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February 2026



Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

Well...not even going to talk about the weather! First a "Second Summer" during December followed by some real cold stuff in January! Where is the "Deep South"? The weather even fooled my lawn!

Unfortunately, the unpredictable weather forced me to cancel the January membership meeting. I would like to thank the 40 or so members who signed up – it would have been a good one and, fortunately, our guest speaker has agreed to reschedule for the May membership meeting.

Our membership luncheon this month is February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please put it on your calendar now! Our guest speaker will be Mr. Bill Roark, Co-Founder and former CEO of Torch Technologies, Inc., and Founder/Current Executive Chairman of the Board, Starfish Holdings – Torch's parent company. His organization has been a strong support of our chapter and of many Veterans Service Organizations in the area. See page 13 for details. RSVPs are open - **RSVP to John Vanderbleek at [jvbleek78@gmail.com](mailto:jvbleek78@gmail.com) or 256.893.1565.** Remember that family and guests are always welcome.

Membership Renewal! The number of renewals remaining is dropping but we still have several to go! Please renew ASAP using the form in the Sentinel or the one I'll attach to the Email promulgating this newsletter. We don't want to lose a single member! If you aren't sure of your dues status, please see the list in the Sentinel on page 19 or contact Bruce Robinson or me. If you are interested in Life Membership at a great rate, contact John Fairlamb.

Once again, we are in the midst of executing/planning/thinking about the many annual events we work. They include the Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, JROTC/ROTC awards, the Tut Fann annual BBQ for the Vets and many others. Keep an eye out for updates in future emails.

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

Rick

***This month's membership meeting in on 25 February – the guest speaker is Mr. Bill Roark, CEO of Starfish Holdings***

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



## Legislative Corner

### COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret



→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



### Federal Legislation:

#### [MOAA's 2026 Legislative Priorities](#)

These five bills will make a difference for those who serve, have served and their families.

The President signed a three-bill minibus to fund the Commerce, Justice, Energy and Interior departments through the end of September hitting the halfway mark to fund the government for fiscal 2026.

The House passed a final tranche of funding bills in a massive \$1.2 trillion bipartisan [package](#) that will fund six agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. However, due to anger over ICE operations and shootings, Senators reached a deal endorsed by President Trump, to pass five spending bills that will fund most of the government for the rest of the fiscal year, and to pass a stopgap measure that funds the DHS at current levels for two weeks while lawmakers continue negotiating reforms for ICE. The current continuing resolution, which is keeping the federal government operating, expired at midnight 30 January. The House of Representatives, is on a district work week, and will likely not vote until February 2nd at the earliest, so there will be a short partial shutdown until the House passes the bill.

[FY26 defense bill boosts budget by \\$8B, largely bypassing last-minute \\$28B munitions request](#) Link provides a quick look at what is and what is not in the 2026 Defense Appropriations Bill. Appropriators threw a lifeline to the Navy's F/A-XX fighter and Air Force's E-7 Wedgetail programs while slamming the door on the Army's agile acquisition request. Congress is not yet on board with Golden Dome. Service members are in line for a 3.8% pay hike.

The U.S. Postal Service will be required to reevaluate its consolidation of Huntsville's processing and distribution center according to U.S. Rep. Dale Strong. H.R. 7006, the Financial Services and General Government Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill, was part of the minibus bill that has passed both houses. The USPS must provide a briefing on the impacts of consolidating the Huntsville processing and distribution center, including its effect on mail service to north Alabama. Strong said "The Postal Service's short-sighted decision to strip Huntsville of its processing and distribution center has failed North Alabama communities".

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### 2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD

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

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: Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, [mckinnewd@gmail.com](mailto:mckinnewd@gmail.com)

Army Representative: LTC Nicholas M. Mikus, USA-Ret, 256-604-7767, [nicholasmikus@comcast.net](mailto:nicholasmikus@comcast.net)

Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, [rregner58@gmail.com](mailto:rregner58@gmail.com)

Air Force Representative: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [avatamax@gmail.com](mailto:avatamax@gmail.com)

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

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)

Programs: COL John Vanderbleek, USA-Ret, 256-893-1565, [jvbleek78@gmail.com](mailto:jvbleek78@gmail.com)

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Angela Inman, 256-425-6465, [inmanangela@hotmail.com](mailto:inmanangela@hotmail.com)

Chapter Hospitality: Vacant

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

Chapter Chaplain: Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, [mckinnewd@gmail.com](mailto:mckinnewd@gmail.com)

Commissary & Post Exchange: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [avatamax@gmail.com](mailto:avatamax@gmail.com)

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)

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

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)

The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com)

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 2026)

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

Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, [mckinnewd@gmail.com](mailto:mckinnewd@gmail.com) (July 2028)



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



**Exchange**

Alabama’s severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 AM on Friday 20 February and ends at midnight on Sunday 22 February: [Alabama Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday - Alabama Department of Revenue](#) - but at your Exchange – it’s always tax free!

Still no word on gun or ammo sales. The STAR card used to offer 10% deals every two weeks but they haven’t had a sale since Black Friday.

For your New Year’s resolution to get in shape – your Exchange has it! Pick out your exercise equipment including weights, clothing and bands – all on sale!

Stop in and pick up your copy of the Valentine’s Day sales suggestions, including Valentine’s Day cards, candies, and fragrances While there, remember to stop by the jewelry counter.

Keep checking your Exchange for sales on winter clothes!! Plus, the manager often has unannounced clearance discounts – where the more you buy the more you save – PLUS you usually save even more when you use your STAR card!

Check out the latest Exchange sales on line at [shopmyexchange.com](#) with new technology big screen TV’s and sound bars 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 on-line for special savings!

Download the Exchange Extra app to scan items, get coupons, join the coffee club, get life style/fitness tips and receive the latest Exchange sale promotions – from anywhere in the world!

As always shop early for best selection.

**Shopette**

Looks like the opening of the new construction area will not be open until at least the first or second week of Feb. There will be tacos, burritos, salads, wraps, subs, coffee, sodas, prepackages salads, and Hunt Brothers pizza. Check your Shopette for a wide selection of local brews – but not until after the construction is finished – they have a very small selection now. That also goes for the liquor selection. Check out your Shopette wine and liquor of the month – special pricing on special products!

*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](mailto:nicholasmikus@comcast.net)

Navy/USMC Representative:  
**COL Raymond G. Regner**  
256-851-5903  
[rgregner58@gmail.com](mailto:rgregner58@gmail.com)

Air/Space Force Representative:  
**Col Gerald C. Maxwell**  
256-606-5282,  
[avatarmax@gmail.com](mailto:avatarmax@gmail.com)

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

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



**FAHC Happenings**

**Attention TRICARE beneficiaries!**

You may experience busy signals when calling the military pharmacy prescription refill interactive voice response system – or prescription refill line – Jan. 26 to Feb. 5, 2026, as the system is updated.

Each military pharmacy’s prescription refill line may be unavailable for about two hours. If you call the prescription refill line at this time, you will hear a busy signal. Please wait and call back to complete your refill later.

You may still use the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to refill your prescriptions.  
You may report issues to the DHA Global Service Center by calling 800-600-9332.

**Flu Shot update:**

- All TRICARE beneficiaries, to include retirees, may walk in to the Fox Immunization Clinic M-F from 0900 - 1400, except 1230 - 1300, for their flu shots.
- Also available FREE of charge through any TRICARE Retail Pharmacy

If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment at Fox, please call 256-955-8888 option 2.

**Fiscal Year 2026 TRAINING & HOLIDAY HOURS**  
**\*\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE\*\***

Fox Army Health Center will CLOSE during specified times below:

- Friday, February 20, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 15, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 12, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. to noon
- Friday, August 21, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.

Fox Army Health Center will CLOSE on the following dates for Federal Holidays:

- Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year’s Day
- Monday, January 19, 2026 – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Monday, February 16, 2026 – Presidents’ Day
- Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day
- Friday, June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth
- Friday, July 3, 2026 – Independence Day
- Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day

Please continue to check our Facebook and Instagram pages for any unexpected closure information. Advice nurses remain available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 256-955-8888, option 3, 1-800-874-2273, option 1, or web/video chat at <https://mhsnurseadvice.com/>

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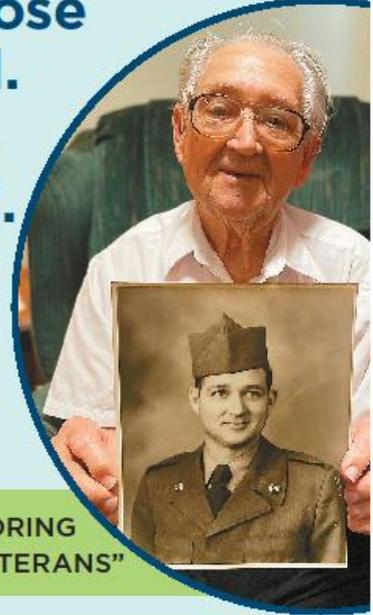
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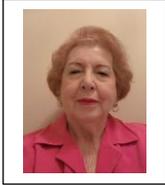
**Super Bowl - 8 February – 6:30PM**

Seattle Seahawks vs. New England Patriots



February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27			



## **Redstone Arsenal Widow's Luncheon**

**Mrs. Bonnie Treadway**  
**256-859-1484**

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, 19 February, at the Tupelo Honey Restaurant, 900 Mid City Drive, Metronome Building, Unit A, Huntsville. Everyone will be called.

## **Surviving Spouse Corner: 4 Ways to Keep Your Benefits Safe**

Nothing is off-limits to scam artists – including taking advantage of military survivors in their most vulnerable moments.

As these beneficiaries begin the process of reviewing insurance, applying for survivor programs, and even preparing funeral ceremonies, they become tempting fraud targets. And while many of the [scam-prevention tactics offered by MOAA](#) apply in these circumstances, there are some specific practices survivors should keep in mind, [offered by the VA](#) and other governmental agencies.

### **1. Paperwork Protection**

In the immediate aftermath of a veteran's death, survivors face a series of forms they may find overwhelming. Resist the urge to take shortcuts – signing before a form is filled out, for example, or failing to read over new materials. Keep a copy of every form for your personal records, with special care paid to discharge papers and VA claims.

### **2. Timely Reporting**

Reporting a veteran's death to the VA not only avoids benefit overpayments, it can help stop identity theft. The VA also recommends reporting the death to [one of the three credit bureaus](#) – Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion – which will trigger an update the veteran's credit report and may stop similar scammers.

### **3. Watch the Details**

Scam artists have multiple venues to collect personally identifiable information (PII), which requires survivors to be vigilant on several fronts:

- If you haven't created a VA account that's protected by a personal identification number (PIN), [consider doing so](#).
- Scammers [may use obituaries](#) to collect personal data for use in identity theft. This could involve creating fake accounts in the deceased's name or contacting relatives mentioned in the obituary while posing as tax officials or insurance agents. The VA recommends leaving out some details in the obituary – birthdate and mother's maiden name, for example – that are of particular value to fraudsters.

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**Chaplain’s Corner**  
**Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret**

**Matthew 5:13-20 (New International Version)**

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**The Fulfillment of the Law**

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.



I am sitting in the warmth of my home, musing over the freezing rain, sleet, snow, and extreme cold. These various weather machinations remind me so much of my first tour of duty in Montana, where these types of weather were the norm during the winter. Life during this time in Montana very rarely shut down (except when it would get down to 50 degrees below zero), leaving everyone to go about their normal lives. For those who stayed home, it was time to take care of those activities you would do in the warmth of your home.

This month’s focus is on the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the world. He also says we are the light of the world.

*Continued on page 14*

**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: 254  
Regular Members: 216  
Surviving Spouses: 38

New this month: 1  
Deaths this month: 5  
Renewals: 5

**Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

**LTC Doug Locke, 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.

*PX/Commissary – continued from page 3*

That also goes for the liquor selection. Check out your Shopette wine and liquor of the month – special pricing on special products!

Remember, we offer a 10% case discount on wine – not liquor. Discount applies to regular priced merchandise only, see store associate for more details.

Earn double points on your STAR card Shopette purchases on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

### **Commissary**

Check out organic fruits and veggies just inside the door of your commissary.

Start off your New Year resolutions and make it a healthy one! But don't forget the wide selection of candies for your Valentine at the Commissary!

I spoke with the manager and he says there should soon be a map for the reorganized commissary food locations on their website – but I haven't seen one yet.

[Current Ad | DeCA](#) has the latest Redstone ads and [Digital Coupons | DeCA](#) has the latest store coupons. 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>

*Surviving Spouse Corner – continued from page 7*

- Do not give out PII via text, and only use trusted web links. If you're unsure whether an email is legitimate, reach out to the sender via another contact method (phone call, website contact form).

#### **4. Take Pause**

The loss of a loved one can be overwhelming in even the best of circumstances – a fact fraudsters hope to use to their advantage. Any solicitation requiring urgent action, especially one involving benefits, may be a scam.

Why take the time? Aside from risking your information, a scammer may seek to enroll you in a VA benefit plan you're not eligible to use. If you receive improper benefits from such an arrangement, even unknowingly, you may face penalties in addition to recoupment.

Want more ways to combat scams of all sorts? MOAA partners with the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Find more information [on their blog](#). III

*Legislative – continued from page 2*

The House is trying to [repeal a provision](#) in the CR that reopened the government that allows senators to sue the federal government for up to \$500,000 if their cell phone data was sought or obtained without their knowledge. Eight senators whose data was seized during former special counsel **Jack Smith**'s investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack could bring suit. The House tied repeal of the law to a bill funding the Department of Homeland Security. With the House leaving for a weeklong recess, the Senate is stuck with the repeal — having to either approve it, or risk a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

The House passed a three-year extension of the *Affordable Care Act* enhanced subsidies in a rebuke of Republican leadership. Seventeen Republicans joined House Democrats to support a straight extension of the subsidies that hundreds of thousands of Alabamians relied on to help pay for their health insurance. The bill moves to the Senate where bipartisan lawmakers are working on a deal to address the expired enhanced ACA tax credits, but senators are looking at a 2 year extension with amendments to the subsidies.

Discussions to ban stock trading by members of Congress are reaching a critical point. After months of sustained pressure from rank-and-file lawmakers, House Democratic and Republican leaders are rolling out proposals to address the issue and, since this is a popular issue with the electorate, a bill of some sort is likely to pass.

### **Alabama Legislation:**

Legislative leaders' main objective for the 2026 session is to end it ASAP. Senate Majority Leader Steve Livingston says the Alabama Legislature has a concise list of objectives for its annual session that started 13 January. "I think we'll do five things: Education budget, General Fund budget, local bills, confirmations and adjourn," and legislative leadership seems to agree that this election-year session will be speedy. Several lawmakers have May 19 primaries and want to avoid any controversy following them home. That said, legislators have been pre-filing bills for consideration in the 2026 session.

Governor Ivey's budget proposals would provide a boost of \$570 million to the Education Trust Fund budget which pays for public education, and a cut of \$29 Million to the General Fund which provides funding for most state programs. Most of the new money would go to employee pay raises and health care while most programs would see little increase. The Legislature makes the final budget decisions.

We are not likely to get a lottery bill out of the 2026 session. Legislature leaders say they do not expect any bills for a lottery, sports betting or casinos to get serious consideration.

The Senate approved a bill that would require health insurance companies to cover prostate cancer screenings for all high-risk patients. [SB 19](#) would allow all men over 50 and high risk men over 40 to be [screened for prostate cancer](#) without any cost-sharing obligations.

[House Bill 71](#) would ensure the state is not "complicit" in robocalling and will protect Alabamians' privacy by prohibiting the state of Alabama from selling phone numbers and other personal information from voter rolls for commercial purposes. Current law allows the state to sell all personal information included in voter registration lists except for Social Security numbers, and most voters don't know their telephone number is being sold by the state.

The Alabama Legislature passed two bills prohibiting civil courts from issuing nondisclosure agreements against survivors of sexual assault. [SB 30](#) and [HB 93](#) intend to protect survivors and further the healing process following sexual assault and abuse. Both bills move to the next chamber and are part of a national effort to

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**HCMOAA Treasurer's Report December 2025**

**Submitted by Col Dave McKinney, USAF (Ret)**

1. The December 2025 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are below. Next one coming soon.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$11,792.15	\$1,703.85
Income	\$ 1,825.00	\$ 0.02
Expenses	\$ 1,955.57	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$11,661.58	\$1,703.87

3. Notable income: Individual dues, social fees.

4. Notable expenses: Social and prizes, checks, and bank stamp.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. The Chapter holds a Certificate of Deposit (CD) in the amount of \$20,558.07. This CD will reach maturity on March 8, 2026. It will be renewed then at the best rate available.

7. The Chapter's Operating Fund contains \$1,188.30 in reserved funds in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. Due to cancellation of this year's RAD, these funds will be held for support of future RADs.

**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](mailto: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 January 2026**

None

Total received for January:	\$0.00
Total received CY26:	<b>\$0.00</b>



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



### Membership Application or Renewal

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

<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 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

<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			

### Attention Annual Members

It is past the time to renew your membership for next year – don't risk being dropped from the rolls  
 The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

***Those members needing to renew are PAST DUE and listed on page 19***

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 [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com).

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



**Membership Meeting**  
**25 February 2026**  
**1100 – Summit Club**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Bill Roark**  
**Co-founder of Torch Technologies**  
**Founder and CEO of Starfish Holdings**

Bill Roark is the founder and Executive Chairman of the Board of Starfish Holdings, the parent company of Torch Technologies, Inc. (Torch), one of the nation's top defense contractors; Freedom Real Estate & Capital, LLC, a commercial real estate brokerage, development, construction, consulting, and property management company; and SIMVANA, a company specializing in virtual reality training for medical applications. Roark also serves as CEO of Freedom Real Estate & Capital.

While serving as CEO of Torch, Roark guided the company to national recognition as one of Entrepreneur Magazine's Top 100 Fastest Growing Companies in America and 15 consecutive selections on the Inc. 5000 list, which recognizes the Fastest Growing Private Companies. Additionally, Torch was recognized as the No. 1 Fastest Growing Privately Held Defense Contractor in the Southeast Region.

In May 2024, Roark released *Built With Purpose*, chronicling the first 10 years of Torch Technologies' history. The book focuses on Torch's formation and transition to a 100 percent employee-owned company. This Amazon #1 Bestseller examines the fabric and culture of an employee-owned company, highlighting the profound positive impact of employee ownership on business success.

Bill is an avid advocate for employee ownership and mentors numerous companies that are evaluating employee ownership or seeking advice on transitioning to 100% employee ownership. Bill's philanthropic efforts include the American Heart Association Heart Walk, the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run, and the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, among others. Bill has received numerous honors and awards for his philanthropic efforts, most recently being inducted into the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership Hall of Fame. Additionally, his wife, Brenda, and daughters, Amy and Kaitlynn, were named Philanthropists of the Year by the North Alabama Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

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**Menu:** Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce, Chicken Parmesan, Seasoned Whole Green Beans, Tossed Salad with Italian Dressing, Garlic Toast, Cannoli, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water

**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](mailto:jvbleek78@gmail.com) NLT 20 February 2026.



**13 Birthdays in February**

Mrs. Ouida Ann Turner  
COL Douglas S Brouillette, USA  
CAPT Kenneth L Lawing, USN  
COL Dale C Kuehl, USA  
LTC Lowell D Twitchell, USA  
COL Jason E Kerr, USA  
COL John D Williams, USA

COL George J Jobczynski, USA  
LTC Ruby R Lardent-Davis, USAR  
CW3 Ernest E Williams, USA  
LTC James H McWhorter Jr, USA  
COL Frederick R Bisch, USA  
Mrs. Susan Della-Corte

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

*Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8*

Many of us may be holed up in our homes, but that should not keep us from being salt and light. Take this time to study the Scripture, making sure you've built up a good supply of salt. If you lose your salt, you will fall by the wayside and be trampled on. Basically you become worthless. Take this time to check on family and friends to ensure they are okay. Take time to send notes to those who may be lonely. Make that phone call you've been putting off. Light brings warmth. Let your light shine! If not, then it will darken, and you I am afraid you will suffer.

If you would like to share prayer requests or contact me. I can be reached at [MOAACHaplain@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**Col Bernard "Bernie" Stanley Morgan Jr., USAF-Ret**, a distinguished engineer, educator, and veteran, passed away peacefully. He was 98 years old.

Born on June 30, 1927, in Brooklyn, New York, to Bernard Stanley Morgan Sr. and Helen Starstrom, Bernie's remarkable life was marked by intellectual achievement, service to country, faith, and devotion to family.

A gifted student, Bernie graduated as valedictorian from Jamaica High School in 1945, where he was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Studious." Shortly after attending Georgetown University, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy during the final weeks of World War II. Serving as a Seaman First Class, he joined the Navy's elite EDDY electronics program, specializing in radar systems.

In 1947, Bernie earned a Secretary of the Navy appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he excelled academically, and became a distinguished graduate. Upon graduation in 1951, his career path led him to the newly formed U.S. Air Force, where he began decades of pioneering work in guided missile and aeronautical engineering. That same year, he married the love of his life, Nancy Marie Coyle.

Over the next three decades, Colonel Morgan served at key Air Force bases across the United States - from Keesler and Lowry to Chanute, Patrick, and Wright-Patterson - contributing to America's early missile programs and aviation technology. He earned two master's degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Instrumental Engineering from the University of Michigan

He went on to teach Aeronautical Engineering as an Assistant Professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, influencing generations of officers. His leadership and technical expertise earned him steady promotions, culminating in the rank of Colonel and his later role as Director of Laboratories at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979, he served as Vice President of Engineering at BDM in Huntsville, Alabama, and later taught engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville before joining Teledyne Brown as Deputy Director of Research where he worked for almost two decades before retiring again.

He is survived by his beloved wife Nancy, their five children, 12 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Friday, January 2, 2026, at Laughlin Service Funeral Home, with a Rosary that followed. The funeral was held on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, with burial that followed at Maple Hill Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COL Patrick Scott Stone, USA-Ret** – 91, passed away on Monday, August 5, 2024. Born in Hartselle Alabama, to J.E. Stone, Jr. and Patricia Scott Stone, on February 20, 1933.

He graduated from Marion Military Institute and from the College of William and Mary.

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Colonel Stone served 32 years in the Active Army Reserve and was a member of the General Staff of the 75th USA Maneuver Area Command, the largest Reserve headquarters in the Army at that time, located in Houston, Texas. He was a graduate of the residence course of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He had received the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, as well as other medals.

He was a Partner in Stone Lumber and Supply Company in Hartselle for 13 years, worked for Texas Instruments in Texas, the Henry S. Miller Company in Commercial Real Estate, several banks in Texas, the F.D.I.C. Regional office in Dallas, and completed over 6 years as President of Colonial Banks in Lawrence County, Alabama.

Following his banking career, he ran for the Alabama House of Representatives District 9. He was elected to be the Republican Candidate for the November election, but he lost the November election to the incumbent.

Preceding him in death were his parents, J.E. Stone, Jr. and Patricia Scott Stone, his brother: J.E. Stone, III, and great granddaughter: Evelyn Franklin.

Survivors include: Wife - Marguerite Livingston Stone, Son - Patrick Scott Stone, Jr., Daughters- Rebecca Bell Stone & Susan Rose Stone Taborn (Mike), four grandchildren & three great grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LTC Peter David Schofield, Sr., USA-Ret** - passed away Saturday, December 28, 2024, in Panama City Beach, FL.

Pete served honorably as an officer in the United States Army for 21 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC). After his retirement, he began work as a defense contractor for Cobham, formerly SPARTA, Inc and then People Tech where after 22 years he retired for a second time. During this time, he worked closely with the Space and Missile Defense agencies and was invited as a guest and on many occasions a speaker to numerous conferences within the US and around the world. He also worked with several community local and national organizations to include assisting in the development of Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville.

After deciding to hang up his tie and retiring a second time, he and his wife, Pamela Anne Schofield made their dream come true and moved to their summer home in Panama City Beach, FL. When Peter wasn't entertaining his grandchildren, he remained very active in the community through the local Rotary Club and his local church community.

Peter is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Pamela Anne Schofield; daughter, Tameron Petersen and husband, Jeffery Petersen; sons, Peter Schofield Jr. and wife, Desiree Schofield, and Scott Schofield and wife, Elizabeth Schofield. Pete was also blessed with seven grandchildren, Jacob Sato, Alexander Sato, Collin Schofield, Jeremiah Schofield, Benjamin Schofield, Lillian Schofield and Zoe Schofield.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Capt James Howard Sanderford, USMC** - 90, died on January 7, 2026, after a brief illness. He was an honest servant leader who lived a life of integrity, humility, hard work, love of family and church and proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps and his community as a state legislator.

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Howard was born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi. After graduating from Mississippi State University with a degree in accounting, Sanderford served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and participated in the Beirut, Lebanon landing in 1958. He was a member of the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of World Wars, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Post 237, and the Military Officers Association of America.

Howard spent 26 years working for IBM in Mississippi, New York and Alabama until his retirement in 1987. He founded Computer Leasing Company, Inc.

He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1989 in a special election, and he served through 2022. Howard believed representing the citizens of Huntsville and Madison County for 34 years was the honor of a lifetime.

While in the legislature, his leadership roles included co-chair of the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee, chair of the House Boards, Agencies, and Commissions Committee, and chair of the Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement. He served on the Executive Committee of the Southern States Energy Board and represented Alabama on the Executive Board of the Southern Legislative Conference for over 30 years. As a member of the Alabama Space Authority, Howard helped organize NASA Day held at the State House each year.

Active in his community, Howard was a member of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Commission, past president of the Huntsville Rotary Club, past chair and member of the Volunteers of America of North Alabama Board, past chair of the Madison County Republican Executive Committee, past vice president of the Metropolitan YMCA Board, and past co-chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Free Enterprise Committee. Other areas of service include the United Way Corporate Giving Program, Boy Scout Creek District Finance Chairman, Alabama Management Improvement Program, Alabama Men's Hall of Fame Board and Alabama Board of Medical Scholarship Awards.

He was an active member at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, where he served as a deacon, finance committee chair, and youth Sunday School director and teacher.

Howard is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dot; daughters, Mary Ann Delano (Chip), Peggy Sanderford Ponder (Morgan) and Betty Robinson; grandchildren, Philip Delano, John Delano (Shannon), Grace Robinson (Dillon Gilbert) and Caroline Robinson; three step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandson.

Visitation was held Friday, January 30, 2026, at First Baptist Church. A memorial service was held the next day.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAJ Warner Allen Davis, USA-Ret** transitioned to the spiritual realm on January 14, 2026. He was born on August 19, 1937 in Milan, Tennessee. His parents were Rhessa A. and Maurine Davis. His wife, Cleta, preceded him in death. He is survived by daughter, Melissa D. Jose (Kevin) of Huntsville and son, Jeffrey L. Davis (Tiffany) of Athens, and four grandchildren.

Spry Funeral Home is handling the burial arrangements. No public visitation is planned. A private family graveside service is planned.

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

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

expand [Trey's Law](#), passed at the federal level. Nondisclosure agreements prevent victims from telling their stories.

Lawmakers will debate legislation to prevent judges from granting youthful offender status to those 16 or older who are charged with capital murder or intentional murder. Under current law, those younger than 19 charged with murder can receive youthful offender status at a judge's discretion. That status carries a lighter sentence with no more than three years in prison and three years of probation, and court records are sealed. House Bill 11 and Senate Bill 25 say those 16 and up must be charged as adults. Read more [HERE](#).

Another pre-filed bill that would allow a voter with a disability to have assistance filling out an absentee ballot. [HB 45](#), would require the Secretary of State to change the absentee ballot application to allow another person to submit the disabled voter's ballot. Currently, only the voter can submit the ballot except in the case of "medical emergency absentee applications."

The debate over Alabama's system for taxing online sales is getting uglier. The cities of Tuscaloosa and Mountain Brook [filed suit against](#) the Alabama Department of Revenue arguing the internet sales tax, known as the Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT), is unconstitutional because cities are being short-changed by a tax that is lower than traditional sales taxes applied in brick-and-mortar stores. Tuscaloosa is projected to forfeit \$14.6 million in revenues because of the difference. Officials care about this fight over collecting internet taxes because it is one of the few new revenue sources over the last several decades, and counties and cities have become dependent on the revenue. Legislators are concerned a lawsuit could upend the entire program with negative impacts on the budgets of many cities and all 67 counties.

The chair of the Alabama Senate committee overseeing the state's General Fund has filed two bills aimed at pressuring several cities to drop the lawsuit challenging the state's Internet sales tax. [SB 36](#) would allow people living outside a city to petition the municipality for refunds for sales and use taxes paid on purchases they made in the city. A second bill, [SB 37](#), prevents local municipalities from collecting sales and use taxes from people who travel to their area to purchase items.

Legislation will be introduced in the Alabama Legislature to tie some new higher education funding to school performance markers to improve educational results across the state's four- and two-year colleges, including graduation rates and the number of graduates ready for in-demand jobs. It's a first step and will take time and money to elevate institutions to do more and do better. In 2024, performance-based funding was distributed to two-year colleges in 28 states and to four-year colleges in 21 states.

The Alabama House passed HB 95, the *Alabama Post-Election Audit Act* to require probate judges to conduct an audit after every state and county election. Each county's canvassing board would randomly select at least one precinct and a statewide or countywide race for the judges to audit. The bill is not intended to overturn or change election results; it's designed to identify issues in voting and with voting machines to provide peace of mind that everything is working well. The House passed a similar bill last session, but the Senate never voted on it. 

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

LTC Robert Archer, USA  
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN  
CW4 Christopher R Chance, USA  
MAJ Lewis M Davidson, USA  
Mrs. Susan Della-Corte  
COL Ryan J Fayrweather, USA  
LTC Robert W Hearon, USA  
COL Jason E Kerr, USA  
Col Larry D Layne, USAF  
LTC Joseph S Minor, USA  
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA  
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA  
CW4 Tommy O Sandner, USA  
LTC Ruth J Sonak, USA  
CAPT Ronald L Stowe, USN

LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA  
COL Perry C Butler, USA  
Lt Col Charles T Clements, USAF  
COL Steven S Debusk, USA  
LTC Gregg M Dellert, USA  
CAPT Steven M Guiliani, USN  
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA  
COL Thomas J Kunhart, USA  
COL Matthew C Mingus, USA  
LTC Johanna L Mora, USA  
LT James L Pointer, USN  
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA  
LTC Samuel Scruggs, USA  
CPT Sean R Sterling, USA

**Chapter Happenings**

**None this month**

**January member meeting cancelled  
due to weather**

## VA Flu Vaccination Clinics

Prevention is key as VA facilities nationwide make vaccines easy and accessible

As flu season approaches, VA medical centers are ramping up their annual [vaccination](#) efforts. The flu vaccine is one of the best ways to help reduce the risk of serious illness, need for hospital care or complications.

Veterans may be able to get a flu vaccine when they are at a VA facility for an appointment. In addition, many VA facilities offer flu shot clinics and walk-in vaccination options. This makes it easier and more convenient for Veterans to get protected.

### **Convenience and confidence in care**

Veterans often find the flu shot process simple, efficient and reassuring. VA [flu shot](#) clinics are part of a broader commitment to keeping Veterans healthy year-round

### **Get your flu shot today**

VA encourages all Veterans to stay up to date on vaccinations. Veterans enrolled in VA health care receive their flu shot as part of their coverage.

[Flu shots](#) are available at:

- VA medical centers.
- VA community-based outpatient clinics.
- Participating retail pharmacies.
- Participating urgent care centers.

To learn more, contact your local [VA facility](#).

## Glaucoma Testing

Did you know that half of all people with glaucoma don't even know they have it? At first, glaucoma symptoms can start so slowly you might not notice them. However, glaucoma can cause vision loss and blindness by damaging the optic nerve.

The only way to find out if you have glaucoma is to get a painless glaucoma screening, which checks your optic nerve health and vision. **Medicare covers a glaucoma screening once every 12 months if you're at high risk.**

**Medicare considers you at high risk if at least one of the following is true:**

- You have diabetes
- You have a family history of glaucoma
- You're African American and 50 or older
- You're Hispanic and 65 or older

Talk to your doctor to check if a glaucoma screening is right for you. Early treatment can often stop further damage and **protect your eyes from serious vision loss.** Learn more about glaucoma from the [National Eye Institute](#).

## **Get your Health Results faster in 2026: Lab and Test Results immediately available in your MHS GENESIS Patient Portal**

Do you get care at a [military hospital or clinic](#)? Starting 20 January, you'll be able to access lab results, radiology reports, pathology reports, and clinical notes immediately through the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#). MHS GENESIS will release your electronic health information the moment it enters the system. This change is a result of the 21st Century Cures Act, a federal law that gives you faster access to your health information.

### **What this means for you**

Starting 20 January, the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal will send you a notification when new results or notes are available. Sometimes, this may mean you see your results before your care team reviews them. You'll need to verify that an active email account is associated with your patient portal to get these notifications. Check your settings to verify your email address.

When you log in to view results, you'll see a banner. The banner will explain that your provider or care team may not have reviewed them yet. Your provider will contact you if your results need further discussion or explanation.

### **What you should know**

- **Results appear quickly.** The system releases information right away. You might see your results before your provider does. Your provider will reach out about anything that requires immediate attention. If you have any questions about your results, contact your provider.
- **Take time to review.** Read your results carefully. The patient portal may include explanations for certain values or findings. Reach out to your provider or care team if something confuses you or seems unexpected.
- **Some results may be sensitive.** You might view emotionally difficult results before speaking with your provider. Your provider or care team can walk you through what the findings mean and discuss next steps.
- **You can choose when to view your results.** Do you want to discuss results with your provider first? You can wait to open them in the patient portal until your provider contacts you or until your next visit.

### **Why this change matters**

Federal law requires health systems to give patients real-time access to their electronic health information. This change improves transparency. It enables faster, more informed conversations about your care. You gain more control over your health information.

### **Questions?**

Reach out to your provider or care team for context, next steps, or follow-up care. They're here to help you understand your results and support you through your health care journey.

To start viewing your results in 2026, visit the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#).

## Presidents Day

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2026 will occur on February 16. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

### **Washington's Birthday**

The story of Presidents' Day date begins in 1800. Following the death of [George Washington](#) in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance.

At the time, Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history, and events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the [Washington Monument](#) in 1848 were cause for national celebration.

While Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. Senator Stephen Wallace Dorsey of [Arkansas](#) was the first to propose the measure, and in 1879 President [Rutherford B. Hayes](#) signed it into law.

The holiday initially only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the whole country. At the time, Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized federal bank holidays—[Christmas Day](#), [New Year's Day](#), the [Fourth of July](#) and [Thanksgiving](#)—and was the first to celebrate the life of an individual American. [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#), signed into law in 1983, was the second.

### **Uniform Monday Holiday Act**

The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day began in the late 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Championed by Senator Robert McClory of [Illinois](#), this law sought to shift the celebration of several federal holidays from specific dates to a series of predetermined Mondays.

The proposed change was seen by many as a novel way to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers, and it was believed that ensuring holidays always fell on the same weekday would reduce employee absenteeism. While some argued that shifting holidays from their original dates would cheapen their meaning, the bill also had widespread support from both the private sector and [labor unions](#) and was seen as a surefire way to bolster retail sales.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act also included a provision to combine the celebration of Washington's birthday with that of [Abraham Lincoln](#), which fell on February 12. Lincoln's Birthday had long been a state holiday in places like Illinois, and many supported joining the two days as a way of giving equal recognition to two of America's most famous statesmen.

McClory was among the measure's major proponents, and he even floated the idea of renaming the holiday Presidents' Day. This proved to be a point of contention for lawmakers from George Washington's home state of [Virginia](#), and the proposal was eventually dropped.

Nevertheless, the main piece of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed in 1968 and officially took effect in 1971 following an executive order from President [Richard M. Nixon](#). Washington's Birthday was then shifted from the fixed date of February 22 to the third Monday of February. [Columbus Day](#), [Memorial Day](#) and [Veterans Day](#) were

*Continued on next page*

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also moved from their traditionally designated dates. (As a result of widespread criticism, in 1978 Veterans Day was returned to its original November 11 date.)

### **What Presidents Do We Celebrate on Presidents' Day?**

While Nixon's order plainly called the newly placed holiday Washington's Birthday, it was not long before the shift to Presidents' Day began.

The move away from February 22 led many to believe that the new date was intended to honor both Washington and Lincoln, as it now fell between their two birthdays. Marketers soon jumped at the opportunity to play up the three-day weekend with sales, and "Presidents' Day" bargains were advertised at stores around the country.

By the mid-1980s, Washington's Birthday was known to many Americans as Presidents' Day. This shift had solidified in the early 2000s, by which time as many as half the 50 states had changed the holiday's name to Presidents' Day on their calendars.

Some states have even chosen to customize the holiday by adding new figures to the celebration. Arkansas, for instance, celebrates Washington as well as civil rights activist Daisy Gatson Bates. [Alabama](#), meanwhile, uses Presidents' Day to commemorate Washington and [Thomas Jefferson](#) (who was born in April).

Washington and Lincoln still remain the two most recognized leaders, but Presidents' Day is now popularly seen as a day to recognize the lives and achievements of all of America's chief executives. Some lawmakers have objected to this view, arguing that grouping George Washington and Abraham Lincoln together with less successful presidents minimizes their legacies.

Congressional measures to restore Washington and Lincoln's individual birthdays were proposed during the early 2000s, but all failed to gain much attention. For its part, the federal government has held fast to the original incarnation of the holiday as a celebration of the country's first president. The third Monday in February is still listed on official calendars as Washington's Birthday.

### **What Is Closed on Presidents' Day?**

As a federal holiday, many banks and schools are closed in observance of Presidents' Day. The New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ are closed for trading on Presidents' Day. The post office is not open and non-essential federal workers have the day off.

### **Presidents' Day Celebrations and Traditions**

Like Independence Day, Presidents' Day is traditionally viewed as a time of patriotic celebration and remembrance. In its original incarnation as Washington's Birthday, the holiday gained special meaning during the difficulties of the [Great Depression](#), when portraits of George Washington often graced the front pages of newspapers and magazines every February 22.

In 1932, the date was used to reinstate the Purple Heart, a military decoration [originally created by George Washington](#) to honor soldiers killed or wounded while serving in the armed forces. Patriotic groups and the Boy Scouts of America also held celebrations on the day, and in 1938 some 5,000 people attended mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in [New York City](#) in honor of Washington.

In its modern form, Presidents' Day is used by many patriotic and historical groups as a date for staging celebrations, reenactments and other events. A number of states also require that their public schools spend the days leading up to Presidents' Day teaching students about the accomplishments of the presidents. ■■■

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

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

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

## Attention Members

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

If they are interested or desire more information, please let Bruce Robinson know, and he will follow up with them. His contact information is [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com) 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)
- 8 February – Super Bowl Sunday
- 9 February – Battle of Guadalcanal (1943)
- 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)
- 12 February – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 – Java Café**
- 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)
- 16 February – Presidents Day
- 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 – President Richard Nixon goes to China (1972)
- 21 February - CIA agent Aldrich Ames was arrested on spying charges (1994)
- 24 February – Gregorian calendar established (1582)
- 24 February – President Andrew Johnson impeached (1867)
- 25 February - Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club – 1100**
- 28 February - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45-year history in Bosnia (1994)

