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August 2024



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! Also welcome to August – the month we resume our monthly Chapter membership meetings!

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 28th at the Summit Club with Meet and Greet starting at 1030. Our guest speaker will be **Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle**. With all the changes going on in the Tennessee Valley this should be a very interesting meeting. Please mark this date on your calendars – RSVPs are now open. Send them to **John Vanderbleek** at jvbleek78@gmail.com or **256.893.1565**. Remember that family and guests are always welcome.

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 **2024 Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **September 6th** with a 0830 shotgun start. Our next golf committee meeting is Wednesday, August 14th at 1200 at the Weeden Grill at The Links. We welcome any and all help – come early and enjoy some lunch!

We are still looking for more sponsors/donors and more players – we have just over a month left! Let's all work to make this a big success! We will need volunteers for the day of the tournament. I will send out a separate email with the positions we need help filling.

There are many other ways to help the Scholarship Fund. See my previous email or contact me and we can work something out! It is a very worthy cause as each of you knows!

Have a happy and safe August! Watch out for those young ones heading back to school!

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

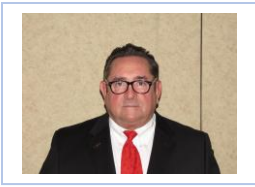
Rick

The next member meeting will be on 28 August - the guest speaker is the Honorable Tommy Battle, mayor of Huntsville.

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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.”

A new collaboration between the Alabama departments of Veterans Affairs and Mental Health has officially kicked off, aiming to see the agencies work together to improve both quality and access of mental and behavioral health care resources for veterans. It’s the result of Senate Bill 135, sponsored by Sen. Andrew Jones, R-Centre, the chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, which went into effect on June 1.

Under the bill, the ADVA and ADMH will collaborate through a series of meetings to identify gaps in existing mental and behavioral health care resources for Alabama’s veterans, who between them and their immediate family members make up about 26% of the state’s population.

“We’re trying to play catch-up with mental health; there’s a lot of theories out there whether it’s social media, increased isolation or what have you, but mental health has become an increasing concern,” Jones told Alabama Daily News last week.

The first order of business under the new law will be for a steering committee to be assembled, the members of which will include Jones, Rep. Chip Brown, the sponsor of the House version of the bill, as well as ADMH Commissioner Kimberly Boswell, who will chair the committee.

“We don’t believe we need to be initiating some big needs assessments, we believe there’s enough information out there about veterans’ needs, it’s just simply a matter of reviewing that information and identifying the gaps.”

Today, there are nearly 400,000 veterans in Alabama, a not dissimilar to the rest of the country, they are more prone to suicide and drug users than non-veterans. Kent Davis, ADVA commissioner, previously named expanding mental health resources for veterans as his single-highest priority for 2024.

Alabama lawmakers have devoted considerable resources and state dollars in recent years to expand mental health care resources, among them being the state’s new crisis centers and 988 crisis line.

“We have focused on all Alabamians up until this point, but the crisis for veterans in our state, particularly the number of suicides, is just so critical that we felt like this coordinated effort was absolutely necessary and that there was an urgent need to address the needs of the veterans in Alabama.”

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 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

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

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

Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, ctcbama76@gmail.com

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

Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, rregner58@gmail.com

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biced992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, avatarmax@gmail.com

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Chapter Chaplain: Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, mckinnewd@gmail.com

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrt@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

The Exchange has upcoming specials on mattresses, TV's, exercise equipment, appliances, home, kitchen and maintenance items. With football season next month, a large screen TV will make the viewing even better. Be sure to check out the no tax appliances available with Exchange partner Home Depot. 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 department of your Exchange and the table by Customer Service.

The gun counter wraps up sales on Sig Sauer on 1 August. Then on 2 August they begin another gun sale. There are new gun sales every two weeks.

Pass it along - 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! Please take a moment to tell them how they are doing. Take our survey at www.ExchangeCustomerSurvey.com.

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

Shopette

Stop in to see the wine/spirit of the month! As always save 10% on wine and other spirits when you use your STAR card. And remember, when you use your STAR card for gasoline, get 5 cents per gallon off.

Commissary

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!

Ask for your commissary Rewards Card – you can use it to pre-load digital coupons for use at your commissary grocer. Customers must visit the Commissary website beforehand to download, or "clip", their desired

Continued on page 9

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 Edward L. Uher
256-882-6824
biged992K@aol.com

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



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FAX: 615.591.3932

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NSSA, CRPC
VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
256-715-0094
germi@cloudfinancial.com



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Fox Army Health Center MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret



CommunityCare Connect a patient town hall

Date: July 17, 2024
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Fox Den (Fox basement classroom)

Are you a patient with concerns, questions, or feedback about your healthcare experience? We want to hear from you!

Join us for CommunityCare Connect, where you can:

- Share your experiences and concerns.
- Ask questions directly to our Command Team.
- Learn about new initiatives and services.
- Connect with other patients in the community.

We look forward to seeing you there!



HUNTSVILLE VA CLINIC

The Huntsville VA Clinic offers a wide range of services to meet the healthcare needs of veterans in the area. The clinic is committed to providing high-quality, comprehensive care to veterans in the Huntsville community, ensuring that they receive the support and resources they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Services Offered

Primary Care	Optometry	Physical Therapy	MRI
Mental Health	Audiology	Prosthetics	CT
Pharmacy	Cardiology	Social Work	X-Ray
Laboratory	Podiatry	Homeless Outreach	Ultrasound
Women's Health	Pain Management	Telehealth	Mammography

The Fox Army Health Center and the Huntsville VA Clinic have joined forces in a new joint venture to offer collaborative services. This partnership will involve a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT 15) consisting of Colonel(R) Michael Madkins MD, Nicole Sarabia RN, Gregory Hilyer LPN, and Lawanda Canada AMSA. The team is enthusiastic about working together with their Department of Defense (DoD) partners to provide comprehensive and coordinated care for veterans and military personnel in the Huntsville area. They are eager to embark on this new journey and are dedicated to ensuring that all patients receive the highest quality of care and support.

Huntsville VA Clinic
500 Markaview Road NW, Huntsville, AL 35805
(256) 533-8477

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Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

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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 to 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

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Live Well.



"HONORING
our VETERANS"

THERE COMES A POINT

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



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at WELLPOINT

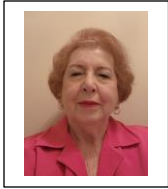
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Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

Our next luncheon will be held on Thursday, 15 August, 2024.
Cheddars Restaurant, 6125 University Drive, Huntsville.
Phone: 256-971-2000. We meet at 11AM. Everyone will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Honoring D-Day with a Cruise to Remember

Passengers on a MOAA Vacations Signature Cruise to Normandy, France, last month prepare to cast white roses into the Seine River as part of a D-Day remembrance ceremony. (Courtesy photo)

On June 6, I had the pleasure and honor of being present on the beach in Normandy, France, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. We were there to pay homage to all our servicemembers who paid the ultimate price that fateful day and to recognize all who fought so hard.

I experienced this memorable event as a passenger on a MOAA Signature Cruise, traveling on the Seine River from Paris to Normandy. This cruise, organized by MOAA Vacations, was designed specifically for MOAA members, family, and friends. The attention to detail — from food to sights — set this MOAA cruise apart from other cruises I have taken.

I had not realized how much I missed the military camaraderie until I was shoulder-to-shoulder with the elite of the elite. Approximately 200 uniformed services veterans, spouses, surviving spouses, and guests were on this cruise. Military service was our common thread: The war stories that were as fresh as the day they happened, the acronyms DoD personnel used to confuse the enemy, and hearing over and over, “Where did you serve?” when meeting someone for the first time.

The visit to the beaches of Normandy, without a doubt, was cathartic for many of us. A quiet reverence overcame our group just knowing we stood where the carnage took place 80 years ago. Beautiful monuments have been erected to honor the military personnel who fought there and their memory. One was engraved with the following message: “To the memory of the heroic dead of the 90th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, 6 June 1944-9 May 1945.”

Back on board the ship, we shared our thoughts about our experience with our old and new friends. To cap it off in a style for which our military is famous, we had an impactful ceremony on the upper deck spearheaded by MOAA Board Chairman Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret). His focus was on those who gave their lives for peace. He honored their memory with the eloquence of his heartfelt words.

The ceremony ended with taps, and we then each tossed a white rose in the Seine. Those 200 white roses floating in the water signified the deep connections we have with our fallen military. It was a trip and experience I will remember forever.

I, along with three friends, have already signed up for the [MOAA Cruise for a Cause 2025: Burgundy and Provence, Lyon to Arles, Sept. 14-21, 2025](#). Proceeds from this cruise support the uniformed services and veterans communities through [MOAA Charities](#). I hope you will join me!



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

John 15:15

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

Proverbs 17:9

One who forgives an affront fosters friendship,
but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.



I've been reading *God is Friendship* by Brian Edgar. This book is a theology of spirituality, community, and society. All three of these have one thing in common, friendship.

Edgar writes that Aristotle defined three types of friendship. The first is where friends have some utilitarian purpose, basically the friends gain some good for themselves. It is a mutually beneficial relationship. The second type of friendship involves something that is good for themselves (like you might enjoy someone else's humor). It's not a mutually beneficial relationship. The third type of friendship is a friendship of virtue, basically complete friendship, where everything is in common and is enduring. It's one where friends wish the best for the other.

Jesus called his disciples servants but changed that to friends as we read in John 15:15. Servants are taught to know what is needed to be accomplished. Servants may or may not have the same values as the master. This relationship might not endure. The servant's purpose is to serve the master, maybe not knowing what the end result will be. When Jesus changed the term servant to friend, he recognized the bonds that tied them together in a friendship that promises to endure time.

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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: 288
Regular Members: 242
Surviving Spouses: 46

New this month: 0
Deaths this month: 0
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.

Legislative – continued from page 2

Among the first things Boswell predicts the steering committee will address is how to accommodate veterans who call the state’s 988 crisis line. “We know that 31% of the calls we’ve been getting to 988 are veterans calls,” Boswell said. “The problem with that is when they do the dial down to 1, (as veterans are instructed to do so via an automated message), you only get the federal resources, you don’t get the resources in Alabama, and so that’s one of the very first things that the committee is going to have to address.”

Alabama lawmakers recently allocated \$30 million’s worth of opioid settlement money toward various agencies and initiatives, including a \$3 million allocation to a veterans’ pilot program. Boswell said that the \$3 million allocation was a good starting point for the committee to better be able to execute any recommendations it develops over the next year.

In other news, Alabama is set to open the fifth state veterans’ home on 13 September 2024 in Enterprise. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Kent Davis said that the Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home near Fort Novosel (former Fort Rucker) will be home to 174 veteran residents. Construction for the home was about \$115 million, a combination of state and federal funds. The home will employ more than 200 people.

The ADVA is in the process of hiring a director for the home. When the director is in place, the home will begin accepting applications for residency. Veterans at the other four state veterans homes who wish to transfer to Enterprise will have priority.

Commissioner Davis said that a sixth state veterans home is among the upcoming major projects for the ADVA. He indicated that a new home would most likely in west Alabama. He also said that the establishment of a state veteran’s cemetery in north Alabama is another priority for the ADVA.

The June 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released 11 July, was 308.054, 2.3% above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. July 2024 figures will be announced Aug. 14. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2024) will be compared to the FY 2024 COLA baseline to calculate the 2025 COLA. III

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

promotions. Follow the commissary on Facebook or on X @YourCommissary.

Feds Feeds Families continues - at the entrance of your Commissary or just past the checkout lines 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.

Check out the discount meat freezer next to the beef section. Also, produce and everything else you would need for your summer grilling needs. Commissary CLICK2GO is one tap away for savings and convenient online shopping. Download the mobile app and start shopping for the items you love! Schedule free curbside pickup from your desktop or mobile devices while shopping online. Visit the [How Commissary CLICK2GO Works](#) page for additional information such as payment details and accepted coupons. III



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report June 2024

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

1. The June 2024 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Saving
Starting Balance	\$19,488.07	\$ 1,703.62
Income	\$ 00.00	\$ 0.01
Expenses	\$ 513.17	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$18,974.90	\$ 1,703.63

3. Notable income: None

4. Notable expenses: Payments for the Chapter's share for the BBQ held at Tut Fann Veterans Home, gold Bar and related expenses, and a credit card fee.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$15,279.00 from Wells Fargo on 8 November 2023. The term of the CD is 11 months at an interest rate of 4.88%. The current value is \$15,720.55. The CD matures on 8 October 2024.

7. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$2,179.71 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from previous 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 area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at rickw675@att.net or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year basis. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible - 501(c)(3). **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.

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During July 2024

None

Total received for July:	\$0.00
Total received CY24:	\$140.00





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			
_____	_____	_____			

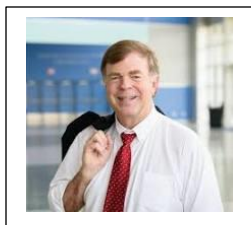
Recruiting

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!



Membership Meeting
28 August 2024
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: Honorable Tommy Battle
Mayor, City of Huntsville

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.

Menu: Southern Fried Chicken (Bone-In), Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Peach Cobbler, Rolls w/ Butter, Assorted Drinks

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 23 August 2024.



33 Birthdays in August

Mrs. Carrie V Hightower
MAJ John V Yelverton, USA
Mrs. Judith McKinley Jr
Col Frederick J Driesbach, USAF
MAJ Warner A Davis, USA
COL Joseph Goss Jr, USA
COL Mary O Drayton, USA
Col William D McKinney, USAF
COL William J Roberts, USA
LTC David A Diehl, 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
MAJ Lewis M Davidson, USA

Mr. Alvin M Jupiter
COL John D Rivenburgh, USA
Lt Col Ronald G Harvey, USAF
CW5 Paul M Steele, USA
COL William A Holbrook, USA
COL Michael C Barron, USA
Lt Col Garry M Moore, USAF
Mrs. Carol H Freyder
COL Gene Lesinski, USA
CDR David B Campbell, USN
Mrs. Jane L Berg
LTC Norman P Hopkins, USA
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA
MAJ Albert G Lang, USA
COL Ronald N Funderburk, USA
MAJ Raymond L Springsteen, 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 in MOAA had a military career that formed many friendships, some which ended when we were reassigned and some which have survived the test of time. Take time to reflect on the enduring qualities of the friendships that have endured. What are they? Why is that friendship important to you? If you haven't reached out to one of your friends you've not heard from recently, I encourage you to call, text, or write a note to let them know you're thinking about them and wishing them the best.

Jesus counts us as friends, and it's a friendship that will last into eternity.

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



Blessings, Dave



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

TAPS

None this Month

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



Easily Manage TRICARE Prescriptions with the Express Scripts Pharmacy Mobile App

Looking for a convenient way to keep track of your medications? Want to see the status of your prescriptions before you head to the pharmacy? Download the free [Express Scripts Pharmacy mobile app](#) to securely manage your medications anytime, anywhere. Express Scripts is the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#) contractor that administers your pharmacy benefit.

“The mobile app is an easy way to stay on top of your prescriptions, especially when you use TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery,” said U.S. Public Health Service Cmdr. Teisha Robertson, deputy chief of the Pharmacy Benefit Integration Branch at the Defense Health Agency. “It helps you keep track of your medications, request refills, and make payments, at your convenience, no matter where you are.”

To get started, [download the app](#) for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Then log in using your TRICARE Express Scripts username and password. If you don't have an account, you can [register](#) for one.

Once logged in, you can:

- **Order medications.** You can see all your prescriptions in one place. You can choose to fill your prescriptions through [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#). Prescriptions ordered via home delivery will be delivered right to your door. You can even set up shipments to a temporary address during deployment, relocation, or vacation. TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will ship to any address in the U.S. or U.S. territories, including APO/FPO addresses. To learn more about home delivery, including costs and any applicable shipping restrictions, visit [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#).
- **Track home delivery orders.** You'll get real-time updates when Express Scripts processes, ships, and delivers your order. To view the status of your order online, log in to your account. Go to “Prescriptions,” and then “Order History.” Check “Recent Order Status” to track your order.
- **Request refills.** Review and approve prescriptions that are ready to refill through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery.
- **Set up dose reminders.** Stay on track with automated alerts reminding you when it's time to take your medications. This will help you stick to your routine and avoid missing any doses.
- **Make payments.** You can easily pay for prescriptions online or set up automatic payments for home delivery orders. As described in the [TRICARE Costs and Fees Fact Sheet](#), active duty service members have a \$0 copayment for up to a 90-day supply of medication if they use a [military pharmacy](#), [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#), or a [retail network pharmacy](#).

Have questions about your pharmacy benefit or prescription costs? Check out the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program Overview Fact Sheet](#) and [TRICARE Costs and Fees Sheet](#) for more information. It's easy to manage and track your prescriptions using the [Express Scripts Pharmacy mobile app](#). Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to download it for free.

See Test Results and Clinical Notes in Your MHS GENESIS Patient Portal

If you've recently had a blood draw or X-ray, you're likely interested in seeing the results once they're available. Or perhaps you want to review what you discussed with your health care team at your last appointment.

If you visited a military hospital or clinic for your recent test or appointment, you can access this information in the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#).

"The MHS GENESIS Patient Portal makes it easy to view your test results and clinical notes as soon as they're ready," said U.S. Air Force Col. Tara Conner, Defense Health Agency chief health informatics officer. "This feature lets you securely review your personal medical information on your own schedule and stay informed about your health."

Lab and imaging results can give you important insight into the status of your health or a particular condition. Lab and imaging results may also indicate if you need to take additional actions or schedule follow-up appointments. (**Note:** Certain lab tests, imaging, or specialty care appointments may require [referrals](#), as described in the [TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook](#).) You can also use the [secure messaging](#) feature on the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to ask your provider any follow-up questions.

Even if you haven't undergone a lab, test, or procedure, reviewing clinical notes after an appointment can help you recall important discussions, instructions, or care plans.

How to view your results

Follow these steps to view your health record:

1. Log in to the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#) and complete the log in steps. You'll need a Common Access Card, a DS Logon account, or a Personal Identity Verification card to log in.
2. Click the "Health Record" button on the menu located across the top of the page. This is where you'll find links to view lab results, radiology and pathology results, and clinical notes.

To view lab results

1. Click the "Results and Measurements" button on the menu on the left side of the screen.
2. Under "Viewing the health record for," choose your name from the dropdown menu.
3. Click the "Laboratory results" tab to view a list of your results.

Continued on next page

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To view radiology or pathology results

1. Click the “Clinical Reports” button on the menu located on the left side of the screen.
2. Under “Viewing the health record for,” choose your name from the dropdown menu.
3. Under “Report Type,” choose “Radiology” or “Pathology” from the dropdown menu. The results will populate from newest to oldest.
4. You can download the report to your device by clicking “Download (PDF).”

To view clinical notes

1. Click the “Clinical Notes & Documents” button on the menu on the left side of the screen.
2. Under “Viewing the health record for,” choose your name from the dropdown menu.
3. The notes will populate from newest to oldest. Click on the title of the note to read it.


You can download the report to your device by clicking “Download (PDF).”

This [video tutorial](#) demonstrates how to log in to the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal and find your results and clinical notes.

Other portal features

You can do more than just access results and notes on the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal. You can also:

- [Securely message](#) your military health care team with questions.
- View and schedule appointments at your military hospital or clinic.
- View current medications and [order refills](#).

Stay informed about your health by accessing and viewing your test results and clinical notes at any time in the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal. If you have questions about your results or notes, be sure to ask your provider. To learn more, visit tricare.mil/PatientPortal. 



Scammers Targeting TRICARE for Life Beneficiaries with Fake Text Messages

TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries should be on the lookout for fake text messages claiming their health care benefit will expire, according to a recent warning from the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

Beneficiaries reported receiving a text from (888) 763-0248, with the sender claiming to be Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), the domestic TFL contractor. The message states the recipient is about to lose coverage “due to nonpayment” and should call the toll-free number, according to DHA.

WPS does not send text messages to beneficiaries, per DHA, nor does the contractor collect money.

The scam could expand beyond TFL beneficiaries to the wider TRICARE population, according to the agency. In its alert, it reminded beneficiaries should:

- Not open links in unsolicited emails or texts.
- Not reply to unsolicited texts.
- Not provide personal information via these communications, or to any unknown person.

Reporting Fraud

If you have been contacted as part of this scam or any TRICARE-related fraud, DHA asks that you file a report to the appropriate agency using the following contact information:

- **TRICARE For Life (WPS):** Call (866) 773-0404 or email reportit@wpsic.com.
- **TRICARE East Region (Humana Military):** Call (800) 333-1620 or [use this website](#).
- **TRICARE West Region (Health Net Federal Services):** Call (844) 886-2206, email Program.Integrity@hnfs.com, or [use this website](#).
- **TRICARE Overseas (International SOS):** Call (877) 342-2503 or (215) 354-5020, email TOPProgramIntegrity@internationalsos.com, or [use this website](#).

Reports also can be made to the DHA Office of the Inspector General. Learn more about how to file a report [at this link](#).

More Help From MOAA

MOAA offers a range of resources to help you protect your personal data (and your bank account) from scammers of all types:

- From our financial and benefits expert: [Protect Yourself From These 5 Common Fraud Schemes](#)
- Three-part series: [Don't Be Scammed](#)
- Recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members): [An Overview of Scams and Frauds | Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud | Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams](#)

MOAA also is a partner in the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Get more resources from that organization [at this link](#).

Some Humor

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb."

Debunking 4 Survivor Benefit Plan Myths

There are many myths and misconceptions about the military's [Survivor Benefit Plan](#) (SBP). And a good handful of those myths are about how SBP works with Social Security benefits. As you make decisions about SBP, it is important to have accurate information. Let's look at a few common Social Security-SBP myths.

Myth: There's an offset between Social Security and SBP.

Truth: There is currently no reduction in SBP benefits.

It is understandable why this misconception exists. When SBP was created, there was an offset with Social Security benefits. That offset was repealed in 1986, but it was replaced by a two-tier benefit system. This system reduced SBP payments once the recipient became eligible for Social Security. The two-tier system was phased out between 2005 and 2008.

Since it has only been 16 years since the phaseout ended, some people still think the offset and/or two-tier system exists. Then that misinformation gets spread, and folks don't know it is old information.

To be clear, there is currently no offset between Social Security and SBP.

Myth: SBP changes the way Social Security is taxed.

Truth: This one is a little trickier. The receipt of SBP might change how much your Social Security benefits are taxed, but that's not because it is SBP.

Social Security benefits can be subject to federal income tax depending on the total income of the recipient. This is true regardless of whether they also receive SBP benefits. If a person's combined income (which includes adjusted gross income, nontaxable interest, and half of Social Security benefits) exceeds a certain threshold, a portion of their Social Security benefits might become taxable.

The specific thresholds for taxability vary depending on filing status. However, the receipt of SBP benefits itself does not directly affect these thresholds or the taxability of Social Security benefits.

Myth: Receiving SBP makes you eligible for Social Security survivor benefits.

Truth: While both SBP and Social Security offer survivor benefits, they are completely independent programs. Eligibility for each benefit is based on the rules of that program.

Being eligible for one benefit does not make you eligible for the other benefit. On the flip side, being ineligible for one benefit does not make you ineligible for the other benefit. There's no connection between eligibility rules.

Myth: SBP will reduce your Social Security benefit if you take Social Security early.

Truth: If you take your Social Security survivor or retirement benefit prior to your full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced because you took it early, and it will be subject to the [earnings test](#), which can temporarily trim benefits further based on a limit on earned income.

However, SBP payments do not count as earned income for the Social Security earned income test. Therefore, the receipt of SBP does not impact your Social Security benefit even if you're subject to a reduction because of the earned income limits.

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 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 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)
- 8 August – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 9 August - The second atomic bombing of Japan occurred over Nagasaki (1945)
- 9 August - Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency (1974)
- 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)
- 14 August - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act (1935)
- 14 August – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 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 50th state (1959)
- 22 August - A volcanic eruption under Lake Nios in Cameroon killed more than 1,500 persons (1986)
- 23 August – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 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)
- 28 August – Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club – 1100**
- 30 August – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 31 August - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 (1997)

