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February 2022



Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

As we move through the “dark ages” of the year, I personally carry on with one consoling thought – only about 214 days until college football kicks off...but who’s counting?

Unfortunately, and for numerous reasons, we had to cancel the January membership luncheon – it was going to be a great one! The good news is that all the details have been rescheduled to our **February luncheon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1100 at The Summit Club**. Our VIP Speaker will be the Associate Director (Technical) for Marshall Space Flight Center – more details are included in the newsletter. I am hoping for a record crowd for this one! Please **RSVP ASAP** to me at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net) or 256.776.6901. Remember that family and guests are always welcome.

**Last Call! Annual Dues are due!** There are still about 30 members with annual membership dues that are now due! Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed, including those who have renewed for multi-year or converted to Life Membership! **Please don’t put this off**...just fill out your name, any “changed” information, sign and forward with your check to the address on the form! **No better deal anywhere!**

**Merit Award Scholarships.** We have several scholarships available this year ranging from \$1000 to \$3000. If you have a child or grandchild in the area that is attending/planning to attend college, I recommend you apply for one of these scholarships. JROTC students are also eligible, so, if you know someone whose child is in JROTC, pass this info to them – no HCMOAA membership required for JROTC! See this link for more details and eligibility / application information: [Merit Awards | RSAMCC](#)

I know that the COVID pandemic and current events continue to make each day a challenge for all of us. They also make scheduling for individuals and organizations a bit hectic! All I can say is hang in there, stay flexible, and keep your head up & stay safe!

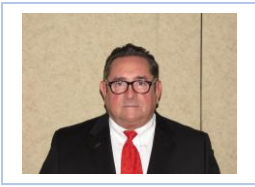
Rick

**Member Meeting on 23 February**  
**Guest speaker is Larry Leopard from NASA**

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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.”

On Tuesday, January 11, the Alabama Legislature began the 2022 Legislative Session. While the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic remains, the Alabama Statehouse was open for business. The January start marks the fourth year of the quadrennium, meaning it is an election year, and every member's seat is up for election.

There were over 100 bills filed prior to the session, and many more since the session opened, bringing the first week total to 100 bills filed in the Senate and 149 bills filed in the House of Representatives. Some of the legislation filed so far deals with voting and elections, guns, lotteries, campaign finance, vaccines and student athletes. There are also proposed changes to certain custody, family leave, child support and alimony laws.

Governor Ivey gave her State of the State address setting out her priorities for the state and the session. She urged lawmakers to use federal pandemic relief on longstanding problems such as broadband access and water and sewer infrastructure. “We must be smart with this one-time money and commit to the people of Alabama that we will invest — not just casually spend — these dollars. I’ll say again that these federal dollars are just one-time funds. This is not free money,” Ivey said. How to use the money will be one the major issues before lawmakers in this session. Ivey also called for 4% pay raises for teachers and state employees.

Governor Ivey called the session on 18 January, putting on hold lawmakers’ regular law-making session to focus on the spending of the \$772 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. Senate Bill 1 prioritizes spending for broadband internet, assisting hospitals and nursing homes and building out water and sewer infrastructure in communities where service lacks.

Under Alabama law, there is no exclusion from the calculation of Alabama taxable income for these one-time pandemic-related federal benefits. "If the Legislature does not take quick action, Alabama families will pay about \$87.7 million in additional Alabama state income tax on these benefits," Sen. Dan Roberts, R-Mountain Brook, said Wednesday when he filed Senate Bill 2.

*Continued on page 9*

## 2021-2022 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, [m.barron468@gmail.com](mailto:m.barron468@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, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

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@hiway.net](mailto:jerry15@hiway.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)

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

ROTC/JROTC: COL Gene Lesinski, USA-Ret, 845-725-3677, [gene.lesinski@gmail.com](mailto:gene.lesinski@gmail.com)

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

### 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)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, [john.franks@ingenuityinc.net](mailto:john.franks@ingenuityinc.net) (July 2022)



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



**Main Exchange**

Stop in and pick up your copy of the Valentine's Day sales suggestions. You can also pick up the new fragrance sales catalog with ideas for Valentine's Day! And don't forget to stop by the jewelry counter for sale items.

New technology big screen TV's and sound bars are on sale so you can watch and hear the game almost like you are there! Computers, boots, kid's clothes, furniture – it's all on sale at your PX!

Always be sure to check the super daily special online for special savings and enter the numerous sweepstakes opportunities.

If you have a STAR card – check to see that they have your current email. All future STAR card rewards are going to be by email. I have received several – just print them out and present at checkout.

The gun shop is closed every Monday and Sunday. Despite their hours being from 9 to 5, I suggest calling to be sure they will be open before you stop by. I have been there when it was randomly closed and often it does not open until 10 and closes at 3. I'm told it's because they are now down to one employee for the shop. They are looking for new hires – if you are interested in a job stop by and inquire.

Download the Exchange app for your smart phone and get the latest sales and the Exchange Extra app to scan items, get coupons, join the coffee club, get lifestyle/fitness tips and receive the latest Exchange sale promotions – from anywhere in the world! As always shop early for best selection.

**Shopette**

Check out the latest Muscatine wines: lightly sweet to sweet table wines. While at the Express rent a video from The Red Box outside. Download their app for specials, free rentals, and some free streaming. Valentine's Day specials and packages soon to be available.

**Commissary**

Check out the section of MRE's near the bread aisle. A large selection of food to store and be ready for the next time we have to stay at home. Ready for preppers or camping.

The commissary has supply issues with Bounty paper towels (none) and fresh chicken (limit three packages per family). The lack of Bounty paper towels has caused almost all other paper towels to be sold out. The fresh chicken is

**Need Addresses**

**None this Month**

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.

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

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

*PX/Commissary – continued on page 9*



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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**



- Masks continue to be required when receiving services at Fox in accordance with DoD mandate.
- Fox Army Health Center continues to offer single dose Moderna COVID-19 boosters to eligible beneficiaries, including those who have already received a completed series of Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing. COVID-19 first, second, and booster doses are provided by appointment through the PCRS link <https://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/PCRS/Login>.
- Fox Army Health Center offers COVID PCR Testing for symptomatic beneficiaries that are enrolled to the facility. Testing may be scheduled by contacting the appointment line at 256-955-8888, option 2. Other options for COVID-19 tests are included in the attached document.
- Fox Army Health Center is accepting interested individuals that would like to volunteer their time through the American Red Cross. Please contact Ms. Tammy Selby, Lead Operations Volunteer, at [tammy.selby1962@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.selby1962@gmail.com) or 256-486-1091. You may also visit the North Alabama Red Cross office at 1015 Airport Road SW, Suite 202 Huntsville, AL 35802.

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# ASEA®

**Paul & Patsy Morin**  
Independent Associates

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Email: paulmorin3018@comcast.net

Website: paulmorin.teamasea.com  
Huntsville, AL





## Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

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

Due to bad weather our luncheon in January was cancelled.  
Our next luncheon will be on Thursday 18 February, 11AM at  
Logans Roadhouse, 4249 Balmoral Drive in Huntsville. Phone: 256-881-0584.  
Reservations are required. Everyone will be called. Please join us.

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Reflecting on 2021

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) began 2021 once again dealing with the fallout of the pandemic. Yet, we continued to support surviving spouses and spouses in a positive way and promote MOAA's strategic priorities at every opportunity through education, encouragement, and engagement. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish during a most unsettling time.

Some of our accomplishments for 2021 include:

**Surviving Spouse Liaison Training.** SSAC members led surviving spouse liaison trainings during virtual meetings of four Regional Leadership Workshops and one in-person workshop. Average attendance for each workshop was 120, with 20 attending the surviving spouse liaison training. The year's final workshop was held in person in San Diego, where about 125 council and chapter leaders registered and 26 participated in our training. SSAC members continue to finetune the training based on evaluations and comments from participants.

**Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.** Membership continues to grow, with 177 members from 35 states. The chapter now meets monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. Attendance varies, but usually includes 30 at the social meetings and about 60 at a more formal meeting. Former SSAC member Micki Costello is president with Gail Joyce as vice president of the virtual chapter. For more information, visit the Surviving Spouse section of MOAA.org.

**Articles for MOAA Newsletters.** SSAC members write monthly Surviving Spouse Corners, which are published on the first Thursday of each month in *The MOAA Newsletter*. Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award.** This year, we were able to choose two excellent recipients of the award — one representing a chapter and one representing a council. Read more about the recipients, Donna Martin of the Greater Birmingham (Ala.) Chapter, and Sharon Douglas of the Arizona Council of Chapters. Congratulations to two very deserving, hardworking surviving spouses!

*Continued on page 12*



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

### **Spiritual Disciplines**

Chile is one of the astronomy capitals of the world, boasting three big-time observatories, including the Cerro Tololo observatory with its five telescopes.

Chile is the mecca of astronomers for several reasons. The sky is clear 85 percent of the time. The Cerro Tololo observatory is built 7,200 feet above sea level in the Andean foothills, where there is less air to distort a telescope's view. The region has a natural inversion layer that keeps the air at high altitude stable and the view better. Northern Chile is also directly under the Milky Way, so astronomers can peer into our galaxy for up to eight hours a night, in contrast to five hours at observatories in Hawaii which is the astronomy capital of the northern hemisphere.

Certain places on earth offer a clearer view of the heavens, and certain disciplines offer a clearer view of the heavens, and certain spiritual disciplines offer a clearer view of the spiritual things. Throughout the history of the church, believers have found that activities such as Bible memorization and meditation, fasting and prayer, solitude and study, celebration and worship, guidance and confession have helped them better see God and His truth.

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby...(1 Peter 1:1-2, NKJV)."



### **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: 342  
Regular Members: 288  
Surviving Spouses: 54

New this month: 5  
Deaths this month: 2  
Renewals: 7

### **Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

**MAJ Chester Williams Jr, USA**  
**LTC Tex Longcor, USA**  
**COL Mary Drayton, USA**  
**LCDR Rod Rodriguez, USN**  
**MAJ Lance Granger, USA**

### **Recruiting**

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

*Legislative – continued from page 2*


The Supreme Court has stopped a major push by the Biden administration to boost the nation's COVID-19 vaccination rate, a requirement that employees at large businesses get a vaccine or test regularly and wear a mask on the job. At the same time, the court is allowing the administration to proceed with a vaccine mandate for most health care workers in the U.S. The court's conservative majority concluded the administration overstepped its authority by seeking to impose the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's vaccine-or-test rule on U.S. businesses with at least 100 employees.

President Joe Biden's effort to encourage the US Senate to alter its rules on ending or at least weakening the filibuster rule appears to have failed. The rule requires 60 votes to end debate on significant legislation. Senators Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., have repeatedly said that while they back the voting rights push, they oppose weakening the filibuster rule without GOP support for fear of further fraying the brittle relationship between the two parties. They're the same two senators who've been the chief stumbling blocks to Biden's stalled 10-year, roughly \$2 trillion social and environment bill, another top Democratic goal. This was the second time in the last few months that POTUS made a trip to Capitol Hill to push for legislation only to come up empty handed.

Inflation jumped at its fastest pace in nearly 40 years last month, a 7% spike from a year earlier that is increasing household expenses, eating into wage gains and heaping pressure on POTUS and the Federal Reserve to address what has become the biggest threat to the U.S. economy.

The December 2021 CPI is 273.925, 2.1 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for January 2022 is scheduled to be released Feb. 10. The CPI baseline for FY 2022 is 268.421.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. There are two articles to look at: one is about the big problem DoD has with late appropriations legislation and the other is the Federal court decision to block COVID-19 vaccine mandates relating to the Navy.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. The National Headquarters of MOAA has outlined action items they think are important to active-duty force as well as those who have served, including you. On the MOAA webpage each action item is presented in the following format: Who is Affected; The Issue; and The Remedy. 

*PX/Commissary – continued from page 3*

available. Turkeys have not been available for over a month!

Check out <http://commissaries.com> for recipes, cooking tips, and coupons! Also, sign up for your commissary connection to make the most of your commissary benefit. You will receive the latest commissary news, promotions, events, and news about your local commissary.

Go to <https://commissaries.com/rewards-and-savings/rewards-card> for the latest rewards on line! Subscribe to the commissary newsletter: <https://commissaries.com/rewards-and-savings/rewards-card>.





## **HCMOAA Treasurer's Report December 2021**

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

1. The December 2021 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are attached.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$14,047.95	\$16,522.58
Income	\$ 1,340.00	\$ 0.14
Expenses	\$ 1,687.63	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$13,700.32	\$16,522.72

3. Notable income: Proceeds from dues and Christmas social payments.

4. Notable expenses: Christmas social payment to the Summit Club, Christmas social door prizes, the annual Wells Fargo bankcard fee and the Zoom fee. Note: \$159 was overpaid to the Summit Club. Reimbursement is being pursued.

5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1,903.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019/2021 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 January:	\$0
Total received CY22:	\$0





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			

## Attention Annual Members – Past Due Notice

It is time to renew your membership for next year  
The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

***A list of those members needing to renew is on the next page – don't get dropped from the rolls!***

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate  
Don't know when your membership expires? Contact MAJ Bruce Robinson at  
256-426-0525 or [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net).

Don't want to worry about renewing ever again - consider becoming a Chapter Life Member – contact  
COL John Fairlamb at 256-539-0161 or [fairlambjrf@comcast.net](mailto:fairlambjrf@comcast.net) for the details

## The following members need to renew their annual memberships:

MAJ David R Arterburn, USA  
LTC Keith A Barshinger, USA  
LTC Johnnie L Bone Jr, USA  
LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA  
LTC Robert E Connors Jr, USA  
RADM John E Crowley, USCG  
Col David C Hall, USAF  
COL Joshua S Kennedy, USA  
COL Dale C Kuehl, USA  
MAJ Mark H LaFlamme, USA  
Mrs. Mary C Levaas  
COL George E Lewis, USA  
LTC Shaun S Lott, USA  
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC  
Col Erin D Peterson, USAF  
COL Kelsey A Smith, USA  
COL Ricki L Sullivan, USA  
Mrs. Caroline H Wilson  
CAPT Scott W Witt, USN

Lt Col Barney F Barron, USAF  
COL Gary L Bliss, USA

LTC Andre M Cota-Robles, USA  
CPT Michael E Funderburg, USA  
CW2 Jerry A Haynes, USA  
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA  
Capt Melissa M Lacey, USAF  
Col David W Lair, USAF  
LTC John L Lewis, USA  
Maj Autumn M Lorenz, USAF  
LTC Mark D Lumb, USA  
CAPT William P Nash, USN


MAJ James L Stanley, USMC  
MAJ Joe H Williams, USA  
LCDR Frances K Witt, USN  
CDR Timothy L Zane, USN

### *Surviving Spouse – continued from page 7*

**Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summit.** The highlight of the year was a new endeavor, “The Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summit,” held during the MOAA annual meeting in October in Arlington, Va. Over 75 surviving spouses, spouses, and military members attended the inaugural two-hour event that featured five panelists who spoke about relevant issues. Pat Green, of the SSAC, moderated the panel discussion and the lively question-and-answer session that followed. Overall, it was a huge success and something we plan to build on for future events.

**Chapter Leaders Roundtable Discussion.** SSAC members participated in the roundtable discussions about important chapter issues. This was an excellent opportunity for SSAC members to get to know chapter leaders from other states.

**MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group.** [This group](#) has over 600 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues, especially regarding the Surviving Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. Former SSAC member Kathy Prout is the administrator, with current members Kathy Thorp and Nancy Mullen assisting.

**Future Projects.** We will continue to work on increasing surviving spouse membership for chapters, national MOAA, and the virtual chapter. We plan to develop a webinar on surviving spouse and spouse issues, and we will continue work on organizing future Surviving Spouse/Spouse Summits. Improving the training guidelines and support materials will also be at the top of our to-do list for 2022. We look forward to a very productive and exciting 2022. 



**Membership Meeting**  
**23 February 2022**  
**1100 – Summit Club**

**Guest Speaker: Larry Leopard**  
**Associate Director, Technical, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in**  
**Huntsville, Alabama**

Larry Leopard provides expert advice in all facets of the Center's responsibilities by conducting special studies; provide authoritative advice and assistance in policy review; manage and report on Center-wide and directorate metrics and developing benchmarking strategies. He was appointed to the position in December 2020.

Leopard joined NASA and Marshall in 1990, supporting a variety of NASA programs and projects, including space shuttle propulsion elements; the Space Shuttle Main Engine Technology Test Bed; Rocket-Based Combined Cycle propulsion technology; Fastrac 60K engine; International Space Station payloads, International Space Station Environmental Control and Life Support Systems and research facilities; Small Satellite technology demonstrations; and multiple science instruments.

His aerospace engineering career began as a propulsion engineer at Martin Marietta in Huntsville, supporting Marshall's Propulsion Systems Laboratory from 1988 to 1990.

A native of Athens, Alabama, Leopard graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Leopard has received numerous NASA awards, including the Medal for Outstanding Leadership in 2007 and 2011; the Medal for Exceptional Achievement in 1997 for leading the Integrated Propulsion Technology Demonstrator team; multiple Center Director's Commendations; and numerous group achievement and special service awards. In 1993, he was awarded the Silver Snoopy, the NASA astronaut corps' award to those who have made significant contributions to the success of NASA's human spaceflight missions.

Leopard and his wife Shane live in Athens and have two children.

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**Menu:** Pork schnitzel w/ Jaeger sauce, bratwurst, German pan-fried potatoes, red cabbage, cucumber salad, broetchen with butter, German chocolate layer cake and assorted beverages

**Cost:** \$15 for Chapter members and families; \$20 for non-members / guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

**RSVP:** CAPT Rick West, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net), NLT 18 February 2022

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## Here is what MOAA is focused on for 2022

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.

## Guest Speakers Needed

Have an idea for a speaker for one of our member meetings? Let us know.

Contact any board member, and we'll try and get the speaker on board.





## 18 Birthdays in February

Mrs. Ouida Ann Turner  
MAJ Craig R Ailles, USA  
CDR Christine S Downing, USN  
COL Douglas S Brouillette, USA  
Mrs. Gwen V Parks  
CW3 Ernest E Williams, USA  
COL Jeffrey S Ogden, USA  
LTC James H McWhorter Jr, USA  
COL Frederick R Bisch, USA

COL George J Jobczynski, USA  
LTC Levern Eady, USA  
MAJ Gary L Pollard, USA  
LTC Ruby R Lardent-Davis, USAR  
COL Patrick S Stone, USA  
COL Dale C Kuehl, USA  
CW4 Robert L McCall, USA  
LTC Lowell D Twitchell, USA  
COL Ricki L Sullivan, 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 [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net) 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**

**Major General Melvin G. Bowling, USAF-Ret**, went to be with the Lord January 10, 2022, after 88 very full years. He was born March 2, 1933, in Laceys Spring, the son of John Roy and Cora Lee Bowling. He spent his time on this earth excelling as a son, husband, father, grandfather, friend, pilot, and missionary. Mel graduated from Union Hill High School in 1950 after leading their basketball team to a 39-1 record and a State Championship. His ability to "Shine" on the court earned him the nickname that stayed with him throughout his life. He attended the University of Alabama where he played basketball and ran track for the Tide. Most importantly, it is where he met his wife of 63 years, Joan. They were married October 24, 1958.

Along with his faith, Mel's proudest achievement was the life he built with the love of his life and the family they raised together. Thanks to his career in the Air Force, Mel and Joan's love affair spanned several states and countries. Mel proudly served his country through a 28-year career in the Air Force. He retired in 1982 as a Major General. His military career included tours in Vietnam and Korea and the receipt of several commendations, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Always the family man first, he left the military so their children could spend their teenage years in one place. After accepting Jesus into his life around the time of his retirement, ministering to all those he met became his passion.

His civilian job led him to meet with CEO's, athletes, and friends. Few met him without being handed a Precious Bible Promises or Oswald Chambers book with their name already embossed on the cover. Almost every encounter ended with a transition from business proposals to Mel asking: "Now how is your relationship with the Lord?" An uncomfortable silence or equivocal answer to this question was not acceptable. Mel's faith was like his stature, life, and commitment to his family and friends: Big and contagious.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, James Roy Bowling ("Bobo"). He is survived by his wife, Joan; sons, Mike Bowling (Rainer) and Jim Bowling (Cheri); and grandchildren, John Michael, Lucy, Jake, Sam, Mathew, and Johnathan. A graveside celebration of his life was held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 15, 2022, at New Canaan Baptist Church cemetery, 2204 Union Hill Rd., Laceys Spring.

**CDR Roger Lee Berg, USN-Ret**, died peacefully with his family by his side on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at the age of 84.

Born on February 16, 1937, in Santa Ana, California to the late, David (Bob) and Joyce Berg. Roger was raised in California and graduated from Sequoia High School in 1954. In 1958 he was commissioned to the United States Navy after graduating from the University of Illinois, where he majored in Metallurgical Engineering, received minors in Physics, Chemistry and Foreign Languages (Spanish, French and German).

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Roger served dutifully and passionately until his retirement in 1983 where he was Deputy Director of Space Defense Operations, NORAD/ADCOM.

After retiring from active duty, he had a rewarding career as he continued to utilize his expertise and his work ethic while supporting several defense companies.

Roger was a great storyteller but very humble, as he rarely shared about his own accomplishments. He received many awards and military merit for outstanding professional skill and expeditious application of superior job knowledge. Two significant accomplishments included being the First Naval Officer to be awarded Air Force Space Badge and Designated Navy Subspecialist in Communications, Space Operations.

Roger was involved at the First United Methodist Church where he enjoyed ushering every Sunday morning. Roger, and his wife Jane, volunteered with many organizations. They enjoyed travelling, round dancing and their time with the Broadmoor Waltz Club. Roger loved computers, fishing, gardening and woodworking.

Roger is survived by his loving and devoted wife of forty years, Jane; children, Karen (Paul) Secord, Kevin (Carolyn) Berg, Stephen (Patsy) Berg, Michael Booth, Marta Willmott, Cathy (Rob) Picken, Jana (Trent) Cleverley, Mark Booth; 13 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. Special extended family include Victor, Burt and Ruthie, the McPherson family, along with numerous uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Roger was preceded in death by his father and mother, his former wife, Shirley Berg and grandson, Joshua Welder.

The memorial service was held at Shrine of Remembrance, 1730 E Fountain Blvd, CS 80910 on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation to the FUMC John Wesley Ranch Retreat Centre in honor of Roger Berg at [www.fumc-cs.org/the-ranch2](http://www.fumc-cs.org/the-ranch2).

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

***We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.***



## History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the history of Valentine's Day, from the ancient Roman ritual of Lupercalia that welcomed spring to the card-giving customs of Victorian England.

### **The Legend of St. Valentine**

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The [Catholic Church](#) recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the [Middle Ages](#), perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

### **Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February**

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to “Christianize” the pagan celebration of [Lupercalia](#). Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

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### **Valentine's Day: A Day of Romance**

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of [Christianity](#) but was outlawed—as it was deemed “un-Christian”—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine’s Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds’ mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine’s Day should be a day for romance. The English poet [Geoffrey Chaucer](#) was the first to record St. Valentine’s Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem “Parliament of Fowles,” writing, “For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne’s day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.”

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine’s didn’t begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the [Tower of London](#) following his capture at the [Battle of Agincourt](#). (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King [Henry V](#) hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

### **Who Is Cupid?**

[Cupid](#) is often portrayed on Valentine’s Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the [Greek god](#) of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather).

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn’t until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he’d become on Valentine’s Day cards.

### **Typical Valentine’s Day Greetings**

In addition to the United States, Valentine’s Day is celebrated in Canada, [Mexico](#), the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine’s Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one’s feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine’s Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the “Mother of the Valentine,” made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as “scrap.” Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine’s Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine’s Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at [Christmas](#)). III

### **YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN...**

1. You and your teeth don't sleep together.
2. You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks and discover you aren't wearing any.
3. At the breakfast table you hear "snap, crackle, and Pop" but are not eating cereal.
4. Your back goes out but you stay home.
5. When you wake up looking like your driver's license picture.
6. It takes two tries to get up from the couch.
7. When your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
8. When you are on vacation and your energy runs out before your money does.
9. You wonder how you could be over the hill when you don't even remember being on top of it.
10. When you say something to your kids that your mother said to you and you always hated it.
11. When all you want for your birthday is not to be reminded of your age.
12. When you step off a curb and look down one more time to make sure the street is still there.
13. Your idea of weightlifting is standing up.
14. It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.
15. Your memory is shorter, and your complaining lasts longer.
16. Your address book has mostly names starting with "Dr.".
17. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
18. The pharmacist has become your new best friend.
19. Getting "Lucky" means you found your car in the parking lot.
20. the twinkle in your eye is merely a reflection from the sun on your bifocals.
21. It takes twice as long to look half as good.
22. Everything hurts; and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
23. You look for you glasses for half an hour, and they were on your head the whole time.
24. You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.
25. You give up all your bad habits and still don't feel good.
26. You have more patience, but it is actually that you just don't care anymore.
27. You finally get your head together and your body starts falling apart.
28. When happy hour is a nap.
29. When I die, I want to go peacefully like my uncle did. In his sleep, not yelling and screaming like the passengers in his car.

## **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 340 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 [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net) or 256-426-0525.

## Important Dates in February

- 1 February - Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in flight, killing all seven crew members (2003)
- 2 February – Groundhog Day
- 2 February – War between the US and Mexico ended (1848)
- 4 February – Beginning of the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years (1861)
- 6 February – Queen Elizabeth II assumed the throne (1952)
- 8 February – Mary Queen of Scots beheaded (1587)
- 8 February – Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
- 9 February – Battle of Guadalcanal (1943)
- 10 February – Monthly Board Meeting – TBD**
- 10 February – First Medal of Honor of World War II awarded (1942)
- 11 February – Nelson Mandela released from prison (1990)
- 11 February – Vatican City granted sovereignty (1929)
- 12 February – Impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton ended (1999)
- 13 February – Firebombing of Dresden (1945)
- 13 February – Super Bowl Sunday
- 14 February – Valentine’s Day
- 14 February – St. Valentine’s Day massacre in Chicago (1929)
- 15 February – Battleship *Maine* blown up in Havana harbor (1898)
- 15 February – Soviet Union withdraws troops from Afghanistan (1989)
- 19 February - Internment of Japanese Americans began (1942)
- 20 February - Astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit (1962)
- 21 February – Malcolm X assassinated (1965)
- 21 February – Presidents Day
- 21 February – President Richard Nixon goes to China (1972)
- 21 February - CIA agent Aldrich Ames was arrested on spying charges (1994)
- 23 February – Monthly Member Meeting – 1100 – Summit Club**
- 24 February – Gregorian calendar established (1582)
- 24 February – President Andrew Johnson impeached (1867)
- 26 February - The *Communist Manifesto* pamphlet was published (1848)
- 28 February - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45-year history in Bosnia (1994)

