)? TRICARE covers many of these services when medically necessary. These include (but aren't limited to):

- [Magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI](#)
- [Computerized tomography, or CT scans](#)
- [X-rays](#) (including portable X-ray services)
- [Bone density studies](#)

Some specialized tests or imaging may require [referrals](#), as detailed in the [TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook](#).

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Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

FAP-1966G-A

2025 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

It's that time again. The golf committee will have its next planning meeting on **9 April**, 12 noon, at the Links. Come early for lunch.

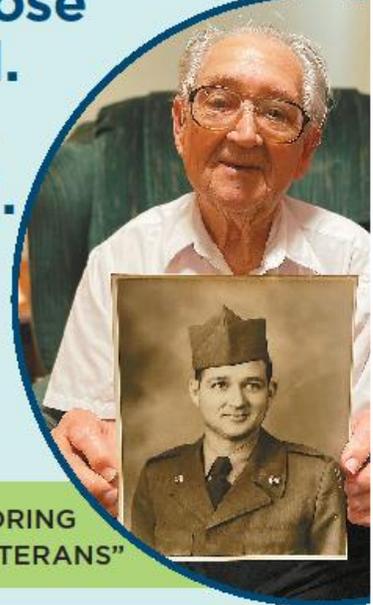
As always, we need volunteers to make the tournament successful.

You don't need to know anything about golf to help.

Some areas where we need volunteers include:

- Contacting local golf courses for donations of free rounds of golf
- Contacting local businesses to be hole sponsors or to donate goods & services
- If you are still working, getting your company to be a sponsor
- Filling one of the numerous staff positions on tournament day
- If a golfer, playing in the tournament & advertising it to others

Choose Well.
Live Well.



"HONORING
our VETERANS"

THERE COMES A POINT

A point to live well, love well, BE well.



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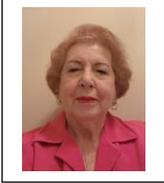
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Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

At the time of publication, no information on the luncheon had been received.
Bonnie Treadway is recovering from surgery.
Please contact Elaine Minor at 256-726-0335 for information regarding the luncheon.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Surviving Spouse Liaison Program

Did you know you don't need to be a surviving spouse to fulfill the responsibilities of a surviving spouse liaison (SSL)? Any member of your chapter — a surviving spouse, a retired, former, or active duty servicemember, or a military spouse — can be the SSL. Key attributes include a sincere desire to be helpful as well as an ability to recognize the impact of what the position entails.

The SSL should have the temperament to keep his or her emotions in check and be able to overcome administrative obstacles. While leadership positions in chapters often change on an annual or biennial basis, due to the development of relationships and the evolving nature of military benefits, a longer tenure can be beneficial for the SSL. (I am starting my seventh year and still learning.)

Here are some additional tips:

Exercise active listening techniques. When asking questions, keep them pertinent and relative. Try to stay on point and ask only questions that need answers. You do not want to probe, but you still need information to prevent being surprised later.

Use checklists. Several checklists are available to assist with your role. Find one with which you are comfortable, and use it consistently. Record the answers and do not rely on memory, because the consequences of forgetting something are too great. Suspense actions that you need to follow up on, and do not miss deadlines. MOAA's [*Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse*](#) publication is a valuable resource.

Know the people who have authority. This can include casualty assistance officers (CAOs), VA veterans service officers, Honor Guard OICs/NCOICs, grief counselors, and Social Security office staff. Visit these individuals, and get to know them on a personable level.

Offer your assistance. When notified of a death, send a sympathy card offering condolences on behalf of the chapter, explain your position as the SSL, and offer to help. If requested, develop an assistance plan, taking into consideration the survivor's schedule, and, make appointments and escort the survivor to the various agencies. For example, when visiting the CAO, it is helpful to have an extra set of ears taking notes, recording suspenses, and ensuring the CAO does not overlook any details. Try to avoid inserting yourself where you are not wanted. Some members have adult children who know everything and really do not want any help. That is OK.

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Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Colossians 3: 15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



Many know the story of The Prodigal Son in the Gospel of Luke. Throughout my life I have always heard about how the younger brother left home, squandered everything, then eventually arrived back home. And when he arrived his Father ran into the fields to meet him, and having a fatted calf killed for a celebration. Yet, we hear very little of the brother who stayed home, yet refused to come in and join the celebration welcoming his brother back. The elder brother showed his disdain with his father, refusing to come into the house.

How did the elder brother become so bitter? He saw his Father give the younger brother his inheritance, then heard that he lost it all, probably doing everything he was taught was wrong. And now the younger brother is ready to step back into the family. How dare he! The elder brother was obedient and stayed home. Do I sense a hint of jealousy? Have you found yourself in the elder brother's shoes, refusing to acknowledge something that you've come to disdain, maybe a missed promotion or maybe a family member who is wandering away? I suspect at some point in your life you have.

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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:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 281
Regular Members: 241
Surviving Spouses: 40

New this month: 2
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals: 0

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

Lt Gen Heath Collins, USAF
CW2 Jennifer Carroll, USA

Recruiting

You are our best recruiter. If you have a friend, colleague or co-worker who is eligible to join MOAA, or who already belongs to MOAA National – bring him/her to a Chapter meeting. You would be doing both them and the Chapter a favor.

Surviving Spouse – continued from page 7

Seek education opportunities. I have treated being the SSL like any other credentialed vocation. It requires continuing education, such as regional workshops, virtual meetings and training sessions, and veterans' resources with information relevant to surviving spouses. I am an active participant on our chapter executive committee. I make short presentations at our chapter meetings where I get to engage our members to emphasize that now is the time to prepare to be a surviving spouse. Once a year, I provide a program at a chapter meeting on a surviving spouse topic.

Most important, remember that the SSL is a meaningful and rewarding position. You are providing a valuable service that is not offered anywhere else. IIII

Commissary/PX – continued from page 3

Commissary

Healthy food at home, travel, or on the go. Then find the salad display in the corner at the back of the commissary. Premixed Dole salad varieties with more than 10 varieties to choose from. Ghee (clarified butter) across from the meat clearance is the new way to cook without the usual grease. Also new – Famous Dave's and Dano's seasonings.

Save time and money with the Commissary Rewards Card! Manufacturers have provided coupons for customers to help make the most of your benefit.

Simply pick up your Rewards Card at any location worldwide and register it on the MyCommissary.com website at the same time when you set up a customer account. Patrons with a Rewards Card already registered are required to set up a customer account and re-register their card through the new customer portal. A few clicks and you will get information on current and upcoming Commissary and AAFES sales. Plus, recipes, contests, and there is an app you can download (Apple and android), that will take you directly to the site. Use the Ibotta and Fetch apps and you will get even more rewards everywhere you shop!

The commissary also has prepacked items you can pay for by the bag and donate in front of the checkout lines to assist those less fortunate. IIII

Governing Board Vacancies

The Chapter has several vacancies on the Governing Board that we are looking to fill with volunteers from the membership. They include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison – responsible for keeping the surviving spouses of the Chapter informed & look out for their welfare – you do not have to be a surviving spouse the serve

Membership Chair – responsible for recruiting and retention of Chapter members – this is a key position

Webmaster – responsible for all aspects of the Chapter website – ideally this would be a member's child or grandchild who is website savvy – this is a key position

Publicity – responsible for advertising Chapter events – primarily the golf tournament

Legislative – continued from page 2

last month is already being eyed for expansion. SB70 established the Alabama Veterans Resource Center, a public corporation that would, in a centralized location, offer comprehensive support services to veterans and their families, including career counseling and job placement, mental health and wellness programs, and assistance with accessing state and federal benefits. Department of Mental Health Commissioner Kim Boswell said talks were already well underway on expanding the resource center under the hub-and-spoke model, where the center would act as a central hub connecting multiple locations across the state.

On 19 March, Gov Ivey signed SB 116 banning Glock “machine gun conversion devices” also known as Glock switches. The devices can modify handguns to fire at rates comparable to a fully automatic weapon. SB 116 was a GOP priority this year and part of Gov. Kay Ivey’s anti-crime legislation package. It’s supported by law enforcement agencies and mayors from around the state.

On 18 March, the Alabama House advanced with little discussion and strong bipartisan support a **four-bill tax cut package**, including a reduction on the state sales tax on groceries, that would represent an annual savings of \$192 million for Alabamians. [HB 386](#) would reduce the state share of the grocery tax from 3% to 2% and has gone to the senate. The four bills include reducing the state’s grocery tax, giving local governments more control over their own grocery tax rates, expanding exemptions for retirement income from \$6,000 to \$12,000 for retirees and increasing tax deductions for low- and middle-income earners.

The bills would replace the 2023 law that removed state income tax from overtime earnings. That exemption dies in June and will be the likely bill payer for the four new tax cuts.

Law Enforcement Package of Bills: A bill expanding legal immunity for law enforcement officers was strengthened and passed in the Alabama House. House Bill 202 would make it harder to sue or prosecute members of law enforcement unless their conduct were overtly reckless or unconstitutional. The bill would establish higher legal standards to bring criminal charges or lawsuits against officers and facilitate the early dismissal of said charges should an officer be found to have been acting within their discretionary authority. “In a criminal case (against an officer), we will pause and allow for a hearing from a judge of that jurisdiction to determine if that officer acted within the scope of his duties,” The bill also outlines when he is reckless and operates outside the scope of his duties.

[SB 115](#) makes impersonating a peace officer a Class C felony. The bill passed 94-0 and goes to Gov. Ivey.

HB 333 allows law enforcement to build indoor firing ranges for training. The bill passed 102-0 and goes to the Senate.

HB 3 which would enhance criminal penalties for undocumented immigrants in cases where there is a minor victim passed out of the House with a vote of 76-3, and 24 abstentions. The bill would mandate what is now a Class B felony would automatically elevate to a Class A felony, should the accused be an undocumented immigrant and the victim of the alleged crime a minor. The bill elevates a misdemeanor charge to a class C felony if the perpetrator is an undocumented immigrant and the victim is a minor. The bill is one of several anti-illegal immigration bills moving through the Legislature. It now goes to the Senate.

SB 156 dubbed **The Second Chance Bill** would allow resentencing hearings for people serving life in prison for nonviolent offenses advanced in the Alabama Senate on 18 March in a rare demonstration of bipartisanship as nationally both Democrats and Republicans push for tough-on-crime policies. The legislation passed 17-8 in the Senate and was endorsed by Gov. Ivey who called it a “common sense reform.” SB 156 would probably affect just 200 of the approximately 20,000 people in Alabama state prisons who were sentenced decades ago under a 1977 habitual offender law that has since been revised.

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



Membership Application or Renewal
 Yes - I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter!

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year \$10*	If New, how did you hear about us? <input type="checkbox"/> MOAA National <input type="checkbox"/> Local event <input type="checkbox"/> Letter / e-mail from HCMOAA <input type="checkbox"/> HCMOAA website <input type="checkbox"/> Friend / acquaintance <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal**	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years \$20	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership***	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years \$30	

*New members joining after September 1st will have their membership paid through following calendar year
 **If renewing just update any address or phone changes, verify e-mail address, and sign the form
 ***Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (age-based)

_____ First Name	_____ MI	_____ Last Name
_____ Preferred Name	_____ Birth Date	_____ Spouse's Name
_____ Grade	_____ Branch of Service	_____ Period(s) of Active Duty (i.e. 1965-1990)

Membership in our MOAA Chapter is not the same as MOAA National membership. At a minimum, FREE "Basic" MOAA National membership is required. If you are not already a National member, we will add you as a Basic member. Again, it's FREE and provides several valuable benefits. Please contact us for more information.

_____ MOAA National Membership Number

<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> NG	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
_____ Mailing Address	_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip		
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail Address	_____ Signature			

Recruiting

You are the best recruiting tool the Chapter has. Tell your eligible friends & associates about our Chapter – the best in Alabama. We have the lowest membership rate in the country at \$10. One can also sign up for multiple years.

Direct questions to MAJ Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 or brobinso1976@gmail.com.

We also offer a Chapter Life Membership – COL John Fairlamb - 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net - has the details.

Spread the word!

Legislative – continued from page 10

[SB 199](#) The Alabama House voted overwhelmingly to adopt a bill Thursday granting paid parental leave to state employees and teachers, sending the bill to Gov. Ivey’s desk for final approval. Under the bill, mothers would be granted eight weeks after the birth of a child, and fathers, two weeks. Teachers and state employees would receive 100% of their base pay while on leave, with the benefit extending to parents adopting a child less than three years old. Gov. Ivey is expected to sign the bill which she mentioned in her state of the state address last month.

[HB 95](#) requires that when a residential property with an HVAC system is sold, the manufacturer’s warranty on the system automatically transfers to the new owner, without any transfer fee, as long as the warranty is still valid. The bill passed 103-0 and goes to the Senate.

[HB 4](#), that would establish Juneteenth as an Alabama state holiday has passed the House. The bill would make Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, an official state holiday on June 19. The bill now goes to the Senate.

[HB 230](#) would require real estate agents to give clients a disclosure form before showing a property to conform with a new national rule and clarify when written agreements are needed between agents and clients. The bill passed 30-0 and goes to Gov. Ivey.

[HB 356](#) increases punishments for making terrorist threats, like school shooting threats, and requires students charged with such crimes to be suspended for a year. The bill passed 101-0 and goes to the Senate.

Will Alabama get a lottery this session? A bill failed by 1 vote last year and this session can go until May. A legislator plans to introduce a bill and hopes to get enough votes to pass.

On 20 March, the Alabama Senate voted unanimously for Senate Bill 252 that prohibits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), third-party groups that negotiate drug prices for insurers and enter into contracts with pharmacies, from paying independent pharmacies less than their costs for medications. Pharmacists testified about losing hundreds of dollars, sometimes thousands, on a single prescription. The bill says PBMs can’t reimburse independent pharmacies less than the amount paid by the Alabama Medicaid Agency that currently includes a \$10.64 per-prescription dispensing fee which is not supposed to be passed on to customers.

While the bill had overwhelming support in the Senate, including 28 co-sponsors, there were some tense discussions on the Senate floor over when the reimbursement rate would be effective. Eventually, the body decided on an Oct. 1 effective date and the proposed law will end in 2027 unless extended by lawmakers at a later date. The amended bill now goes to the House where previous debate sought to make customers pay the PBM surcharges.

Two bills of Governor Ivey’s Safe Alabama package of 8 bills to improve public safety and reduce crime, sailed through the Alabama House. A bill that would authorize the Alabama governor and attorney general to appoint interim police chiefs in cities facing public safety threats has gained support among state lawmakers amid pushback from mayors of some of the state’s largest cities. House Bill 14 was filed last year in response to the struggles of some of Alabama’s major cities to retain and recruit police officers, particularly Montgomery and Birmingham. Montgomery is currently short around 200 officers, and Birmingham more than 220 officers. Those shortages have coincided with rising instances of gun violence. The state is intervening because “anything that happens in a city, if it’s a felony, falls on (state) liability, so we own that person liability-wise until they get off parole, and so the municipalities don’t have any skin in the game. They don’t pay to try them and they don’t pay to house them. So, a lot of times, crime is not that important to them, they’d rather spend money in other parts of their budget.” 



21 Birthdays in April

LCDR Emanuel M Tsikalas, USN
Mrs. Myrna G Griffiths
Mrs. Josephine O Walsh
MAJ Gordon M Brown, USA
COL Herbert M Dixon, USA
Mrs. Terry Cave
1LT William H Redmond, USAR
Mrs. Pattie C Chatfield
Maj Marisha K Findley, USAF
LTC Samuel Scruggs, USA
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA

CPT Stephen E Cecil, USMC
CW4 Christopher R Chance, USA
Lt Col Edward J Gniadek, USAF
MAJ Theron Bowman, USA
LTC Fred Maksimowski Jr, USA
Lt Col David L Dunlap, USAF
CW4 Dennis M Horn, USN
COL Joshua S Kennedy, USA
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA
LTC Michael K Wegler, USA

If we missed your birthday, it's because we don't have it on file. Please e-mail your birth date to MAJ Bruce Robinson at brobinso1976@gmail.com so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

We don't have to be the elder brother, although it will take some work. First, and foremost, we have to trust. We can practice what Paul wrote to the Colossians. We can let peace reign by trusting that when all is done, God will reign. Second, we can practice gratitude. Rather than dwell on the things we are not happy about, we can be gracious for what has been accomplished. Practice trust and gratitude so that you don't become bitter and in turn build a wall between you, your loved ones, and even Jesus.

If you would like to share prayer requests or contact me, I can be reached at MOAChaplain@gmail.com or call/text (334) 467-6860.

Blessings, Dave





TAPS

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the families and friends of:

Col James Stephen Kendall, USAF (Ret) - passed peacefully on March 20, 2025. He was born to Frederick K. Kendall and Sara Pardee Kendall on July 20, 1928 in Wilmington, Delaware. He joined the United States Air Force as an aviation cadet in November, 1949 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in December, 1950. He retired from the Air Force in 1980 after 30 years. He moved from Benton, Louisiana to Madison, Alabama in 2022.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara, his second wife, Harriet, his parents and his daughter, Suzanne Tanner. He is survived by his dear friend, Gwen Gunn, his three daughters and one son: Sally and Ken Lawing of Madison, Alabama, Nancy Gauvin of New Gloucester, Maine, Mary and Steve Cook of Birmingham, Alabama, Mike and Lee Ann Kendall of Dallas, Texas and his son-in-law, Tim Tanner of Danville, Vermont. He is survived by ten grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Most Merciful Jesus Catholic Church on Tuesday, March 25 at 10 A.M.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the physicians, nurses and staff at Huntsville Hospital and Hospice Family Care Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Gone but not forgotten for their dedicated support and service to our Country.

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Fox - continued from page 5

How to view your results

Do you get care at a [military hospital or clinic](#)? You can view your lab results through the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#).

Want to access your test results online? Follow these steps:

- Log in to the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#) using your Common Access Card, DS Logon, or Personal Identity Verification card. 1
- Click the “Health Record” button at the top of the page.
- For lab results, select “Results and Measurements” from the left menu.
- For radiology or pathology results, select “Clinical Reports” from the left menu.
- Choose a report type from the dropdown menu.

Understanding your results

Laboratory and imaging results provide important insights into your health. They may show if you need:

- Additional testing
- Changes to your medications
- Follow-up appointments
- Lifestyle changes

Did you get these tests at a military hospital or clinic? If so, you can use the [secure messaging feature](#) in the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to contact your provider or ask follow-up questions.

Taking charge of your health

By reviewing your test and imaging results, you can:

- Understand trends in your health
- Be better prepared for appointments
- Make informed decisions about your care
- Partner more effectively with your healthcare team

Laboratory services and diagnostic testing are powerful tools for monitoring your overall health. Take advantage of your TRICARE benefit and the convenience of the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to stay on top of your health.

Be sure to ask your provider about which tests may be right for you at your next preventive care visit. Looking for more information about accessing lab results or using the patient portal? Visit [Secure Patient Portal](#). 

The History of Easter

Easter, a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, has roots in the Jewish Passover and evolved from a celebration of the Jewish Passover to a Christian holiday commemorating Jesus's resurrection.

Here's a more detailed look at the history of Easter:

Biblical Foundation:

The New Testament describes Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, which occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover, leading to the Christian celebration of Easter.

Early Christian Observance:

Early Christians, many of whom were Jewish, initially celebrated the resurrection as a new facet of the Passover festival, with the celebration initially called Pascha, the Greek word for Passover.

The Council of Nicaea:

In 325 AD, Emperor Constantine convened the Council of Nicaea, which resolved that Easter should be celebrated on a Sunday, not on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, as some early Christians had done.

Pagan Influences:

Easter's name, "Easter," is believed to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, associated with spring and fertility, and some Easter traditions, like eggs and bunnies, may have roots in pagan spring festivals.

Evolution of Traditions:

Over time, Easter traditions evolved, with the celebration of Jesus's resurrection becoming central to the Christian faith.

Lent:

Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance, leading up to the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday.

Easter Eggs and the Easter Bunny:

Eggs and rabbits are symbols of new life and rebirth, and are thought to have been incorporated into Easter celebrations from ancient pagan traditions.

Modern Observances:

Today, Easter is celebrated with church services, family gatherings, and various traditions like egg hunts and the Easter bunny, all rooted in the Christian celebration of Jesus's resurrection.



Membership Meeting
30 April 2025
Summit Club
1030 – Meet & Greet
1100 - Lunch

Guest Speaker: Major General Vincent E. Boles, USA (Ret)

Maj. Gen. Boles was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps in 1976 upon graduation from Niagara University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He also earned a Master in Business Administration degree from Babson College, Massachusetts. His military education includes Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Organizational Effectiveness Course, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and United States Army War College.

His commands include Commander, 530th & 514th Maintenance Companies, 544th Maintenance Battalion, 194th Armored Brigade, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Commander, 701st Main Support Battalion, Division Support Command, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Riley, Kansas; Commander, Division Support Command, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Texas; Commanding General, United States Army Field Support Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois; Commanding General, United States Army Field Support Command, with duty as Commander, Army Materiel Command - Southwest Asia/Deputy C-4, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Most recently MG Boles served as the Commanding General, 3d Corps Support Command, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. Maj. Gen. Boles became the 33rd Chief of Ordnance for the US Army on 10 September 2004. His special focus in this assignment was in exploiting the emerging lessons being learned in the Global War on Terror Operations and embedding them in training programs.

Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles reported for his last assignment as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 in the Pentagon on October 30 2006. In this position he was responsible for the oversight of Army Logistics Operations and Readiness, Force Deployment and Distribution and Logistics Strategy and Integration.

Maj. Gen. Boles' awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

When he retired in 2009, Maj. Gen. Boles embarked on a new vocation as a speaker, teacher, consultant, corporate board member, and executive coach, sharing the lessons he learned while leading one of the most important and complex supply chains in the world.

Menu: Pulled Pork, Baked Chicken, Green Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Peach Cobbler, Cornbread, Iced Tea, Iced Water, Coffee

Cost: \$20 for Chapter members and families; \$25 for non-members / guests – pay at the door – cash or check only. **Exact change is appreciated.**

RSVP: COL John Vanderbleek, 256-893-1565, jvbleek78@gmail.com NLT 25 April 2025.

Chapter Happenings – March Member Meeting



Chapter 1st VP Ed Banville and President Rick West display the Quilt of Valor that Ed was awarded in March by the Quilt of Valor Foundation



Officers from the Military & Civilians Club receive a check for \$18,000 from Chapter President Rick West – for Merit Awards



Madison County Sheriff Kevin Turner addresses the membership



Sheriff Turner receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President Rick West

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

- Promote the aims of the national MOAA organization
- Further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA through grassroots activity
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services
- Maintain liaison and a positive relationship with the Redstone Arsenal Garrison and other military commands in the Northern Alabama area
- Provide a social venue for members to meet periodically and enjoy fellowship with people of similar interests and backgrounds
- Promote and assist worthy community activities
- Provide useful services and information for members and their dependents and survivors
- Provide representation to the Alabama Council of Chapters of MOAA
- Provide representation to the Northern Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition
- Protect the rights and interests of service retirees and active-duty military members in matters of state legislation through the Alabama Council of Chapters

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have over 300 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

- Partnership with Redstone Arsenal agencies – Fox Army Health Clinic, Army Community Service, MWR, PX/Commissary, Military Retiree Council
- Membership in the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) – plugged in to the larger Veterans associations “big picture”
- Recognizing leadership – JROTC/ROTC awards and “gold bar” ceremonies
- Recognizing potential – Scholarship Awards program with the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club
- Community service/relations – annual Tut Fann Veterans Home BBQ, Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony, Veterans Day parade and events, Retiree Appreciation Day
- Camaraderie – Monthly meetings & breakfasts, parties, golf tournament
- Information – Monthly newsletter, web site, Personal Affairs, guest speakers
- Legislative action – grassroots activities, support for National MOAA agenda
- Venue for getting involved

Please visit our award-winning chapter website at <http://huntsvillemoaa.org> where you can find out more about chapter activities.

Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our nearly 300 members each month. All they can say is “no”.

If they are interested or desire more information, please let Bruce Robinson know, and he will follow up with them. His contact information is brobinso1976@gmail.com or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in April

- 1 April – April Fool’s Day
- 2 April – Ponce de Leon discovered Florida (1513)
- 2 April – The first US Mint was established in Philadelphia (1792)
- 3 April – Pony Express service established (1860)
- 3 April – Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces (1865)
- 4 April – Dr. Martin Luther King assassinated (1968)
- 6 April – US entered World War I (1917)
- 9 April – The Civil War ended (1865)
- 9 April – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 10 April – Bataan death march began (1942)
- 10 April – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 – Java Café**
- 11 April – Civil Rights Act signed into law (1968)
- 11 April – Apollo 13 launched (1970)
- 12 April – The Civil War began (1861)
- 12 April – President Franklin Roosevelt died (1945)
- 12 April - Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space (1961.)
- 12 April – First space shuttle flight occurred - *Columbia* (1981)
- 12 April – Monthly Breakfast – 0900 – City Café Diner**
- 14 April – President Abraham Lincoln shot & mortally wounded (1865)
- 15 April – The *Titanic* sank, killing over 1500 people (1912)
- 18 April – The midnight ride of Paul Revere (1775)
- 18 April – The San Francisco earthquake, killing over 4000 people (1906)
- 18 April – Jimmy Doolittle’s air raid on Tokyo (1942)
- 19 April – The Oklahoma City bombing, killing 168 people (1995)
- 20 April – Easter Sunday
- 20 April – Columbine High School shooting (1999)
- 21 April – The Red Baron Manfred von Richtofen was shot down & killed (1918)
- 22 April – Earth Day
- 24 April – Library of Congress established (1800)
- 26 April – Chernobyl nuclear accident (1986)
- 26 April – Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa (1994)
- 28 April – Mutiny on the *Bounty* (1789)
- 30 April - Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club – 1100**

