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January 2026



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings all!

Welcome to 2026! Hopefully you all enjoyed our “Second Summer” during December! Weather service reported temps at times were more than 20 degrees above normal! I was predicting the Alabama Ice Cap would melt and that Lake Guntersville and the TN River would rise 4-6 inches. All life in the region would cease to exist! Definitely an ELE! The cause was vaporized bacon grease and powdered grits in the atmosphere... And then I woke up...

Many thanks to those of you who attended the annual Christmas party! We had a great time – good food, good entertainment and lots of door prizes! Our new Entertainer was a hit – especially with Bruce’s grandchild as you can see on page 9.

Our next membership luncheon is this month – the 28th. Put it on your calendars now, please. Our guest speaker will be MAJ Rich Rogers who basically spent the last year as J3 at GTMO! See page 13 for details. **Please RSVP ASAP to John Vanderbleek at jvbleek78@gmail.com or 256.893.1565.** Remember that family and guests are always welcome.

Membership Renewal! We still have 34 members needing to renew – that number is slowly coming down from the 45 total that needed to renew at the start of our annual drive. 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. Several of those that renewed selected Life Membership – if you are interested, contact John Fairlamb.

I was very happy to see **Navy retain the CINC Trophy**...but my wife and my heart weren’t so much...at least during the game! What a cardiac event!!! Well done to Army and Alabama during their bowl and playoff games! Good luck to Navy in the upcoming Liberty Bowl!

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 28 January – the guest speaker is MAJ Rich Rogers, Director J3 JTF-GTMO

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



Legislative Corner

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Federal Legislation:

Congress recessed until early January facing a January 30 deadline to pass the 9 remaining appropriation bills and avoid another stopgap CR bill and prevent a partial government shutdown.

The House and Senate passed the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which the president signed on 18 Dec. The bill authorizes defense spending, establishes defense priorities and endorsed an \$8 billion increase in the Pentagon budget above Trump's request for a total of about \$901 billion. Congress still must pass the 2026 Defense Appropriations Act that funds the NDAA.

The **just-released compromise version** blocks Pentagon efforts to privatize the commissary system and places new restrictions on reducing troop levels in Europe in stark contrast to President Trump's new national security strategy which sharply **criticizes European allies**. The legislation further restricts the U.S. from vacating the role of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, a role that the U.S. officer who leads U.S. European Command has held simultaneously for over seven decades. Negotiators included limitations on reducing the number of troops on the Korean Peninsula below 28,500 and blocks the Pentagon from reducing the number of troops permanently stationed or deployed to Europe below 76,000 for longer than 45 days until the Defense Secretary and the head of U.S. European Command certify to Congress that it's in U.S. national security interests, that NATO allies were consulted and provide impact assessments. The bill provides \$400 million to support Ukraine in 2026 and 2027 and bans cutting off intelligence sharing with Ukraine unless certain requirements are met. It also repeals decades-old Middle East war powers from 1991 and 2002 which administrations have continued to use to authorize military interventions.

For Alabama, the NDAA authorized \$50 million for an access control point at Anniston Army Depot, \$55 million for a propulsion systems building at Redstone Arsenal, \$64 million for a warehouse at Anniston and \$28 million for area maintenance support at Maxwell Air Force Base. **Of direct benefit to Huntsville traffic issues** is a provision to modify existing law to permit installations facing security or firefighting personnel

Continued on page 10

2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD

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

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

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

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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Chapter Hospitality: Vacant

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

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

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Exchange

The Power Zone had its grand reopening 19 Dec – the area has been revamped and construction is over.

You always get 10% off (15% during current special promotions) your first day’s purchases when you use your STAR card. Something to keep in mind for Spring and the eventual winter clearance items. Use your STAR card at the food court for 10% off your purchases and 10% off catering orders.

Winter clearance clothing sales should be happening soon in each department.

Shopette

The construction is expected to end the week of 5 January. The new space will offer Hunt Brothers pizza, tacos, burritos, and pre made salads.

New wines and beers – stop in to check out the selection. Various specials around the store including gift sets for various liquors. Plus, many local and craft beers. Gluhwein and a wide variety of holiday gift sets are still available. Various wine selections are on sale each month so stop in and see what varieties are on sale this month. Depending on selection and off the regular price, the Express usually offers 10% on a case wine (but not liquor) – be sure to ask!

New Cazadores tequila, Ghost spicy tequila, 1800 cucumber and jalapeno tequila, Buchanan’s Deluxe blended Scotch whisky gift pack, Bushmills gift pack, Sailor Jerry spiced rum gift pack, and various Jack Daniel’s gift packs.

Always save 5 cents per gallon (usually more during holidays or during service birthdays) at the gas pumps when you use your STAR card.

Commissary

Club Pack prices on par with warehouse stores in the middle of the commissary. Plenty of turkeys and hams available. Smoked turkeys finally arrived but only 5 were left as of 20 Dec.

Still available chocolate and treats from around the world – I recommend Mrs. Tilly’s fudge – in a variety of flavors. Check out the long aisle of sweets and goodies that are good for giving and for treating yourself – all in the Club Pack section near the frozen food area.

Want to avoid the lines? Try the commissary Click2Go online ordering!
[Commissary CLICK2GO® Online Ordering | Commissaries](#)

Your Bakery and Deli can create Meat and Cheese trays or/and Sandwich trays. Please call 256-876-3517 and please give a 24-hour notice. Remember the Sushi Bar located by self-checkout – excellent for aa quick lunch or dinner.

Need Addresses

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

None this month

Concerns

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

None this month

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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



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



FAHC Happenings

Community Care Connect returns on Wednesday, January 21 at 11 a.m. in the café. This is your opportunity to speak directly with the commander!

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. This January, we encourage you to learn more about cervical health and cervical cancer prevention and take steps to help eliminate this preventable cancer. Schedule your screening at Fox Army Health Center. Call 256-955-8888 option 2 or send a message in MHS GENESIS to request an appointment.

FAHC welcomed new Deputy Commander for Administration, Major Antony Hensel.

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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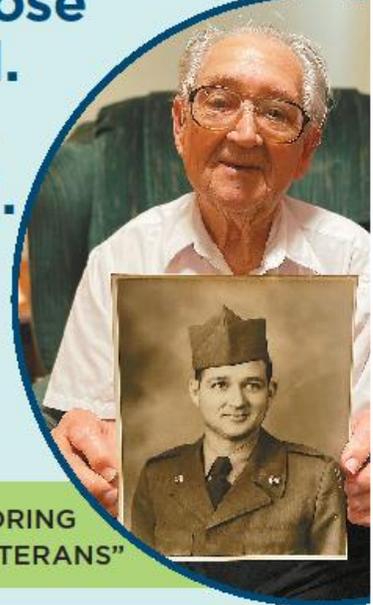
Dale C Kuehl, CFP®, AAMS™

Financial Advisor

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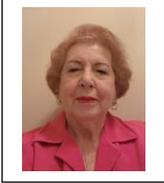
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INSIDE CREEKSIDE CORNER

5PM - 11PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 5PM - 6:30PM





Redstone Arsenal Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

The next widow's luncheon will be held on Thursday, 15 January, at the Longhorn Steak House, 1450 Perimeter Parkway, Huntsville. We gather at 11 AM. Point of contact is Bonnie Treadway, 256-859-1484. All will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Making a VA Benefits Compensation Claim

I have been a surviving spouse for 24 years. My husband, a 33-year veteran of the Marine Corps and a naval aviator, died in 2001 from heart disease. He was never a member of MOAA.

I became acquainted with MOAA in 2019 during a visit to Washington, D.C. It was a chance meeting during [Advocacy in Action](#), at which time some in the group learned I was the widow of a Marine Corps officer. I was led to the registration booth and immediately became a MOAA member. I learned there are approximately 47,000 surviving spouse members of MOAA — representing about 12% of the association's members. I'm now a proud Life member.

This brief encounter started a journey for me to be as active as possible. I became my local chapter's surviving spouse liaison and then a member of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC).

Through my involvement with MOAA, I learned about [VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#). As my husband served in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange, it was determined his exposure subsequently caused the heart disease that contributed to his death. This qualified me to receive this benefit. With the help of a local veteran's service officer (VSO) and the [VA Office of Survivor Assistance](#), I will receive this tax-free monthly compensation for the rest of my life.

Suppose you are the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a servicemember who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness. In that case, you might be eligible to receive this tax-free monetary benefit. [Visit the VA's website to learn more.](#)

For additional information and support, contact a local VSO if one is available in your community. Not all VSOs are as helpful as others, but I finally found mine.

To prepare for opening a VA claim for disability or other benefits compensation, applicants must possess the following documents:

- Military discharge (DD Form 214) — original or certified copy is best
- Other military service information (branch, dates of service, Reserve or National Guard service dates, etc.)

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Chaplain's Corner Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

3:1 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

11 He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also, he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.



As we look back at the previous year, let's do so in joyful adoration of our Savior. Take time to name the blessings you've received. And maybe take it a step further and see if you can name times in this past year where you found yourself in the verses we read from Ecclesiastes. You may have had times of laughing, mourning, disdain. What have you done with these experiences? Are you wallowing in those experiences or are you letting yourself be transformed by them?

Wallowing in the past is looking back, but it's also locking us into what we won't let go of, sort of like being in jail. Maybe you have had a bad experience that won't go away, or maybe a snide remark someone made to you that also just won't go away. This list could go on and on. Reflecting back on life is different from wallowing in the past. When we reflect back, knowing there is a season for everything, we open ourselves to the opportunity to be transformed.

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: 258
Regular Members: 220
Surviving Spouses: 38

New this month: 0
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 3

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

None this month

Donations

Charles Jobe IHO All Veterans - \$200.00

Larry Sharp IHO Charles Jobe - \$100.00

Recruiting

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

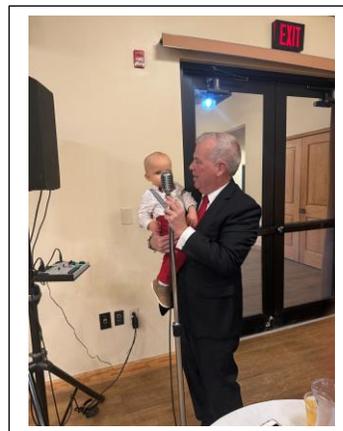
Surviving Spouse – continued from page 7

- Medical records (military and/or civilian) if available, and if applying for a service-connected disability, contact information for civilian medical providers who treated the veteran for military-related illnesses or injuries (i.e., doctors, specialists, hospitals, etc.)
- Bank deposit information (i.e., voided check) — the VA will automatically deposit into this account if benefits are awarded

If the above documents are not available, veterans or surviving kin can request them online at www.archives.gov/veterans.

For additional information and support, review [news articles, publications, and resources](#) related to survivor benefits at MOAA.org, as well as VA.gov. 

Chapter Happenings – Christmas Party



Members enjoying the annual Christmas party at the Overlook

issues to hire contractors to alleviate the shortages. **There are many MOAA supported provisions in the bill and you can read those here.** <https://tinyurl.com/bdz6j5mp>

A bill introduced in the Senate, The “Exclusive Citizenship Act of 2025”, would establish that no one may be a citizen or national of the U.S. while simultaneously having any foreign citizenship. If passed, those who have dual citizenship would have to submit a written renunciation of foreign citizenship to the secretary of State or a written renunciation of U.S. citizenship to the secretary of Homeland Security. An individual who doesn’t comply will be deemed to have voluntarily relinquished U.S. citizenship for purposes of section 349(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The bill is probably unconstitutional because multiple Supreme Court cases have established dual citizenship as a constitutional right, including Talbot v. Jansen (1795), which ruled that U.S. citizens who acquire foreign citizenship do not have to waive their U.S. citizenship, and Afroyim v. Rusk (1967), which ruled that a U.S. citizen cannot lose their citizenship unless they willingly surrender it.

In a bipartisan effort, the House is trying to [repeal a provision](#) in the CR reopening 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.

When Congress returns in January, some members will continue to push for a vote to extend the *Affordable Care Act* subsidies that expired at the end of 2025. Democrats and some moderate Republicans want the subsidies to be reformed before agreeing to an extension.

Discussions to ban stock trading for members of Congress will likely pick up as a House committee will hold a hearing on a 2012 law that prohibits congressional members and federal employees from using nonpublic information for private profit.

Alabama Legislation: Legislators are pre-filing bills for consideration in the 2026 session.

Alabama lawmakers shared expectations for the 2026 session. Speaker of the House Ledbetter said his top priorities focus on career and technical education, mental health and crime. “We need to try to find a pathway for students not going to college to be successful in life and we’ll have a package of two or three bills to work on that.” He’s asked the Alabama Department of Workforce Secretary for a “roadmap” of areas across the state to “let us know what jobs are available and what we need to be training for”.

Sen. Arthur Orr who chairs the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee said Alabama is in good financial shape now but we’ll have some challenges coming up this session. “The cost of our health insurance has exploded.” The Public Education Employee Health Insurance Plan, or PEEHIP, board plans to ask for a \$380 million funding increase from the legislature for the 2027 fiscal year. “We’re going to be grappling with about a \$400 million new ask and we’ll have 400 more million we’ll have to deal with in the next year and grow from there every year for the next four years so it’s going to be a challenge.” Orr also addressed a college funding model “that would “incentivize our institutions of



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report November 2025

Submitted by Col Dave McKinney, USAF (Ret)

- 1. The November 2025 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are attached.
- 2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$11,850.14	\$1,703.85
Income	\$ --	\$ 0.01
Expenses	\$ 57.99	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$11,792.15	\$1,703.86

- 3. Notable income: None.
- 4. Notable expenses: Payment for Webpage renewal and Bank Fee.
- 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 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 December 2025

LtCol David Dunlap, USAF (Ret.)
MAJ Lance & Jan Granger, USA (Ret.)
LTC Samuel Scruggs, USA (Ret.)

Total received for December:	\$330.00
Total received CY25:	\$2280.00



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



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

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

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

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

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

_____ MOAA National Membership Number

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

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.

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 for the details

Membership Meeting

28 January 2026

1100 – Summit Club

**Guest Speaker: MAJ Rich Rogers
Director J3 JTF-GTMO**

No biography had been provided at the time of publishing. If we get one prior to the meeting it will be sent out to all members.

Menu: Southern Fried Chicken; Beef Lasagna; Green Beans; Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Peach Cobbler; Rolls w/ Butter; 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 NLT 23 January 2026.



12 Birthdays in January

BG William J Fiorentino, USA
COL Wood R DeLeuil, USA
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN
CW4 William J Barron, USA
MAJ Monte C Washburn, USA
COL Carl D Owens Sr, USA

COL Gilbert J Stieglitz, USA
COL Jimmy C Hill, USA
COL Ryan J Fayrweather, USA
COL Thomas J Kunhart, USA
LTC Eric C Deets, USA
RADM Richard B Landolt, USN

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

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

Let's look at the last verse again after we are told that God made everything beautiful in his time. The writer tells us that every man should eat, drink and enjoy the good of his labour, as it is a gift of God.

I pray as we go into the new year, you'll accept the gift of God, being transformed to seeing the beauty that God had bestowed on us.

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

Blessings, Dave





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

TAPS

None this month

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



College Football Playoffs

Quarter Finals

- Cotton Bowl – 31 December – 6:30 PM
 - Miami vs. Ohio State
- Orange Bowl – 1 January – 11:00 AM
 - Oregon vs. Texas Tech
- Rose Bowl – 1 January – 3:00 PM
 - Alabama vs. Indiana
- Sugar Bowl – 1 January – 7:00 PM
 - Ole Miss vs. Georgia

Semi Finals

- Fiesta Bowl – 8 January – 6:30 PM
- Peach Bowl – 9 January – 6:30 PM

National Championship Game

- Hard Rock Stadium – Miami – 19 January



**COLLEGE FOOTBALL
PLAYOFF**

How to file claims with TRICARE For Life

If you have [TRICARE For Life](#), you'll get health care from [Medicare](#) providers. There are certain times you may need to file your own claims with [WPS Government Services](#), the TFL contractor. Here's what you need to know about when to file claims when you have Medicare and TFL.

"Always prepare to show your Medicare card along with your military ID card at any medical appointment for a smooth claims process," said Anne Breslin, TRICARE For Life program manager, TRICARE Health Plan, at the Defense Health Agency.

Who files my claims?

In most cases, your provider files your health care claims with Medicare first. Medicare pays its share and sends the claim to WPS for processing and payment of TRICARE's portion of the claim.

Sometimes, you'll need to file your own claim with WPS. This happens when:

- TRICARE is your primary insurance.
- Medicare doesn't cover the service.
- You have [other health insurance](#).

What you need for filing claims

When you file a claim, include:

- [Patient's Request for Medical Payment \(DD Form 2642\)](#)
- [Medicare Summary Notice](#)
- Your OHI explanation of benefits (if you have OHI)
- Provider's bill with all required information

Required information on bills

Make sure your provider's bill shows:

- Your name
- Provider's name and address
- Date and place of service
- Description of services
- Charges for each service
- Diagnosis

Filing deadlines

You have one year from the date of service to file claims in the U.S, as described in the [TRICARE For Life Handbook](#). Send claims to the [WPS mailing address](#).

Filing claims overseas

When you get care overseas, TRICARE pays first (unless you have OHI). Medicare doesn't pay for overseas care.

You must submit [proof of payment](#) with all overseas claims. This can be:

- Credit card receipts
- Canceled checks
- Credit card statements
- Provider invoices showing payment

[File overseas claims](#) where you received care. You have three years from the date of service to file these claims.

How do I get help?

- **WPS (U.S. claims):** Call 866-773-0404.
- **Overseas claims:** Contact your [regional call center](#).

Remember: Seeing Medicare participating providers gives you the lowest out-of-pocket costs. To learn more, visit [TRICARE For Life](#).

The History of Martin Luther King Day

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the entire nation pauses in remembrance of a civil rights hero. At least, that's the intention of the federal holiday that takes place on the third Monday of each January. MLK Day was designed to honor the activist and minister [assassinated in 1968](#), whose accomplishments have continued to inspire generations of Americans.

But though the holiday is now included in the United States' federal calendar and affects countless offices, schools, businesses and other public and private spaces, it wasn't always observed. The fight for a holiday in [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)'s honor was an epic struggle in and of itself.

King was the first modern private citizen to be honored with a federal holiday, and for many familiar with his non-violent leadership of the [civil rights movement](#), it made sense to celebrate him. But for others, the suggestion that King—a Black minister who was vilified during his life and gunned down when he was just 39 years old—deserved a holiday was nothing short of incendiary.

The first push for a holiday honoring King took place just four days after his assassination. John Conyers, then a Democratic Congressman from Michigan, took to the floor of Congress to insist on a federal holiday in King's honor. However, the request fell on deaf ears.

One of the few Black people in Congress, Conyers had been an active member of the civil rights movement for years. He had visited [Selma, Alabama](#) in support of King and the 1965 Freedom Day, one of several mass voter registration events in which large numbers of African Americans attempted to register to vote despite local defiance and armed intimidation.

When his first bill failed, Conyers was undaunted. “Conyers would persist year after year, Congress after Congress, in introducing the same bill again and again, gathering co-sponsors along the way, until his persistence finally paid off,” [writes](#) historian Don Wolfensberger.

He enlisted the help of the Congressional Black Caucus, of which he was a founding member. For 15 years, the CBC attempted to break the stalled legislation loose, advocating within their constituent communities and helping Conyers introduce his bill year after year.

Every attempt failed, even after the bill was brought to the floor for debate.

The tide finally turned in the early 1980s. By then, the CBC had [collected](#) six million signatures in support of a federal holiday in honor of King. Stevie Wonder had written a hit song, “Happy Birthday,” about King, which [drove](#) an upswell of public support for the holiday. And in 1983, as civil rights movement veterans gathered in Washington to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the [March on Washington](#), King's seminal “[I Have a Dream](#)” [speech](#), and the 15th anniversary of his murder, something shook loose.

When the legislation once again made it to the floor, it was filibustered by Jesse Helms, the Republican senator from [North Carolina](#). As Helms pressed to introduce FBI smear material on King—whom the agency had [spent years](#) trying to pinpoint as a Communist and threat to the United States during the height of his influence

Continued on page 19

of higher education to educate along the state priorities. We'll reward schools with extra funding for first-generation students or students that may be in poverty looking to get a college degree and those that are in high-need jobs such as nurses, teachers, engineers and other vocations needed in the state workforce." The full article is at this link <https://tinyurl.com/4myrhr3v>.

Another draft bill would require the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to conduct driver's license exams only in English. The legislation would apply to licenses required to operate both private passenger and commercial vehicles. The bill is a response to recent high-profile semi-truck wrecks in other states and the drivers 'immigration status'.

An Alabama lawmaker is pre-filing a bill that would require those convicted of rape and incest that results in a pregnancy to get a vasectomy or be chemically castrated. [HB 46](#) would also allow a mother to get an abortion under the same circumstances.

A state senator pre-filed a bill that would streamline the process for formerly incarcerated Alabamians to get their voting rights restored. [SB 24](#) requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to inform those who have lost their right to vote how to register to vote.

Alabama's entire congressional delegation sent a letter to U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll to push for Redstone Arsenal to be selected as a site for a micro-reactor power plant. The Army's *Project Janus* aims to deploy nuclear power technology for military installations independent from the commercial grid. As part of the initiative, the Army selected nine possible locations with three to be selected by mid-2026. Redstone Arsenal is one of the potential sites.

Alabama's system for taxing online sales is headed to a courtroom. The cities of Tuscaloosa and Mountain Brook (now joined by over 100 cities, towns and school systems) [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 about \$14.6 million in revenues because of the difference in tax amounts. Legislators are concerned a lawsuit could upend the entire program with negative impacts on the budgets of many cities and all 67 counties.

An Alabama state representative plans to introduce a bill that would retain the professional classifications of some occupations that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act reclassified effectively limiting borrowing for professional training to earn those degrees. The Alabama Professional Workforce Protection Act would recognize nursing, physician assistants, physical therapy, education, counseling, social work, public health, speech-language pathology, accounting, engineering and architecture as professional programs which the Trump administration said were excluded to cap maximum borrowing for certain degrees. It's unclear whether a state bill, even if passed, would overturn a Federal spending decision. 

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 Fayweather, USA
LTC Robert W Hearon, USA
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA
COL Thomas J Kunhart, USA
CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA
COL Matthew C Mingus, USA
BG Daniel L Montgomery, USA
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA
CW4 Tommy O Sandner, USA
LTC Ruth J Sonak, USA
CPT Sean R Sterling, USA
MAJ Michael V Tallman, USA

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

COL Jason E Kerr, USA
Col Larry D Layne, USAF
LTC Clarence R Longcor, USA
LTC Joseph S Minor, USA
LTC Johanna L Mora, USA
LT James L Pointer, USN
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA
LTC Samuel Scruggs, USA
MAJ William H Steele, USA
CAPT Ronald L Stowe, USN

MLK Day – continued from page 17

—into the Congressional record, tensions boiled over. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the senator from [New York](#), brought the materials onto the floor, then dropped them to the ground in disgust in a pivotal moment of the debate.

The bill passed with ease the following day (78-22) and President [Ronald Reagan](#) immediately [signed the legislation](#).

But though the first federal holiday was celebrated in 1986, it took years for observance to filter through to every state. Several Southern states [combined](#) Martin Luther King Jr. Day with holidays that uplifted Confederate leader [Robert E. Lee](#), who was born on January 19. [Arizona](#) initially observed the holiday, then rescinded it, leading to a years-long scuffle over whether to celebrate King that ended in multiple public referenda, major boycotts of the state, and a final voter registration push that helped propel a final referendum toward success in 1992.

It wasn't [until 2000](#) that every state in the Union observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Today, the holiday is still celebrated in conjunction with a celebration of Confederate figures in a [couple states](#) (Mississippi and Alabama), but after decades of contention and controversy, it is observed. III

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 or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in January

- 1 January – New Year’s Day
- 1 January – Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves (1863)
- 1 January – Ellis Island opened in New York harbor (1892)
- 1 January - The Commonwealth of Australia was founded (1901)
- 1 January - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba (1959)
- 1 January - China and the U.S. established diplomatic relations (1979)
- 2 January – The Japanese capture Manila (1942)
- 3 January - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state (1959)
- 3 January – President Eisenhower broke off relations with Cuba (1961)
- 4 January - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address (1790)
- 8 January -The Battle of New Orleans (1815)
- 8 January - Charles de Gaulle took office as the president of France (1959)
- 8 January – President Johnson declared War on Poverty (1964)
- 8 January – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café – 1100**
- 9 January- Construction work began on the Aswan High Dam (1960)
- 10 January - Florida became the third state to secede from the Union (1861)
- 10 January – League of Nations established (1920)
- 11 January - Alabama seceded from the Union (1861)
- 13 January - Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the first African American
- 16 January - The Shah of Iran fled his country (1979)
- 19 January - Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India (1966)
- 19 January - Martin Luther King Day
- 19 January – College Football Championship
- 21 January - The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service (1976)
- 22 January - Abortion became legal in the U.S (1973)
- 23 January - The American ship USS Pueblo was seized by North Korean (1968)
- 24 January - The California gold rush began (1848)
- 25 January - President Kennedy conducted the first live televised presidential news conference (1961)
- 27 January - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp (1945)
- 28 January - The U.S. Coast Guard was created (1915)
- 28 January - Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club - 1100**
- 30 January - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany (1933)

