



Volume 61, Issue 5  
May 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Richard C. West, USN (Ret.)

Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

Great turnout for the April meeting – thanks to all who attended! We appreciated COL Mellor updating us on the status of and future plans for our Arsenal!

Our next meeting is on May 25<sup>th</sup> and will feature Chapter member RADM Richard Landholt as our guest speaker. RADM Landholt just returned from 3 years in Belgium working NATO. He will brief us on the function of NATO and its relationship to current events in the Ukraine. See details on page 13.

Three big events are coming up over the next 2 months.

- First is Memorial Day – if you can, please attend the memorial ceremony at the Veterans Memorial starting at 1100 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Second is the Army Birthday celebration at Redstone Arsenal – it is going to be large and unique this year. Details to follow when received.

- Third is the Tut Fann BBQ. It has been confirmed for lunchtime on June 25<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer to the date, I will be looking for a couple of volunteers to help serve the Vets. More on that event also later...but the date is confirmed, and preps are in progress.

Our **2022 Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **September 9<sup>th</sup>** with a 0830 shotgun start. The golf committee is gearing up to pursue sponsors and players. Mid-month, I will provide all of you with flyers to help us in this effort. Our next golf committee meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Java Café at 1200. We welcome any and all help!

Lastly, I would like to give a hearty thanks to member Mike Roddy. One of our JROTC presenters had to back out at the last minute and Mike volunteered to take over the presentation with less than 6 hours until showtime. Thanks again, Mike!

Stay flexible and enjoy some outdoor time!

Rick

Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org

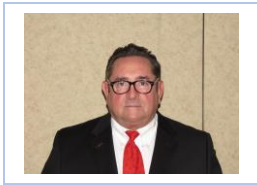


**Member Meeting on 25 May**  
**Guest speaker is RADM Richard Landolt, Chapter Member**

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



## Legislative Corner

### Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take  
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

It is time to vote again! Here are some important dates:

Voter Registration Deadline for Primary Election:	May 9, 2022
Deadline to Submit Absentee Application by Mail:	May 17, 2022
Deadline to Submit Absentee Application in Person:	May 19, 2022
Deadline for Absentee Ballots to be Returned in Person:	May 23, 2022
Deadline for Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail:	May 24, 2022 at 12:00PM
Alabama Statewide Primary Election:	May 24, 2022

The Sentinel has the sample official ballots for both Democrat and Republican parties for the May 24<sup>th</sup> contest (pages 20 & 21).

The Alabama Legislature met for the final days of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session on 8 April 2022. A desire to finish pushed lawmakers to work long days and nights with multiple committee meetings every day between sessions. There was controversial legislation that was debated, filibustered, passed and killed throughout the week.

At the end of the 2022 Legislative Session, there were a total of 339 bills introduced in the Senate and 534 bills introduced in the House of Representatives. Many bills received final passage this week and have been sent to the Governor to await her signature. Of those, 172 bills have been signed by the Governor and become official Acts. Another 96 bills have been sent to Governor Ivey for review and action. Many have been signed into law after the session ended. Here are some of them.

#### PERMITLESS CONCEALED CARRY

Alabama will become the 22nd state to allow people to carry concealed handguns without first undergoing a background check and getting a state permit. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed the legislation into law soon after it was approved by lawmakers. The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2023, will end the requirement for a person to get a concealed carry permit to carry a loaded handgun concealed under their clothes, in a car or in a purse or bag.

#### SERGEANT NICK RISNER ACT

Alabama will disallow “good time” to be available for a reduction to a sentence for those convicted of killing as long as the accused used a deadly weapon. That means good time would still be available to those convicted in deaths without weapons, including vehicular homicides.

#### TRANSGENDER MEDICATION BAN FOR PEOPLE UNDER 19

The bill would make it a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, to prescribe puberty blockers or hormones to transgender people under age 19 to help in their

## 2022-2023 GOVERNING BOARD

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: Vacant

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

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, [m.barron468@gmail.com](mailto:m.barron468@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

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### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

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

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

*Continued on page 9*



## **PX / Commissary**

### **Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR**



### **Main Exchange**

The Exchange continues the plant sale going on outside. Plus, it's time to start that Spring clean-up of your yard! The Main Exchange has the yard care tools, fertilizers, mulch and topsoils you require. Start your yard off right by getting rid of all the weeds and feed the grass at the same time.

After the yard work, get ready for Memorial Day activities by throwing some BBQ on the smoker or grill you can buy from your Exchange. From apartment size to having the neighborhood block party – your Exchange can make you king of the grill. Plus, you can always check out <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> for even more items!

Later, relax by your super-sized TV or surf the internet on your new computer. Plus, there are several TVs on clearance near the back of the store. Either way, your Exchange has you covered!

### **Shopette**

Your Express has your favorite and new offerings of beer, liquor, and various spirits. On sale: Martell Blue Swift cognac, Courvoiser VS SOPF cognac, Smirnoff Red, White, and Berry Vodka, Johnny Walker (12 years aged) Black, Jose Cuervo, The Kracken Black spiced rum, various Ciroc vodkas, and Laphroaig Islay single malt whiskey (aged 10 years). For the discerning palate and wallet: Johnny Walker Blue Label blended scotch whiskey (\$237.50)!

Check out the wines of the Month, Spirit of the Month, and Limited Time Specials. Still no word on when the tent sales will resume – but it's possible around Memorial Day.

You still get 5 cents off your gas at the gas pumps when using your STAR card. There is usually even more off for the Memorial Day weekend. While there, check your tire pressure at the FREE tire pressure stand.

### **Commissary**

A few items are still impacted by supply issues - including pre-packaged salads, and frozen breakfast items.

For your Memorial Day BBQ - steaks and chops – check out the prices at your Commissary! Plus, a huge selection of sauces, rubs, and spices – and enough foil and storage containers to put it all in when you are done!

The Commissary continues its plant sale! Ferns, figs, and others on sale in front on the sidewalk and inside the commissary.

Snacks, breads, and unusual food items from around the world – all at your commissary.

### **Need Addresses**

**Mrs. Margot Snyder**  
**Mrs. Charlotte Miller**  
**COL Henry Brown, USA**  
**COL George Shepard, USA**

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

### **Concerns**

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

#### **None this Month**

Persons to contact are:

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

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

Air/Space Force Representative:  
**Col Edward L. Uher**  
 256-882-6824,  
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VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR

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



**Here is what we've got going on at Fox for May and June**

- **Mask Mandate:** In accordance with Defense Health Agency (DHA) memorandum, dated 01 April 2022, “Mask and Screening Testing at MTFs,” military healthcare facilities (Fox Army Health Center) will use local county community transmission rates and CDC guidance. The current published guidance requires all patients and staff to wear masks in treatment areas and common areas (i.e., hallways, sitting areas, exam rooms and where patients or staff member are unable to maintain minimum social distancing). These continued mitigation efforts are to protect our vulnerable beneficiaries from the potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2 within the healthcare setting and maintain compliance with published guidance for DoD/DHA medical treatment facilities.
- Fox Army Health Center continues to accept interested individuals that would like to volunteer their time through the American Red Cross. Please contact Ms. Tammy Selby, Lead Operations Volunteer, at [tammy.selby1962@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.selby1962@gmail.com) or 256-486-1091. You may also visit the North Alabama Red Cross office at 1015 Airport Road SW, Suite 202 Huntsville, AL 35802.
- **Military Health System Transition:** Patients may begin to experience longer appointment wait times as our facility begins to transition to the new electronic healthcare system, MHS Genesis. Patients may still contact their care team through secure messaging using the Patient Portal at <https://www.tricareonline.com/>
- Fox Army Health Center will welcome COL Wendy Gray as the incoming clinic commander effective 06 June, 2022.

**Note: Members report that, as of 4/29, masks are required throughout Fox AHC**

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## **Surviving Spouse's Luncheon**

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

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday 19 May, 11AM at  
Ol' Heidelberg, 6125 University Drive in Huntsville. Phone: 256-922-0556.  
Reservations are required. Everyone will be called. Please join us.

## **Surviving Spouse Corner: Reflections of a Surviving Spouse Liaison**

**By: Barbara Smith**

Serving for the past six years as my chapter's surviving spouse liaison has been a learning experience. When I first started in the role, I discovered there wasn't any information or description for this undertaking. The chapter had over 60 surviving spouses (then called auxiliary members), but we didn't have a separate list of them. That became my first job. I wrote a letter introducing myself and letting them know I was available for any assistance they might need. I also shared what I hoped to accomplish in the coming year (which at that time wasn't much).

In 2016, I was honored to receive national MOAA's Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. At the ceremony, I met the most fascinating group of ladies, the [Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee \(now Council\)](#). One of the members, Pat Farnsworth, became my mentor. She has always been available to me and has given me the confidence I needed to do this job.

Over the years, I have tried to include surviving spouses in the chapter's monthly meetings. Every May, we have a surviving spouse/spouse appreciation luncheon at our regular chapter meeting with a program designed for them. I didn't feel that was enough, so now we have a quarterly luncheon for surviving spouses/spouses with emphasis on issues and problems that are of interest to them.

At the end of the year, I send out a letter sharing what we have accomplished concerning surviving spouse issues and share what MOAA has on their legislative agenda for us. I try to attend all funerals to let spouses know I'm here for them.

Four years after being appointed to this position, I was elected to the chapter board. This allows me to vote, which I believe is a very important step forward.

I was honored in 2018 to become a member of national MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. This has been an incredible experience. I have learned so much, which I have shared with my local chapter. I have also joined the [MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), which is open to all surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons.

It has been my privilege to fill this position. I have met some inspiring women, shared some wonderful stories, and made memories and some dear friends.

I am beginning my seventh and final year as surviving spouse liaison. It is my hope that someone will step forward and bring a new look and fresh ideas to our chapter.



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

**Faith, Hope, Love**

One of the most memorable sermons was preached by the late Emil Brunner at the Faumunster Kirche in Zurich, Switzerland. It was based on the phrase, "faith, hope, and love."

The points were these: Every man has a past, a present, and a future. The problem in our past is sin, but God has an answer to that problem. The answer is faith—faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The problem in our future is death, but God has an answer to that problem also. The answer to that problem is hope—hope in Christ's return based on the fact of His historical resurrection and His promises. The problem in our present is hate, and God's answer to that problem is love. It is the love of Christ lived out in the lives of those who trust Him.

"But when I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child. I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now, we see through a glass, darkly; but the face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abides faith, hope and love these three; but the greatest of these is love."  
(1 Corinthians 13:11-13)



**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: 318  
Regular Members: 265  
Surviving Spouses: 53

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

**Welcome New Members to  
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

**None this month**

**Recruiting**

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



gender transition. Alabama is the second state to try to impose a ban on gender-affirming care for minors and the first to impose criminal penalties.

#### **NUNERACY ACT**

This would target more resources to struggling schools, deploy math coaches to help teachers and hold schools accountable for continued failure to improve. It's an attempt to improve the quality of Alabama's math education in lower grades, which ranked last on the more recent national report card. According to one source only 22% of Alabama students are proficient in math. The bill would make substantial changes to many aspects of the state's math instruction. These changes would cost an estimated \$114 million per year when fully implemented.

#### **“DONT SAY GAY”/ BATHROOM BILL**

The bill would mandate that in public K-12 schools, students can only use multi-person bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with the gender on their original birth certificate. It also includes what critics have dubbed the “Don't Say Gay” provision that would prohibit classroom instruction or discussion on sexual orientation or gender identity for students in kindergarten through the fifth grade.

#### **TEACHER PAY**

Alabama lawmakers approved the largest teacher pay raise in a generation to try to combat a teacher shortage. Teachers with nine or more years of experience would get raises ranging from 5% to up to nearly 21%. A teacher with a bachelor's degree and 20 years of experience would see their minimum salary rise from \$51,810 to \$57,214. Teachers with less than nine years of experience would see a 4% raise.

#### **PANDEMIC MONEY**

Alabama will spend \$772 million in pandemic relief funds from the American Rescue Plan on a mix of broadband, water and sewer projects and health care reimbursements. Lawmakers met in a January special session to approve the spending plan that had broad bipartisan support. Alabama faced criticism last year for using \$400 million — nearly 20% of the state's total \$2.1 billion allocation from the American Rescue Plan — for prison construction.

#### **DELAY OF READING PROMOTION**

Alabama lawmakers voted to delay a high-stakes requirement to hold back third graders who don't meet reading benchmarks. The requirement was set to begin this spring. Lawmakers voted to delay it until the 2023-2024 school year. Many lawmakers expressed concern about putting the requirement on students after the pandemic interrupted classroom instruction for two years.

#### **TAX CUTS**

Lawmakers approved a series of tax cuts for people and businesses. One bill will increase the optional standard deduction by \$1,000 for married taxpayers and by \$500 for single, married filing separately and head of household taxpayers. It would also increase the adjusted gross income range allowable for the maximum optional standard deduction and for the dependent exemption. Another approved bill will exempt up to \$6,000 in retirement income from state income taxes for people who are 65 years of age or older.

#### **REMOVING RACIST LANGUAGE**

Alabama voters in November will vote on a plan to strip racist language, such as provisions about poll taxes and segregated schools, from the Alabama Constitution. The sections were invalidated by court rulings but remain in the document. The plan also reorganizes the massive, sprawling document that has nearly 1,000 constitutional amendments to try to make it more user friendly.

#### **WHAT FAILED:**

Lottery and casino legislation failed again amid longstanding disputes over who should get casino licenses. A sweeping school choice bill that would have let parents tap \$5,500 per year to pay for private school or other school options also failed.



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

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

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

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$16,256.94	\$16,522.99
Income	\$ 895.00	\$ 0.14
Expenses	\$ 904.65	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$16,247.29	\$16,523.13

3. Notable income: Proceeds from the March luncheon, petty cash for the March luncheon, dues and MOAA Vacations royalties.

4. Notable expenses: Payment for the February luncheon, and petty cash for the March luncheon.

5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1,903.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019/2021 donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

### **Scholarship Fund Donations**

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

A check for \$12,000 was provided to the RSAMCC at the March meeting for the Merit Awards program.

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

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

Total received for April:	\$0
Total received CY22:	\$0





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



### Membership Application or Renewal

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

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

\*New members joining after September 1<sup>st</sup> will have their membership paid through following calendar year

\*\*If renewing just update any address or phone changes, verify e-mail address, and sign the form

\*\*\*Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (age-based)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ MOAA National Membership Number

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



## *Legislative – continued from page 9*

A bill to ban a list of “divisive concepts” from being taught in K-12 classrooms and state worker training was approved in the House of Representatives but did not get a Senate vote.

### **On the National Front:**

#### Biden Requests \$773 Billion for National Defense Budget in 2023

Defense Department spending would see a 4% increase in fiscal 2023 under a plan released by the White House on 28 March 2022, significantly above what administration officials wanted last year but likely not enough to satisfy congressional Republicans. Administration officials said the \$773 billion plan includes new money to help Ukraine in its fight against Russia, new investments in military aircraft and nuclear deterrence systems, and enough funding to counter “persistent threats including those posed by North Korea, Iran and violent extremist organizations.” The total spending plan translates to an increase of more than \$30 billion, or 4%, over the fiscal 2022 enacted level.

#### On the Other Hand

The armed services committees’ lead Republicans, Sen. Jim Inhofe and Rep. Mike Rogers, have pressed Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and the armed services secretaries, in a series of letters obtained by Defense News, to explain where their inflation figures came from, noting the Labor Department calculates the Consumer Price Index at 7.9%, a 40-year peak. Both are among Republicans who have called for a 5 percent increase above inflation. Along similar lines Monday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was swift to react to the defense budget release, arguing that it “falls woefully short.”

#### Biden Proposes a 20% increase to the VA Budget FY 2023

Affairs programs would see a 20% increase in funding under the White House budget plan for fiscal 2023 released on 28 MAR, pushing the department’s spending total above \$300 billion for the first time. The department has seen steady increases annually as multiple administrations have sought to increase medical care and support services for veterans. Even with that history, however, the fiscal 2023 request represents a major new influx of money for the department, already one of the most expensive in the federal government. Only the Departments of Defense (\$773 billion) and Health and Human Services (\$138 billion) would see more discretionary funding in the plan than VA (\$135 billion).

#### DoD Vaccination Program Supreme Court Ruling Sides with Navy

The Supreme Court is giving the Navy a freer hand determining what job assignments it gives to 35 sailors who sued after refusing on religious grounds to comply with an order to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The high court in a brief order 25 March 2022 sided with the Biden administration and said that while the lawsuit plays out, the Navy may consider the sailors’ vaccination status in making deployment, assignment and other operational decisions. The group that sued includes mostly Navy SEALs.

#### No consolidation

A top Pentagon official has quashed the idea of consolidating the military commissary and exchange systems, nearly two years after her predecessor ordered the merger to move forward. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks rescinded the previous memorandum and directed DoD “to cease all efforts to consolidate the Defense resale entities”.

The March 2022 CPI is 283.176, 5.5 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for April 2022 is scheduled to be released May 11. The CPI baseline for FY 2022 is 268.421.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative Affairs portion of our webpage—it lists all three of article pertaining to the proposed National Defense Budget.

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







## **Membership Meeting**

**25 May 2022**

**1100 – Summit Club**

**Guest Speaker: RADM Richard Landolt, USN-Ret  
Chapter Member**

**Rear Admiral (Ret) Richard Landolt** served 32 years as a surface warfare officer in the US Navy where he commanded 3 ships, an amphibious squadron and was in Command of Amphibious Forces 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet out of Okinawa, Japan. After retiring in 2014 he served for 3 years as the Executive Director, Public Safety for the city of Mobile, Alabama. In 2017 he was then appointed the Secretary of Defense's Representative to Europe (SECDEFREP Europe) and NATO by then Secretary of Defense Mattis and was dual hatted as the Defense Advisor to the US Ambassador to NATO. He held these positions until January of 2021. He is now a Senior Advisor at Hill Technical Solutions here in Huntsville, Alabama.

Subj: NATO 101 -- Admiral Landolt is uniquely qualified to discuss the history and evolution of NATO having served two tours on NATO staffs while on active duty, plus serving in his most recent assignment as the SECDEFREP Europe, which is also the highest-ranking Department of Defense civilian position in Europe. He'll discuss the formation of NATO and how it evolved since the end of the cold war and how events in Ukraine are impacting the Alliance.

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**Menu:** BBQ Chicken, Fried Catfish, Cole Slaw, Macaroni & Cheese, Banana Pudding, Rolls, Assorted Beverages

**Cost:** \$20 for Chapter members and families; \$25 for non-members / guests – pay at the door – cash or check only. **Exact change is appreciated.**

**RSVP:** CAPT Rick West, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net), NLT 20 May 2022



## Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony

30 May 2020 at 1100  
Huntsville Veterans Memorial  
*Everyone is Welcome to Attend*



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## Scholarship Golf Tournament

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

The Chapter's Golf Committee will hold its next planning meeting on Friday, 6 May, at 1200. It will take place at the Java Café over lunch.

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

Areas where you can help include:

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

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





## 22 Birthdays in May

LTC James M Carter, USA  
LTC Hector New, USA  
CW4 Jeffrey A Sumners, USA  
LTC Randall W Withrow, USA  
Col Larry D Layne, USAF  
LTC David E Pray, USA  
CW3 Kenneth J Nurmi, USN  
LTC Paul A Hayne, USA  
COL Marvin S Smith, USA  
Mrs. Charlotte U Miller  
LTC Donnie L Henley, USA

Lt Col Louis S Davis, USAF  
Col John A Morrison, USAF  
COL Harold J Hicks, USA  
CPT Robert E Steward, USMC  
Mrs. Jan Camp  
COL Stephen H French, USA  
CW5 Reginald Jacobs, USA  
CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA  
COL James D Treadway, USA  
MAJ Charles B Drake, USMC  
CH (LTC) James R Johnson Sr, USA

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

## Governing Board Vacancies

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

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

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

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

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



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

**TAPS**

**None this month**

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

*We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.*



### **Chapter Happenings – April Member Meeting**



COL Glenn Mellor, Redstone Arsenal Garrison  
Commander, addresses the membership



COL Mellor receives a Certificate of  
Appreciation from Chapter President  
Rick West



## **God's Aging Plan**

The Truth hurts: Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you may mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

- Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

## Where to Retiree

You can retire to Arizona where...

- You are willing to park three blocks away from your house because you found shade.
- You've experienced condensation on your rear-end from the hot water in the toilet bowl.
- You can drive for four hours in one direction and never leave town.
- You have over 100 recipes for Mexican food.
- You know that "dry heat" is comparable to what hits you in the face when you open your oven door at 500 degrees.
- The four seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??

OR You can retire to California where...

- You make over \$450,000 and you still can't afford to buy a house.
- The fastest part of your commute is going down your driveway.
- You know how to eat an artichoke.
- When someone asks you how far something is, you tell them how long it will take to get there rather than how many miles away it is.
- The four seasons are: Fire, Flood, Mud and Drought.

OR You can retire to New York City where...

- You say "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.
- You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
- You think Central Park is "nature."
- You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multilingual
- You've worn out a car horn. (IF you have a car.)
- You think eye contact is an act of aggression

OR You can retire to Minnesota where...

- You only have three spices: salt, pepper and ketchup.
- Halloween costumes have to fit over parkas.
- You have seventeen recipes for casserole.
- Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
- The four seasons are: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road repair.

*Continued from previous page*

OR You can retire to The Deep South where...

- You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
- "Y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
- "He needed killing" is a valid defense.
- Everyone has two first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Joe Bob, Betty Jean, Mary Beth, etc.
- Everything is either: "in yonder," "over yonder" or "out yonder. "
- You can say anything about anyone, as long as you say "Bless his heart" at the end!

OR You can move to Colorado where...

- You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
- You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home, so he stops at the day care center.
- A pass does not involve a football or dating.
- The top of your head is bald, but you still have a pony tail.

OR You can retire to Nebraska or Kansas where...

- You've never met any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
- Your idea of a traffic jam is three cars waiting to pass a tractor.
- You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
- You end every sentence with a preposition; "Where's my coat at?"

OR FINALLY you can retire to Florida where...

- You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
- All purchases include a coupon of some kind - even houses and cars.
- Everyone can recommend an excellent cardiologist, dermatologist, proctologist, podiatrist, or orthopedist.
- Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
- Cars in front of you often appear to be driven by headless people.




# SAMPLE BALLOT

This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

THESE OFFICES  
RUN BY  
DISTRICT

FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 4 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> AMY BURKS
<input type="radio"/> LISA HAYDOCK
<input type="radio"/> SUZANNE JOHNSON
<input type="radio"/> JAMIE MARRA JORDAN
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 19 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> TONALYN BUCHANAN-OWENS
<input type="radio"/> STEPHANIE MCGLOTHLIN GREENE
<input type="radio"/> BLAIR NORTHCUTT
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 20 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> CINDI CASSIDY BRANHAM
<input type="radio"/> MARTHA LYNN SHERRICK
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 21 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> SARA BRADLEY
<input type="radio"/> JEANETTE JONES
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 26 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> EDOORA FALLIN
<input type="radio"/> AMY LESH SHADON

FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 4 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> SHAWN "CHOP" MCENAMON
<input type="radio"/> HANU KARAPALAM
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 8 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> BENATO SMELTON
<input type="radio"/> MIKE SMITH
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 18 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> WILL DULVER
<input type="radio"/> RANDY B. KELLEY
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 25 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> ALEX EAST
<input type="radio"/> TOM RYAN
<input type="radio"/> EDDIE SHERRICK
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 21 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> LANE CLEMONS
<input type="radio"/> PARKER BRIDGITH
<input type="radio"/> JASON M. JONES
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 22 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> WILLIAM L. KRAUSE
<input type="radio"/> L. STUART VANCE
FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. 30 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> ANTHONY DANIELS
<input type="radio"/> CHRISTOPHER LEE

 <b>OFFICIAL BALLOT</b>		<b>DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION</b> <b>MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA</b> <b>MAY 24, 2022</b>	
<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER</b>			
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY. <input type="radio"/> IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.			
<b>FOR GOVERNOR</b> (Vote for One)		<b>FOR MADISON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. (Vote for no more than Eight)</b>	
<input type="radio"/> YOLANDA ROCHELLE FLOWERS		<b>"Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?"</b>  <b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</b> <b>TO REPEAL THE</b> <b>ANTIDISCRIMINATION</b> <b>ACT</b>  <b>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1</b>  Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the State of Alabama of up to \$85,000,000 for the purposes of the improvement, renovation, equipping, acquisition, provision, contribution, and maintenance of Alabama state parks under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and public historical sites and public historical parks under the jurisdiction of the Alabama Historical Commission. (Proposed by Act 2021-326)	
<input type="radio"/> MALIKA SANDERS FORTIER			
<input type="radio"/> PATRICIA SALTER JAMESON			
<input type="radio"/> ARTHUR KENNEDY			
<input type="radio"/> CHAD "Chop" MARTIN			
<b>FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR</b> (Vote for One)		<input type="radio"/> YES	
<input type="radio"/> WILL BOYD		<input type="radio"/> NO	
<input type="radio"/> BRANDAUN DEAN		<b>END OF BALLOT</b>	
<input type="radio"/> LANNY JACKSON			
<b>FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> CHARLIE THOMPSON			
<input type="radio"/> KATHY WARNER-STANTON			
<b>FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. (Vote for One)</b>			
<b>FOR STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MALE), DISTRICT NO. (Vote for One)</b>			
<p><small>"By casting this ballot, I do pledge myself to abide by the result of this Primary Election and to aid and support all the nominees named in the ensuing General Election."</small></p>			

FOR MADISON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEMALE), DISTRICT NO. 8 (Vote for no more than Eight)
<input type="radio"/> JESSICA FORTUNE BARKER
<input type="radio"/> VIOLET EDWARDS
<input type="radio"/> SONITA DILL
<input type="radio"/> SONIA D. DILL
<input type="radio"/> LAURA HALL
<input type="radio"/> PAT KING
<input type="radio"/> LAURIE MACAULLEY
<input type="radio"/> ALICE SAMB
<input type="radio"/> EVA P. SMITH
<input type="radio"/> LIZ SMITH




# SAMPLE BALLOT

This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

## THESE OFFICES RUN BY DISTRICT

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 4 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> SHEILA BANISTER
<input type="checkbox"/> PATRICK JOHNSON
<input type="checkbox"/> PARKER DUNCAN MOORE
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 16 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> JAMES D. BROWN
<input type="checkbox"/> JAMES LOWMY
<input type="checkbox"/> ANDELA MCCLURE
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 36 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> BUCK CLEMONS
<input type="checkbox"/> PHILIP K. ROBBY

FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS KENNEDY
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAD TAYLOR
FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> ANDELA MCCLURE
<input type="checkbox"/> FRANCES TAYLOR
FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT 4 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> DAVID R. HURST
<input type="checkbox"/> COLLEEN PRINCE
FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT 8 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> BYDNEY B. DEAN
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSAN NEWMAN
FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT 11 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> MATT MASSEY
<input type="checkbox"/> MARC PARSONS

 <b>OFFICIAL BALLOT</b>		<b>REPUBLICAN PRIMARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA MAY 24, 2022</b>
<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER</b> TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETELY. <input type="checkbox"/> IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
<b>FOR GOVERNOR</b> (Vote for One)	<b>FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 1</b> (Vote for One)	<b>FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT LARGE PLACE NO. 13</b> (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> LINDY BLANCHARD	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN HAMMOCK	<input type="checkbox"/> LINDA COATS
<input type="checkbox"/> LEW BURDETTE	<input type="checkbox"/> STEPHEN MLAMB	<input type="checkbox"/> STEPHEN D. SCHMIDT
<input type="checkbox"/> STACY LEE GEORGE	<input type="checkbox"/> JEREMY H. ODEN	
<input type="checkbox"/> KAY IVEY	<input type="checkbox"/> BRENT WOODALL	
<input type="checkbox"/> TIM JAMES	<b>FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 2</b> (Vote for One)	<b>FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT LARGE PLACE NO. 15</b> (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> DONALD TRENT JONES	<input type="checkbox"/> CHIP BECKER	<input type="checkbox"/> CAMERON FULLINWIDER
<input type="checkbox"/> DEAN COLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ROBIN LITAKER	<input type="checkbox"/> TOBIAS VOGT
<input type="checkbox"/> DAVE THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/> ROBERT L. MCCOLLUM	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEAN YOUNG	<b>FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 8</b> (Vote for One)	<b>FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 1 PLACE</b> (Vote for One)
<b>FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR</b> (Vote for One)	<input type="checkbox"/> LILLIE BOODIE	
<input type="checkbox"/> KATE BRITT	<input type="checkbox"/> REX DAVIS	
<input type="checkbox"/> MO BROOKS	<input type="checkbox"/> WAYNE REYNOLDS	
<input type="checkbox"/> MIKE DURANT	<b>FOR SUPERINTENDENT, MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION</b> (Vote for One)	*Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?  <b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO VOTER'S GUIDE</b>  <b>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1</b> Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the State of Alabama of up to \$25,000,000 for the purposes of the improvement, renovation, equipping, acquisition, preservation, construction, and maintenance of Alabama state parks under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and public historical sites and public historical parks under the jurisdiction of the Alabama Historical Commission. (Proposed by Act 2021-326)
<input type="checkbox"/> JAKE SCHAFER	<input type="checkbox"/> KEN KUBIK	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
<b>FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> (Vote for One)	<input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS SHAW	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> ANDY BLALOCK	<input type="checkbox"/> CAMERON E. WHITLOW, SR.	
<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN ROBERTS	<b>FOR MEMBER, MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 5</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> PAUL SANFORD	<input type="checkbox"/> BILL BYRD	
<input type="checkbox"/> DALE STRONG	<input type="checkbox"/> JAYLEN J. COTTEN	
<input type="checkbox"/> CASEY WARDYNOKU		
<input type="checkbox"/> HARRISON WRIGHT	<b>FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL</b> (Vote for One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> STEVE MARSHALL	
	<input type="checkbox"/> HARRY BARTLETT STILL III	
<b>FOR STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT NO. 2</b> (Vote for One)	<input type="checkbox"/> SAM GIVMAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> TOM BUTLER	<input type="checkbox"/> MIKE PARSONS	
<input type="checkbox"/> BILL HOLZGELAW	<b>FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, AT LARGE, PLACE 3</b> (Vote for One)	
<b>FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO.</b> (Vote for One)	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM MATTHEWS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> OWEN W. SHELTON	
	<input type="checkbox"/> TOBIAS VOGT	
<b>FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE 5</b> (Vote for One)	<b>FOR STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MADISON COUNTY, DISTRICT</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> GREG COOK		
<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA JONES	<b>FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT LARGE PLACE NO. 4</b> (Vote for One)	
<b>FOR SECRETARY OF STATE</b> (Vote for One)	<input type="checkbox"/> WES ALLEN	
<input type="checkbox"/> WES ALLEN	<input type="checkbox"/> ANSON KNOWLES	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN HORN	<input type="checkbox"/> ELBERT PETERS	
<input type="checkbox"/> ED PACKARD		
<input type="checkbox"/> JIM ZEIGLER		
<b>FOR STATE AUDITOR</b> (Vote for One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> STAN COOKE		
<input type="checkbox"/> RUSTY GLOVER		
<input type="checkbox"/> ANDREW BORRELL		

FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 3, PLACE 1 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS KENNEDY
<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN NOEL
FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 5, PLACE 1 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> JAMES D. BROWN
<input type="checkbox"/> ANDELA MCCLURE
FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 6, PLACE 1 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> JIM PETERS
<input type="checkbox"/> COLLEEN PRINCE
FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 8, PLACE 3 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> ELIZABETH BLACK
<input type="checkbox"/> CHARLES COATS
<input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM CODY BARTON
FOR MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DISTRICT 11, PLACE 2 (Vote for One)
<input type="checkbox"/> HEATH B. JONES
<input type="checkbox"/> STELLA STOKESBURY

END OF BALLOT

## **DoD Officially Kills Plan to Merge Commissaries & Exchanges**

A top Pentagon official has quashed the idea of consolidating the military commissary and exchange systems, nearly two years after her predecessor ordered the merger to move forward.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks rescinded the previous memorandum and directed DoD “to cease all efforts to consolidate the Defense resale entities” in the April 4 memorandum, obtained by Military Times.

The Defense Commissary Agency, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange Service Command and the Marine Corps Exchange “play a vital role in providing community services for our service members and their families,” Hicks wrote. The commissary is the military benefit for discounted groceries; the exchanges are retail stores that provide tax-free and discounted items. The exchanges also operate other programs, ranging from overseas school lunches to theaters and food outlets, depending on the service branch. Exchanges put part of their profits back into morale, welfare and recreation programs on military bases.

For years, some officials within DoD have taken aim at the cost of the commissary benefit in particular, which receives about \$1 billion a year in taxpayer dollars to provide discount groceries to authorized customers in military communities around the world. In the fiscal 2023 budget proposal, DoD asks for \$1.2 billion for the operation of the 236 commissaries.

DoD “previously considered consolidating the Defense resale entities; however recent studies have demonstrated that alternative approaches can realize the benefits of consolidation without the risks consolidation would bring to the mission of the Defense resale entities,” Hicks wrote.

Defense officials told Congress in August 2021 that they were backing away from consolidation after further analysis showed consolidation was not feasible. DoD “no longer supports such a consolidation,” concluded the report to Congress, signed by Virginia Penrod, then-acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

DoD began the effort to consolidate the year before the pandemic, following the findings of a task force’s 2018 study that concluded “the benefits of consolidating the defense resale entities far outweigh the costs.” That study, conducted with the help of the Boston Consulting Group, stated the consolidation would save \$700 million to \$1.3 billion of combined taxpayer and non-appropriated funds over a period of five years.

But questions were raised about the validity of that study. After a Government Accountability Office review, Congress ordered DoD to take another look at the findings.

DoD’s new analysis found the consolidation would actually require an additional \$1.5 billion in costs that were understated in the 2018 analysis, according to the August report to Congress. The analysis had a “single-minded fixation” on cutting costs, diverting the focus away from the customer, the report stated. “Successful retailers are currently focused on digitization and the customer.”

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The extra costs would have likely been borne by customers, quality of life programs on installations, or both, advocates said.

Long concerned that consolidation could pose a threat to the future of the commissary and exchange benefits, those advocates expressed concern that DoD was moving too quickly toward a merger.

The 2018 analysis and recommendations led to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist giving the green light to consolidation in 2019, pending required changes in law that would allow consolidation.

Hicks' memo rescinding Norquist's memo outlines requirements for continuing to find additional savings and efficiencies by concentrating future efforts on structured collaboration between the DoD resale entities. Commissary and exchange officials will report on these accomplishments at least twice a year to the Defense Executive Resale Board, particularly in areas such as marketing, buying and information technology.

Early in the pandemic, defense officials designated commissaries as "mission critical," which meant that the commissaries would stay open regardless of an installation's health protection condition.

Commissaries were one of the few military quality of life benefits that stayed open on all military bases during the pandemic. Officials put a priority on getting food to overseas stores, where customers may have had few alternatives for getting food. ■■■

## **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2022 will occur on Monday, May 30.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem.

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

## **Huntsville Chapter Objectives**

- Promote the aims of the national MOAA organization
- Further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA through grassroots activity
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services
- Maintain liaison and a positive relationship with the Redstone Arsenal Garrison and other military commands in the Northern Alabama area
- Provide a social venue for members to meet periodically and enjoy fellowship with people of similar interests and backgrounds
- Promote and assist worthy community activities
- Provide useful services and information for members and their dependents and survivors
- Provide representation to the Alabama Council of Chapters of MOAA
- Provide representation to the Northern Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition
- Protect the rights and interests of service retirees and active-duty military members in matters of state legislation through the Alabama Council of Chapters

## **Benefits of Membership**

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have over 320 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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



## Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our 350+ members each month. All they can say is “no”.

If they are interested or desire more information, please let Bruce Robinson know, and he will follow up with them. His contact information is [brobinso1976@gmail.com](mailto:brobinso1976@gmail.com) or 256-426-0525.

## Important Dates in May

- 1 May – May Day
- 1 May – Great Britain was formed (1707)
- 1 May – Francis Gary Powers’ U-2 plane shot down over Russia (1960)
- 2 May – Osama Bin Laden killed by US Special Forces (2011)
- 4 May – Four students killed at Kent State University by National Guardsmen (1970)
- 5 May – Cinco de Mayo
- 5 May – Alan Shepard became the first American in space (1961)
- 6 May – Golf Meeting – Java Cafe - 1200**
- 6 May – German airship Hindenburg explodes at Lakehurst, NJ (1937)
- 7 May - The *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German submarine, killing 1198 (1915)
- 8 May – Battle of Coral Sea (1942)
- 8 May – Mother’s Day
- 11 May – Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969)
- 12 May – Berlin Blockade lifted (1949)
- 12 May – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 13 May – Pope John Paul II shot in St. Peter’s Square (1981)
- 14 May – Monthly Breakfast – City Café Diner – 0900**
- 14 May – Smallpox vaccine developed (1796)
- 15 May – George Wallace shot while campaigning for President (1972)
- 17 May – New York Stock Exchange established (1792)
- 17 May – First running of the Kentucky Derby (1875)
- 18 May – Mt. St. Helens erupted (1980)
- 20 May – Charles Lindbergh took off on his historic flight (1927)
- 20 May – Amelia Earhart became first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic (1932)
- 21 May – The American Red Cross was founded (1881)
- 24 May – First telegraph message sent (1844)
- 25 May – Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club – 1100**
- 26 May – Evacuation of Dunkirk began (1940)
- 27 May – Golden Gate bridge opened (1937)
- 28 May – Amnesty International founded (1961)
- 30 May – Lincoln Memorial was dedicated (1922)
- 30 May – Memorial Day
- 31 May – Johnstown flood killed over 2300 (1889)

