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August 2022



Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings all! Welcome to another great newsletter!

Welcome to August and the resumption of our monthly Chapter membership meetings!

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** at the Summit Club. The meeting will start with meet and greet at 1030 and lunch / business meeting / guest speaker starting at 1100. Thanks to a lot of help from member Ed Banville, our guest speaker this month will be Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. With all the changes in the Tennessee Valley since we last saw Mayor Battle, this should be a very interesting meeting. The menu will be a small German buffet. **Please RSVP to me ASAP at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net) or 256.776.6901** – let's have a huge turnout for the Mayor!

Although there wasn't a meeting in July, it was a very busy month! The Golf Tournament committee and others have been very busy working donations and sponsors for the event. Our **2022 Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **September 9<sup>th</sup>** with a 0830 shotgun start. Our next golf committee meeting is Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1200 at the Weeden Grill at The Links. We welcome any and all help – come early and enjoy some lunch!

Speaking of the Scholarship Fund, there are always two ways for all of you to participate:

- **Participate in our annual golf tournament** as a player, sponsor, or golf committee volunteer. You can help obtain donations and/or sponsors – contact me or Bruce Robinson if you have any questions or need any help.
- Make a direct donation. Any amount - \$10 or \$10,000 (wouldn't that be something?)...See page 10 for details. If you can't help with the tournament, and I know many of you understandably can't, **we could really use the donations!** Some great ones from some great members have started to trickle in...

Stay safe, stay hydrated, and enjoy some outdoor time!

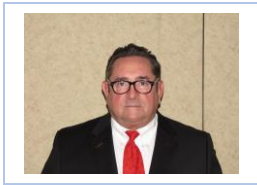
Rick

**Member Meeting is 31 August – Guest speaker is  
Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle**

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



## Legislative Corner

### Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take  
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

Retirees living overseas may continue using their APO and FPO addresses for at least a little longer, following the Military Postal Service Agency’s decision to halt a move that would have taken away their mailboxes next month. The postal agency rescinded an announcement it made in June, saying it would end services for certain categories of customers beginning 24 August 2022, Installation Management Command-Europe. Another announcement about authorized customers is expected within the next six months, IMCOM-Europe spokesman Mark Heeter said, citing information given to his office by the Military Postal Service Agency, which is an extension of the U.S. Postal Service.

Tens of thousands of U.S. military retirees lived overseas as of 2020, according to a DOD retirement report in 2021. Roughly 12,500 retirees live in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. Germany hosts 7,366 retirees, followed by 3,354 in the Philippines. Japan and South Korea have 3,196 and 1,677 retirees, respectively. The military postal system delivers mail and packages overseas to service members, DOD civilians, contractors and their families, while charging domestic postal rates.

On Saturday 25 June 2022, President Joe Biden signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous. It also will help bolster mental health programs.

### Highlights from the House Subcommittee’s Markups for the 2023 NDAA

The House Armed Services subcommittees have completed their work on the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – annual legislation addressing all manner of defense-related topics, including several of MOAA’s legislative priorities. Work on the bill continues the Senate, and reconciliation in full committees of the House and Senate is pending. The subcommittee markups and hearings are good indicators of what the final NDAA likely will include. The following are some highlights from the House subcommittees:

### End Strength

Service chiefs have described a very challenging recruiting and retention

*Continued on page 9*

## 2022-2023 GOVERNING BOARD

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

1st Vice President: Vacant

2nd Vice President: COL Gene Lesinski, USA-Ret, 845-725-3677, [gene.lesinski@gmail.com](mailto:gene.lesinski@gmail.com)

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, [mbarron468@gmail.com](mailto:mbarron468@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, [ctcbama76@gmail.com](mailto:ctcbama76@gmail.com)

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, [jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, [raymond.regner@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.regner@gmail.com)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Immediate Past President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov](mailto:gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov)

Second Past President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, [ctcbama76@gmail.com](mailto:ctcbama76@gmail.com)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership (Acting): MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinsol1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinsol1976@gmail.com)

Programs: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, [ctcbama76@gmail.com](mailto:ctcbama76@gmail.com)

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

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

Constitution and By-Laws: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

Chapter Chaplain: CH (LTC) Bert E. Wiggers, AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, [chbwig@gmail.com](mailto:chbwig@gmail.com)

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

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### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, [fairlambjrf@comcast.net](mailto:fairlambjrf@comcast.net) (June 2023)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, [monte.washburn@heartlandits.com](mailto:monte.washburn@heartlandits.com) (June 2024)

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



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



**Main Exchange**

The Exchange offers upcoming specials on mattresses, TV's, exercise equipment, appliances, home, kitchen and maintenance items. Don't forget, you can save even more by signing up for the Exchange STAR card! You can apply for the STAR card and wait to use it after it arrives. The first day you use it – ALL your purchases are at least (sometime more during a promotion) 10% off on your bill! Plus, every time you use the STAR card for gas at the PX, save five cents per gallon and you always get 10% off at the food court! Plus, there are specials throughout the year when you use your STAR card. Check out the clearance items in each depart of your Exchange and the table by Customer Service.

Remember - formerly serving military can shop online (although not in store) at the Exchange! All veterans are being encouraged to confirm veteran eligibility status at <https://www.vetverify.org>.

The Exchange values your opinion! Every month, check out the online sweepstakes! Please take a moment to tell them how they are doing. Please take our survey at [www.ExchangeCustomerSurvey.com](http://www.ExchangeCustomerSurvey.com). Take the survey and log in to register for a chance to win Sweepstakes Prizes.

Also, check out your Exchange on Facebook! There is a FREE Friday drawing you can enter! Plus, check out the DEAL of the DAY every day at [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com)

For those who missed the sales tax holiday – don't worry! Your Exchange ALWAYS has no tax! Plus mark your calendars for the end of February 2023 – Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday!

**Shopette**

Sadly, no tent sales for the foreseeable future.

As always save 10% on wine (wine 6 bottles or more; however, spirits/liquor is no longer on case sale). The first day savings when you use your STAR card is also good at your Shopette. Whenever you use your STAR card, you always get 5 cents off per gallon!

Make it a movie night by using the Red Box app (plus get coupons) to reserve a movie at the Shopette.

**Commissary**

On my recent visit – almost no fresh chicken, salads, or frozen breakfast items. Hopefully soon to be rectified.

*Continued on page 11*

**Need Addresses**

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

**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:  
**COL James D. Treadway**  
256-859-1484  
[jtreadway51@mchs-i.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchs-i.com)

Navy/USMC Representative:  
**COL Raymond G. Regner**  
256-851-5903,  
[raymond.regner@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.regner@gmail.com)

Air/Space Force Representative:  
**Col Edward L. Uher**  
256-882-6824,  
[biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Personal Affairs Officer  
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256-882-7857  
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**CONTACT:**

**GERMI CLOUD,**

NSSA, CRPC

VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR

**256-715-0094**

[germi@cloudfinancial.com](mailto:germi@cloudfinancial.com)



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Huntsville, AL 35801

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## **Fox Army Health Center**

### **MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret**



### **Military Health Care**

More than 155,000 military family members and retirees will be moved from the military hospital system to civilian health providers starting later this year, a process expected to last through mid-2026, according to a new Defense Department report. Under a revised plan, however, at least 29 facilities that were slated to serve only active-duty patients may still see some active-duty family members to sustain their staffs' clinical skills. In a report sent to Congress on July 1, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gil Cisneros said that the number of facilities scheduled for downsizing has changed and active-duty family members might be kept in the military system, depending on location and training needs.

The plan gives 29 clinics the option of keeping some active-duty family members "as appropriate for provider skill sustainment." The facilities will "generally transition non-active-duty Service member Primary Care to the purchased care component of the Tricare program," including the provider network and those in Tricare for Life, the defense health program that serves as a wraparound for Medicare, according to the report to the congressional defense committees. But unlike the original recommendations, all 29 will "enroll active-duty family members as appropriate."

The changes are part of an effort that began in 2017 to reform the military health system to slow the rising cost of health care, sending more patients to the private sector, paid for by Tricare, and focusing military providers mainly on active-duty personnel and training. The DoD process called for downsizing or closing dozens of hospitals and clinics. In the revised plan, developed after studying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health system and the availability of care in communities near military bases, three clinics will be spared from downsizing or becoming military-only facilities: Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center at Fort Meade, Maryland, and Joel and Robinson Clinics at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Kimbrough was slated to transition to an outpatient-only clinic that served all beneficiaries, while the Joel and Robinson clinics were to transition to active-duty only facilities. But the review determined that Kimbrough is a vital part of the military health system in the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C., while changes at Fort Bragg made by the Army improved the efficiency and service of the clinics to military families, resulting in their preservation. Two facilities will still close, Community Based Medical Home Columbus Georgia and the Air Force's Sabal Park Clinic in Brandon, Florida.

In Columbus, patients will have the option of enrolling with Martin Army Community Hospital on a space-available basis or use Tricare. In Brandon, all patients will transition to Tricare. One clinic, at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut, will continue serving active-duty troops and active-duty family members, but no retirees. Since the effort began, 12 facilities have transitioned to active-duty only clinics or have closed.

Reforms have been underway within the military health system since 2013, when the Pentagon established the Defense Health Agency to assume duties such as medical administration, IT, logistics and training that existed in triplicate under the separate Army, Navy and Air Force medical commands. In 2017, Congress gave the DHA broad authority to reevaluate the scope of its facilities and how the DoD serves Tricare beneficiaries who aren't in the military, such as family members and retirees. The services became responsible mainly for military operational medicine and maintaining combat-ready medical forces. "The purpose of this program is to increase the readiness

*Continued on page 12*

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## **Surviving Spouse's Luncheon**

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

I hope everyone had a nice summer break. Our luncheons will resume. We will meet on 18 August at 11 AM at Betty Mae's Restaurant, 2007 N. Memorial Parkway (corner of Oakwood). Phone 256-533-2188. Everyone will be called.

## **Surviving Spouse Corner: Get Involved in MOAA's Advocacy Efforts**

This spring, MOAA members contacted all 535 members of Congress during the association's annual Advocacy in Action event, conducting more than 235 meetings and sending over 7,500 letters. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of security on Capitol Hill, MOAA members met with their elected officials either in face-to-face or virtual meetings.

MOAA's three legislative priorities were supporting the Major Richard Star Act, supporting the Stop Copay Overpay Act; and ensuring a competitive military pay raise.

Why get involved with Advocacy in Action? Volunteers are well trained to understand the process of setting up meetings and communicating with elected officials as well as having a better understanding of legislation. In addition, participation cultivates relationships with staffers and members of Congress from your district and state. The experience you gain is beneficial to help support other legislation as a constituent or with a group to help improve survivor benefits.

Military survivors are the stakeholders to the legislation at large. Congress continuously adjusts military survivor benefits. It is important surviving spouse members exercise their rights to educate staffers and members of Congress and remain vigilant to protect and improve survivor benefits. MOAA headquarters' staff does an outstanding job educating members so they can participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

Here are some ways to contribute and keep MOAA's priorities on Congress' radar:

- Send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill using MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).
- Call elected officials using MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 1-866-272-6622.
- Engage with congressional members via social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Stay current with MOAA's legislative efforts and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*. Check your MOAA's newsletter subscription preferences [at this link](#).
- Customize your letters and conversations with elected officials; embed a personal story.

Congress will act only if they are inspired by their voters. Join MOAA's effort to help improve benefits for military, veterans, retirees, family, and survivors.



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

**Death Is Checking Out of  
a Temporary Hotel**

The Roman Cicero lived before Christ. Cicero was a respected orator and politician. Without the insight of Christ's revelation, he said something very important concerning life and death:

"I am sure that my friends who died before me did not cease to live. In reality, only their present state can be called life. I believe this because I am duty bound to do so by my logic and because of my respect for greatest philosopher of the past. I consider this world as a place which was never meant to be our abode forever. I never considered my departure from this world as being chased out of my permanent residence, but rather as a checking out from a temporary abode such as a hotel or an inn."

Jesus said: "...I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25, 26).



**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: 313  
Regular Members: 262  
Surviving Spouses: 51

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

**Welcome New Members to  
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

**None this month**

**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.

environment where the propensity to serve is in decline and only 23% of 18-to-21-year-olds can meet the physical and mental standards for service. The markup by the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel recommends the following active-duty personnel authorizations for FY 2023 – all down from the previous year except for the Navy and new Space Force.

- Army: 473,000, down from 485,000.
- Navy: 348,220, up from 346,920. (The president's budget called for reduction to 346,300),
- Air Force: 323,400, down from 329,220.
- Marine Corps: 177,000, down from 178,500.
- Space Force: 8,600, up from 8,400.

### **Pay Raise**

The personnel subcommittee's markup includes a 4.6% military pay raise, in line with the Employment Cost Index (ECI). This should be seen as the minimum relative to the statute; MOAA has heard concerns from both House and Senate leaders that 4.6% may not be enough. MOAA has proposed including the 2.6% pay raise residual gap from 2014 through 2016 to boost the annual pay to 7.2%. We will continue to monitor the House and Senate to see if they will do more for our eight uniformed services. The bill also requires the secretary of defense to do a thorough assessment on military pay and compensation programs.

### **Military Health Care**

As part of its continued oversight of the military health system, the personnel subcommittee recommends a three-year extension to the limitation of reductions and realignment of military medical personnel and a report on military medical workforce requirement, progress on filling persistent vacancies and the feasibility of increasing civilian positions to address shortages. The markup also includes several provisions to address mental health access challenges, including increased opportunities to grow the number of mental health professionals and expanded license portability for providers delivering nonmedical counseling, as well as requiring the Government Accountability Office to review TRICARE's alignment with mental health parity laws.

### **Military Housing**

Calculation methods for the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) have proven unable to keep pace with the housing market, both for homeowners and renters, especially in the wake of the pandemic. This year's mark requires DoD to report on the efficiency and accuracy of the current system used to calculate BAH. A separate report is required to study barriers to homeownership for servicemembers, including down payments, concerns about home maintenance, and challenges selling a home.

### **Spouse Employment**

As military spouse unemployment continues to hover in the 22% to 24% range, entrepreneurship remains a transportable option, allowing spouses to keep a career on the move. This year's NDAA introduces an expansion of the licensure reimbursement program to include expenses associated with business licenses and business-related fees incurred during PCS moves. The mark also directs DoD to convene a roundtable of private entities to discuss issues and barriers to hiring military spouses, as well as language to standardize performance measures of the Military Spouse Employment Partnership program.

### **Child Care**

Finding affordable, accessible childcare is a nationwide issue, and for military families, it's exacerbated by frequent moves. This year's mark directs the secretary of defense to conduct a study to determine if compensation for DoD and Coast Guard child development center employees is competitive with similarly trained and qualified public elementary school employees for areas with long waiting lists.



## **HCMOAA Treasurer's Report June 2022**

**Submitted by Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF (Ret.)**

1. The June 2022 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$16,677.41	\$16,523.40
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.14
Expenses	\$ 767.44	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$15,909.97	\$16,523.54

3. Notable income: None

4. Notable expenses: Payment for the May luncheon and the dinner at the US Army birthday celebration.

5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$2,403.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019/2021/2022 donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

### **Scholarship Fund Donations**

The Chapter has an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the RSA Military & Civilians' Club, we issue scholarships each year to deserving students. Please consider donating to our program. Contact the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund Treasurer, Rick West, at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net) or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible due to 501(c)(3) status. **100% of all donations go toward scholarships.**

Note: The below amounts reflect only donations directly to the fund. Golf Tournament monies are tracked separately and presented to the membership following the tournament.

Total received for July – All “Anonymous”:	\$650.00
Total received CY22:	<b>\$650.00</b>





Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1301 - Huntsville, AL 35807  
[www.huntsvillemoaa.org](http://www.huntsvillemoaa.org)



### Membership Application or Renewal

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

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

\*New members joining after September 1<sup>st</sup> 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

_____ Active	_____ Retired	_____ NG	_____ Former Officer	_____ Reserve	_____ Surviving Spouse
_____ Mailing Address	_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip		
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail Address	_____ Signature			

#### *PX/Commissary – continued from page 3*

Feds Feeds Families continues - at the entrance of your Commissary you will find an opportunity to give back to your community. Pre-packaged bags for the Feds Feeds Families food drive. A wide variety of items bagged and convenient. Also check out the International Aisle with foods and treats from all over the world.

August has kids and college students back in school. Stop by your commissary for school snacks and to fill the home or dorm refrigerator. Also, while entering the Commissary check out the table of coupons and sales flyers – you will find several coupons covering those school necessities!

Also remember to get your commissary rewards card. Commissary Rewards Card is a medium that military personnel and their families can use to pre-load digital coupons for use at their commissary grocer. Customers must visit the Commissary website beforehand to download, or "clip", their desired promotions. Follow the commissary on Facebook or on Twitter @YourCommissary. 

of military medical staff by allowing them to be concentrated at medical platforms that have the volume and complexity of medical cases required to maintain medical skills," the report noted.

Congress has 180 days to examine the proposal, which the Defense Department will begin implementing at the **start of fiscal 2023**, which begins in October, according to the report. Members of Congress have expressed concerns that some areas lack the capacity to accept new patients into the community. Most recently, Rep. Greg (R-NC) wrote Defense Health Agency Director Lt. Gen. Ronald Place asking him to ensure that military personnel and dependents had access to timely appointment and care, including obstetrics care. Military physicians and spouses reported missing appointments and waiting weeks for pregnancy care as the result of a shortage of providers. "This issue may not be just one that my district is experiencing but may be systemic to all military hospitals due to reforms DHA is leading to cut costs," Murphy wrote April 6.

In their report to Congress, Defense officials said network assessments have determined that there were at least enough network primary care managers to absorb 120% of patients expected to transition. According to the report, the military treatment facilities will continue to care for patients until they have a primary care manager. Those who are in a case management program will be reviewed for remaining in the program and continue in the program or transition to private care. And those with complex medical needs who transition will receive a "warm hand off" with their new primary manager "The MHS' commitment to beneficiaries' health care is not changing. While the location where care is received may change, access to quality health care will be provided," the report noted.


As a result of the post-pandemic review, the following changes have been made, including clinics that will be closed to retirees and their family members but will retain the option to treat active-duty family members:

- Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas
- Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana
- Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- Dover Air Force Base, Delaware
- Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts
- MacDill Air Force Base, Florida
- Robins Air Force Base, Georgia
- Dyess Air Force Base, Texas
- Patrick Space Force Base, Florida
- Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
- Navy Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey, Colts Neck Earle clinic
- Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, New Hampshire, outpatient clinic
- Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Tennessee, outpatient clinic
- Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas
- Naval Air Station Belle Chasse, Louisiana, outpatient clinic
- Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Virginia, Naval Branch Health Clinic Dahlgren
- Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland, outpatient clinic
- Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, Naval Health Clinic New England
- Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Georgia, Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany

*Continued on next page*

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- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Kirk Army Health outpatient clinic
- Redstone Arsenal, Alabama
- Fort Detrick, Maryland, Barquist outpatient clinic
- Rock Island Arsenal
- Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), Miami, Florida, Gordon outpatient clinic
- Fort Lee, Virginia, Kenner-Lee outpatient clinic
- Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, outpatient clinic
- Naval Technical Training Center Meridian, Mississippi, outpatient clinic

Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut, Naval Branch Health Clinic Groton may continue to see active-duty families. Facilities that will retain current functions are Fort Meade, Maryland, Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center and Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Joel and Robinson Clinic. Facilities that will close completely to all users are MacDill Air Force Base's and Fort Benning, Georgia, North Columbus-Benning clinic. Two facilities are slated to receive upgrades, but those have been deferred, according to the report. They include Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. 

## Humor

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa, taking her poodle along for company. One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a hungry-looking leopard heading rapidly in his direction. The poodle thinks, "Oh, oh!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap, the poodle exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the leopard halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!", said the leopard, "That was close! That poodle nearly had me!" Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So off he goes, but the poodle sees him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figures that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, monkey, hop on my back so you can watch me chew that poodle to bits!"

Now, the poodle sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?", but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and waits until they get just close enough to hear. "Where's that damn monkey?" the poodle says, "I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

A police officer sees a man driving around with a pickup truck full of penguins. He pulls the guy over and says: "You can't drive around with penguins in this town! Take them to the zoo immediately." The guy says OK, and drives away. The next day, the officer sees the guy still driving around with the truck full of penguins, and they're all wearing sunglasses. He pulls the guy over and demands: "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday?" The guy replies: "I did . . . today I'm taking them to the beach!"



**Membership Meeting**  
**31 August 2022**  
**1100 – Summit Club**

**Guest Speaker: Honorable Tommy Battle**  
**Mayor, City of Huntsville, AL**

Elected in August 2020 to a fourth term, Mayor Tommy Battle is dedicated to creating jobs and diversifying Huntsville's economic base. Through his leadership, the Mayor has assembled a coalition of regional leaders committed to recruiting industry, workforce development and high quality education. As a result, Huntsville leads the state in new jobs and economic investment.

The Mayor's goal is to make the best possible use of Huntsville's collective brainpower to ensure that the City becomes a global leader in innovation, research and development. GEO, Cyber, Energy and Biotech initiatives work to unite the City's rich intellectual capital with new opportunities.

Mayor Battle believes Huntsville's continued success is a result of its ability to think strategically for the long-term. He directed the City's planning department to enjoin the community in a comprehensive master plan that will shape the city's future for decades to come. The BIG Picture is tackling planning and quality of life decisions regarding neighborhood revitalization, urban redevelopment, recreation, transportation, design standards, and code and zoning changes.

The Mayor works for smart, measured growth with an infrastructure that allows citizens to maintain a high quality of life. When state and federal transportation budgets were cut, Battle negotiated an unprecedented \$250 million, five-year, cost-sharing road package with the State to ensure Huntsville would build the critical roads it needs to move traffic.

A champion of teamwork, Battle strives to work collaboratively with leadership and citizens. Through the Mayor's fiscally conservative leadership, the City has maintained a balanced budget and earned triple-A credit ratings from two leading rating agencies every year since 2009. Triple A credit is a distinction held by a small percentage of municipalities in the U.S. As a result, Huntsville is in an enviable position of stability and growth that has earned it global attention.

Born in Birmingham in 1955, Mayor Battle moved to Huntsville in 1980 after receiving a business degree from The University of Alabama. Four years later, he was elected to the Huntsville City Council, where he served as Finance Chair. 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 Huntsville's future.

The Mayor was married to the late Eula Sammons Battle, a retired kindergarten teacher and co-founder of Free 2 Teach. They have one son, Drew, daughter-in-law, Lauren, and two grandsons, George and Benjamin.

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**Menu:** Chicken Schnitzel (with Jaeger sauce), Bratwurst, German Pan-Fried Potatoes, Red Cabbage, German Chocolate Layer Cake, Cucumber Salad, Broetchen with Butter, Iced Tea, Iced Water, and 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:** CAPT Rick West, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net), NLT 26 August 2022

## Chapter Elections

It's that time again. The Chapter will hold an election for Chapter officers in the coming months. The positions are:

President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
The three Service Representatives

If you are interested in holding one of these positions, or know someone who might be, please contact a board member.

## Scholarship Golf Tournament

Our annual fundraising golf tournament for 2022 is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Links at Redstone.

The Chapter's Golf Committee will hold its planning meetings on Wednesday, 10, 17 & 24 August, at 1200. They will take place at the Weeden Grill at the Golf Course over lunch.

The Golf Committee needs volunteers to make the tournament a success. You don't need to know anything about golf to help out.

Areas where you can help include:

- Corporate sponsorships
- Soliciting items for the silent auction & door prizes
- Soliciting rounds of golf from local courses
- Advertising the tournament
- Signing up golfers
- Helping staff the tournament – registration, silent auction, photography, manning prize holes, placing hole signs, and more

If you would like to join the Committee, or just find out more, contact Bruce Robinson at 256-425-0525 or [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)



**SUPER SIGN UP**  
AT THE OVERLOOK

**AUGUST 16TH**

**10 TO 2**

**R.S.A.M.C.C.**  
MEMBERSHIP & ACTIVITIES SIGN UP EVENT

GOOD DEEDS  
GOOD TIMES  
GOOD FRIENDS

WE'LL BE THERE FOR YOU!  
RSAMCC.ORG

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS  
SHOP WITH OUR VENDORS  
SEE NEW & OLD FRIENDS

Redstone Arsenal Military & Civilians' Club membership is Open to Active/Retired Military, Gov. Contractors, Gold Star Families & Dependents 18 or older with arsenal gate access

The Overlook is located at 150 Golf Course Rd., Redstone Arsenal

Redstone Arsenal Military & Civilians' Club (RSAMCC) is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(4) service organization. RSAMCC is not affiliated with the U.S. Army or Redstone Arsenal.



## 29 Birthdays in August

Mrs. Carrie V Hightower  
MAJ John V Yelverton, USA  
Mrs. Judith McKinley Jr  
Col Frederick J Driesbach, USAF  
COL William A Holbrook, USA  
COL Michael C Barron, USA  
Col William D McKinney, USAF  
COL William J Roberts, USA  
LTC David A Diehl, USA  
Mrs. Jane L Berg  
LTC Norman P Hopkins, USA  
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA  
LTC Christopher R Stewart, USA  
COL Ronald N Funderburk, USA  
MAJ Raymond L Springsteen, USA

Mr. Alvin M Jupiter  
COL John D Rivenburgh, USA  
Lt Col Ronald G Harvey, USAF  
MAJ Warner A Davis, USA  
COL Joseph Goss Jr, USA  
COL Mary O Drayton, USA  
Mrs. Carol H Freyder  
COL Gene Lesinski, USA  
COL Thomas A Sharp, USA  
COL Ronald C Crowley, USA  
LTC Richard A Carter, USA  
CPT Camden J Kent Jr, USA  
Capt William L Jackson, USMC  
COL Arthur S Irish, 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](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com) so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

## Governing Board Vacancies

The chapter either has, or will have, vacancies in several governing board positions. We need some dedicated volunteers to fill these positions and help the leadership team keep the chapter vibrant. Brief descriptions of the positions follow. If you think you may be able to fill one of the vacancies, or desire additional information, contact any board member.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** An important position. The 1<sup>st</sup> VP fills in for the President in his absence. He also supervises & assists the other board members & committees with their duties.

**Membership:** A key position. The chair maintains a roster of chapter members & keeps it in synch with MOAA National's online roster. Responsible for recruiting & retention of members.

**Webmaster:** Maintains the chapter's website & keeps it current. You can be as creative as you want. The position could be filled by a spouse, child or grandchild of a member.

**Chaplain:** Provides spiritual support to members in need. Provides prayers at chapter meetings. Provides a monthly newsletter article. You need not be a military chaplain or any type of priest or minister to fill the position.



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

**TAPS**

**Mrs. Marion Snow Certain** of Little Rock, Arkansas

*Gone but not forgotten for their dedicated support and service to our Country.  
We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.*



*Legislative – continued from page 9*

### **Military Hunger Prevention**

The FY 2022 NDAA established the Basic Needs Allowance, which provides financial assistance to military families who fall below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines based on household size, to help combat food insecurity faced by thousands of junior enlisted families. However, the final NDAA language allowed the service secretaries to determine whether BAH should be included in the calculation of gross household income. This year's mark includes a provision to exclude BAH from the calculation for all.

### **Suicide Prevention**

Suicide rates across the DoD continue to rise at an alarming rate. A shortage of personnel from reductions to end strength will likely exacerbate the problem where troops must do more with less. To help combat these concerns, the House personnel subcommittee included authorization for two weeks of temporary duty (TDY) each year for wellness to attend a seminar or retreat, including outdoor events with nonprofit organizations to improve resilience and psychological wellness.

The June 2022 CPI-W is 292.542, 9.0 percent above the FY 2022 **COLA baseline**. The Consumer Price Index for July 2022 is scheduled to be released August 10. The CPI-W baseline for FY 2022 is 268.421.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. Please read the article entitled Senators Vow to Block VA's Hospital Closure Commission. 

## **ID Card Update: New Deadline for Some Military Retirees, Dependents**

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department.

There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026, Maj. Charlie Dietz, a spokesman, told Military.com.

In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update all those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit delays caused by the pandemic.

"DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all existing cards with an actual expiration date will have expired," Dietz wrote in an email. "After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access."

The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various [military benefits](#), so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates.

Those with cards with no expiration dates "may have the card replaced at their convenience," according to Dietz. The department recommends they go to [the ID Card Office Online](#) and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment.

Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and [Medal of Honor](#) recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards. A description of the new cards and a complete list of who is eligible [can be found here](#).

At the onset of the pandemic in April 2020, the Defense Department [extended the deadlines for replacing expiring cards](#) in an attempt to keep the military community from gathering in issuance offices and spreading COVID-19. By February 2021, [more than 200,000 of the new IDs](#) had been issued.

"Social distancing and other pandemic safety precautions at DoD ID card sites worldwide has delayed the progress of existing card replacement, but generally most of those cardholders who needed to replace an expired card have done so," Dietz said July 13.

## **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 320 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 350+ 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](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com) or 256-426-0525.

## Important Dates in August

- 1 August - Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary (1944)
- 2 August - President Warren G. Harding died suddenly while in office (1923)
- 2 August- Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Roosevelt concerning atomic weapons (1939)
- 2 August - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait (1990)
- 3 August - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain (1492)
- 5 August - Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 (1962)
- 6 August - The first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima (1945)
- 6 August – The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law (1965)
- 7 August – The US Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)
- 8 August - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan (1945)
- 9 August - The second atomic bombing of Japan occurred over Nagasaki (1945)
- 9 August - Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency (1974)
- 10, 17 & 24 August – Golf Meetings – Links at Redstone – 1200**
- 11 August – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 11-16 August - Six days of riots began in the Watts area of Los Angeles (1965)
- 13 August - The Berlin Wall came into existence (1961)
- 13 August – Monthly Breakfast – City Café Diner – 0900**
- 14 August - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act (1935)
- 14 August – Japan surrenders, ending World War II (1945)
- 15 August - Woodstock began in a field near Bethel, New York (1969)
- 16 August - Gold was discovered in the Klondike River in Alaska (1896)
- 16 August – Elvis Presley died (1977)
- 17 August - The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans (1978)
- 18 August - The 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote (1920)
- 21 August – Hawaii became the 50<sup>th</sup> state (1959)
- 22 August - A volcanic eruption under Lake Nios in Cameroon killed more than 1,500 persons (1986)
- 24-25 August - British forces burned the Capitol, the White House and other public buildings (1814)
- 26 August – A volcano erupted on the island of Krakatoa, killing over 36,000 people (1883)
- 28 August – The march on Washington, DC, attended by over 250,000 people (1963)
- 31 August - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 (1997)
- 31 August – Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club - 1100**

