

Volume 62, Issue 5
May 2023



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

Back to that nasty wet weather! Maybe someday we will have “select-a-weather” on our smart phones? The “app” probably still would be saturated with ads...

I am very pleased to announce that the Chapter was once again awarded the **5 Star Level Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards** by MOAA National for both our website and our newsletter. WELL DONE to ALL involved!

April’s meeting was a successful one. We had a huge turnout – over 50 attendees...many guests! Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to a funeral, but NASA ensured we had a substitute who ably presented an update on the Moon and Mars missions. In addition, we presented our Merit Award donation check to the President of RSAMCC who attended along with their Merit Awards Chair.

Our **May** meeting will be on **Wednesday the 31st** at the Summit Club with “meet and greet” starting at 1030. At press time, we are still working on a guest speaker, but we won’t disappoint! I will pass more information as soon as we have confirmed the speaker. We will still enjoy a small German buffet and conduct our business meeting at a minimum. It is never too early to reserve a spot at the meeting - **RSVPs are open!** Please **RSVP to me at rickw675@att.net or 256.776.6901**. Remember that family and guests are **ALWAYS** welcome – in fact, they are encouraged!

Golf Tournament! We still need help with the Golf Committee, and we need it now. If you can spare a few hours a week and help us make this year’s Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament the best ever, please let Bruce or I know or join us at our next meeting on **May 12th, at 1200** at The Links on Redstone. Come a little early and have some lunch with us at the Weeden Grill.

Enjoy the rest of our “award winning” newsletter have a great May!

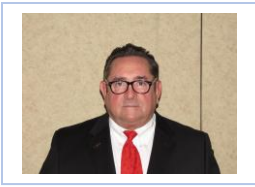
Rick

Our Member Meeting is on 31 May – Guest Speaker is TBD

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

A proposal in a December 2022 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report suggesting the reduction or elimination of VA disability payments for veterans with higher incomes received significant attention on social media in recent weeks—enough that it was raised, and rebuked, during VA Secretary Denis McDonough’s press conference March 23.

As MOAA outlined shortly after the report was released, the CBO options include potential cuts to military spending, veterans’ benefits, and TRICARE. The report, filed at the start of each new Congress for the past 12 years, provides lawmakers with options to reduce the deficit through spending cuts and ways to increase revenue. The nonpartisan CBO has no say in political objectives and is simply fulfilling its mandated mission via these reports. While the notion of means-testing VA disability pay is concerning, no legislation to that effect has been offered in either chamber, or has the proposal been a part of any administration budget plans.

As Members return, staff will brief their bosses on key developments from the past two weeks and forecast what the next few days on Capitol Hill hold in store. Some of the issues.

The House Rules Committee will meet this afternoon to prep two bills for House floor consideration, one of which is H.R. 734, the “Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023.” Of note, this is the House companion to a bill introduced by Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville. The Bill would ensure Title IX provisions treat gender as “based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth,” and would ban “recipients of federal funding from operating, sponsoring, or facilitating athletic programs that permit a male to participate in a women’s sporting event.”

The U.S. government has exceeded its statutory authority to borrow money to pay its debts, and the temporary “extraordinary measures” currently utilized by the Treasury Department will expire sometime between June and September. Reports suggest that House Republicans are compiling a legislative package to raise the debt ceiling but cap discretionary spending and effectuate several other conservative cost-saving cuts. None of this is anywhere close to final. The big question continues to be whether the defense budget, which represents about half of discretionary spending, will ultimately be on the chopping block. In congressional negotiations, early legislative proposals are often intended as markers to stake out a position, put members on record, and, in this case, jumpstart talks with the White House.

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, mbarron468@gmail.com

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bige992K@aol.com

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2024)

Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net (July 2025)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

The Exchange continues the plant sale going on outside – hurry in for best selection. Your Exchange also has Spring cleaning supplies and everything for your yard! The Main Exchange has the yard care tools, fertilizers, mulch and top oils 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!

If you know of someone wanting to start working at the Exchange – they have on the spot interviews in the Exchange mall area every Tuesday 11-1 or call 256-650-5928 or email BANKSDER@AAFES.COM Positions start at \$15/hour.

Shopette

A wide variety of local beers and spirits are at your Express store! Your Express has your favorite and new offerings of beer, liquor, and various spirits.

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.

Be sure to check out the Red Box for movie night and download their app for rental and buying specials.

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.

Commissary

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!

A few items continue to be impacted by supply issues - including pre-packaged salads, and some frozen breakfast items.

Continued on page 15

Need Addresses

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.

None this month

Concerns

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

Mrs. Judy Haynes

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
raymond.regner@gmail.com

Air/Space Force Representative:
Col Edward L. Uher
256-882-6824
biged992K@aol.com

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



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CONTACT:

GERMI CLOUD,
NSSA, CRPC
VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
256-715-0094
germie@cloudfinancial.com



CLOUD
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200 Clinton Avenue, Suite 1020
Huntsville, AL 35801
www.CloudFinancial.com

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



As of June 5, 2023, FAHC will expand clinic & pharmacy hours to 0730 – 1600, Monday - Friday.

Fox Army Health Center has transitioned to a new electronic health record (EHR), MHS Genesis, to help streamline and standardize patient record keeping. We “went live” on 24 September. As we acclimate to using the new EHR, patients will experience longer than normal wait times for appointments in clinical services and pharmacy. To minimize wait times, we encourage using one of these alternative options for receiving same day care:

- TRICARE Nurse Advice Line
- Network Urgent Care Center
- Doctor on Demand
- Emergency Department

Follow these best practices to obtain your prescriptions during the MHS Genesis transition:

- For all medications, you MUST “activate” your prescription ahead of time to give the pharmacy time to prepare your medicine. Same day filling is not available.
- The FAHC phone extension x1030 will no longer be available. You will not be able to leave a voice message.
- All new or renewed prescriptions will need to be requested through the FAHC website, then click on either the PCRS or the MHS Genesis Patient Portal icon to activate the prescription. Link to the Fox Website: <https://redstone.tricare.mil/health-services/pharmacy>
- For refills, use the automated refill phone line to activate: 256-842-7337

Fox Optometry Clinic provides primary care vision services including comprehensive ocular health exams to all beneficiaries (Active Duty, Active-Duty Family Members, Retirees and their family members. Call the main appointment line, 256-955-8888 option 2.

The FAHC Laboratory is closing at 1300 daily.

Fox Army Health Center continues to accept interested individuals that would like to volunteer their time through the American Red Cross. Please visit <http://www.redcross.org/alabamamississippi> to apply or contact Ms. Tammy Burks at tammy.burks@redcross.org or 256-763-1237 for any questions. You may also visit the North Alabama Red Cross office at 1015 Airport Road SW, Suite 202 Huntsville, AL 35802.

Universal masking is no longer mandated for patients or team members of Fox. This change is based on current COVID transmission levels which have fallen, and updated DHA and CDC guidance. If COVID transmission levels increase, universal masking may be required again so please remain flexible. We will monitor transmission levels carefully and update the signage at the doors indicating whether universal masking is required or not. Masking is still required for anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Masking is also still required for anyone who has had a high-risk COVID exposure within the last 10 days, and for those who have had COVID-19 symptoms within the last 10 days. Please note - per OSHA guidelines, COVID screening questionnaires are still required for every patient encounter. As your safety remains of utmost importance to us if you still want to wear your mask, that is completely optional and your choice.

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YOU SERVED OUR COUNTRY WELL AND WE WOULD BE HONORED TO SERVE YOU WITH YOUR INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT NEEDS.

Please call our office to set a time for a complimentary one on one meeting with **John D. Stover, LUTCF, Certified Financial Planner™, Certified Kingdom Advisor®**

8 ARCH STREET
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

PHONE: 615.591.3937
TOLL-FREE: 888.468.9672
FAX: 615.591.3932

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Edward Jones

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When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

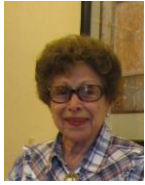
Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

2045 Cecil Ashburn Drive S E
Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

The luncheon we held on April 20th had a great turnout. This month's luncheon will be on Thursday, May 18th, at Johnathon's Grill, 184 Hwy 72W, Madison. Phone 256-489-5210. We will gather at 11 AM. Everyone will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Tax Time Considerations

Note: Even though the tax filing date has passed, these are some good ideas for your consideration. Always consult a tax professional for your specific financial situation.

If you have already filed your 2022 taxes, bravo! Some have not. Some are procrastinating. Others might have been receiving documents through mid-March, depending on investments held, and are just beginning the process. Please review your documents carefully, and make sure that information is correct. If not, ask for a correction before you file.

The deadline for filing 2022 taxes is April 18, 2023. You may file an automatic extension, but taxes are due on the April date. Don't wait to file until the extended due date; file as quickly as you can. A relocation, an illness, or a family death could happen to you or your preparer (consultant) in that time frame and create more complications.

Here are some issues and information for your consideration:

- Look for changes in the first few pages of instruction publications of the IRS forms and schedules that have been used in other years to report your income. Find them at www.irs.gov/forms-instructions. For example, some of the changes mentioned in the Form 1040 2022 include Clean Vehicle Tax Credits, Residential Home Improvement Energy Credits, and Increases in Standard Deductions.
- If you changed jobs in 2022, make sure you have not overpaid the FICA withholding.
- If your spouse died in 2022, you can still file 2022 taxes as married as long as you have not remarried in 2022. But next year, 2023, you must file as single if you have not remarried or have no dependents. This can cause tax consequences you should consider and prepare for. For example, a lower single income is taxed at a higher rate than married income. If your spouse was the higher income earner, there will be a change in tax owed, but it might be a manageable increase, or it could be less. If you are the higher income earner, you will have a lower standard deduction, and you might pay taxes at a higher rate.

If you have overpaid taxes this year, you may apply the refund to 2023 taxes. If you are required to make estimated payments, the overage might save a quarter filing of the estimated tax for 2023. You can also ask for a refund to place in savings until next year. Also, if you need to convert an investment to cash, be aware of the tax consequences.

Possibly your spouse always did the tax filings, and this is new to you. If you are overwhelmed, get help. If a mistake is made or some income or deduction is overlooked, you can always file an amended return. Try to file by April 18.



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Acts 15: 36-40

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' 37Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. 39The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord.

Welcome to May, hoping for flowers that April showers are said to bring. April brought us the celebration of Easter, maybe more aptly known as Resurrection Day. For many, this means new life. As we celebrate new life while admiring the flowers, we sometimes tend to disagree on how to take care of them. How much light do the flowers need, how often should I fertilize, and maybe how often do I need to water? Failure on any of these can result in the dying of those beautiful flowers. So, everyone has a stake in caring for the flowers, and probably differing ideas on how to care for them.

Just like any group of people, we will most likely disagree at some point. Barnabas had that moment with his fellow missionary, Paul. Their travels are well documented in the Book of Acts. They disagreed with each other over taking a fellow missionary with them on one of their trips. Their disagreement was so bad they went separate ways, each taking a missionary with them. In essence their mission was doubled. During their trip there is no evidence these men spoke badly of the other. Evidence actually points that these 2 men held each other in high regard and even hints at reconciliation.

What sets us apart as Christ followers is our commitment to loving each other through our disagreements. As the body of Christ, we are not given the option to malign and mistreat each other, even if we become sharply divided over certain issues. We are called to be witnesses in the world of Jesus' compassion and gentleness, even in the face of anger.

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Memorials

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to: Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 307
Regular Members: 258
Surviving Spouses: 49

New this month: 3
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 1

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

CW4 Derrick Holland, USA
LCDR Daniel Stayton, USN
Col Ronald R Sikes, USMC

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.

Gov. Kay Ivey has released her budget requests for FY 2024, including a proposal for a 2 percent raise for all state employees. Lawmakers will take the governor’s proposals as a starting point and pass the budgets sometime over the next several weeks.

For the General Fund budget, which pays for non-education programs, Ivey requested \$2.97 billion in spending, which is \$230 million more than this year, an 8.4 percent increase. It would be the largest General Fund budget ever, which was expected because of an unusually large increase in the tax revenues that support the budget. The proposal is for the fiscal year 2024.

The agencies that receive the largest amounts from the General Fund every year, the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Alabama Department of Corrections, would both receive substantial increases in Ivey’s proposed budget. Medicaid would get an increase of 9 percent, to \$863 million. The ADOC would get an increase of 10 percent, to \$662 million.

Among the other allotments in Ivey’s proposed supplemental spending bill:

- **\$43 million** to the Department of Mental Health. Of that, \$23 million would be for construction costs at Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility, the psychiatric hospital for criminally committed male patients; \$10 million would be for the reopening of Pickens County Hospital and renovations for child and psychiatric services; and \$10 million would be for renovations at East Alabama Medical Center for child and psychiatric services.
- **\$12 million** to the Alabama Forestry Commission, including \$10 million for grants to volunteer fire departments and rescue squads and \$2 million to replace firefighting equipment.
- **\$8 million** for elevator upgrades in the State Capitol.
- **\$8 million** for the AL Law Enforcement Agency for the computerized criminal history system.
- **\$5.7 million** to the Military Department for construction costs at the Huntsville Armory.
- **\$5 million** for repairs and maintenance at the surplus property warehouse of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in Montgomery.
- **\$4.8 million** to the Department of Forensic Sciences, including \$4 million for equipment in the Huntsville lab and \$800,000 for equipment in the new Dothan lab.
- **\$1.9 million** for repairs at the Heflin-Torbert state judicial building in Montgomery.

The following legislative actions are Law:

- Those convicted with possession of 1-2 grams of fentanyl be given a mandatory three-year sentence; ten years for 2-4 grams, 25 years for 4-8 grams, and a life sentence for eight or more grams.

The following legislative actions well may be signed by Governor Ivey, are not Law yet:

- A Bill that would prohibit a list of what it calls “divisive concepts,” or ideas that people from any one group should be asked to accept “a sense of guilt” because of their race or gender—or that fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or gender solely because of their race or gender. The House State Government Committee approved the bill on a 9-3 vote, so it now moves to the full House of Representatives. Republicans in several states have proposed restricting how race and gender are taught in classrooms and diversity training sessions for state workers. Rep. Ed Oliver, the bill’s sponsor, told the committee that the bill is needed because people are concerned about racist ideas and what he said are “woke policies” taught to children.
- A Bill that would increase penalties for felonies committed during gang activity, create a minimum sentence for any use of a firearm by gang members and specify people 16 and older can be charged as adults for gang-related offenses. Under existing law, juveniles 16 years of age or older are only tried as



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report March 2023

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

1. The March 2023 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$18,921.56	\$ 4,525.97
Income	\$ 1,355.00	\$ 0.58
Expenses	\$ 1,493.33.	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$18,783.23	\$ 4,526.55

3. Notable income: March’s membership luncheon, Sentinel advertisement, member dues and petty cash.

4. Notable expenses: Payment of the February’s Membership Luncheon, the \$300 from USAA to the HCMOAASF, reimbursement for travel to Birmingham (West and Clements) and petty cash.

5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit was purchased in the amount of \$12,000 from Wells Fargo on 20 October 2022. The CD is for 7 months at an interest rate of 2.5%. Interest to date is \$123.24.

7. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$3,091.68 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from pervious donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

Scholarship Fund Donations

The Chapter has an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the RSA Military & Civilians’ Club, we issue scholarships each year to deserving area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rckw675@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 April 2023

None

Total received for April:	\$0.00
Total received CY23:	\$0.00





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			
_____	_____	_____			

Governing Board Vacancies

The Chapter has several vacancies on the Governing Board that we are looking to fill with volunteers from the membership. They include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison – responsible for keeping the surviving spouses of the Chapter informed & look out for their welfare – you do not have to be a surviving spouse to serve

Membership Chair – responsible for recruiting and retention of Chapter members – this is a key position

Webmaster – responsible for all aspects of the Chapter website – ideally this would be a member's child or grandchild who is website savvy – this is a key position

Publicity – responsible for advertising Chapter events – primarily the golf tournament

Get Advice from a Nurse 24/7

With the coming of spring, the temperatures warm and the tempo of life picks up. Outdoor activities resume—recreation, yardwork, cookouts—and change of station plans swing into high gear. Amid the busyness of these warmer months, the potential for minor injuries and health concerns may increase. It's good to know that you have all-the-time access to health information and advice via the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line.

Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about the MHS Nurse Advice Line.

Q: Who's eligible to use the MHS Nurse Advice Line?

A: You can use the MHS Nurse Advice Line if you're a TRICARE beneficiary living or traveling in the U.S. or in a country outside the U.S. with a military hospital or clinic. This includes:

- Active duty service members
- Active duty family members
- Retirees and their family members

It's important that your sponsor's and your family members' personal information is up to date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Log in to milConnect to check your information to ensure it's current.

If you're enrolled in the US Family Health Plan, you can't use the MHS Nurse Advice Line.

Q: What kind of help can I expect?

A: When you call the MHS Nurse Advice Line, you'll be connected to a registered nurse. They'll help you identify illness and safely treat minor injuries. If your condition is urgent or serious, they'll help you find the urgent care or emergency care you need.

Your nurse can:

- Answer your health care questions
- Assess your symptoms and give recommendations for the most appropriate steps to take
- Provide instructions to treat minor issues or self-care tips that you can use at home
- Help locate the closest urgent care or emergency care facility, if necessary
- Help you schedule and appointment at a military hospital or clinic, if you're enrolled

Q: What types of questions or advice can I call with?

A: Here are a few examples:

- I have a rash after working in the yard—how should I treat it?
- When should I take my child to the emergency room if their fever doesn't come down?
- I think I sprained my ankle, but I'm not sure if I should get it X-rayed. How can I tell the difference between a cold or a sinus infection?
- Our child fell off his bike and hit his head—should we take him to the hospital to check for concussion? We need medical care, and we aren't near a military hospital or clinic. Where should we go?

Q: How can I connect with a nurse?

A: Nurses (including pediatric nurses) at the MHS Nurse Advice Line are available 24/7 by phone, online chat, or video chat. Follow these steps to use the MHS Nurse Advice Line:

- Have your DOD Benefit Number ready

Continued on page 14

Membership Meeting
31 May 2023
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: To be Determined

As of publication, we have yet to confirm a guest speaker for the May membership meeting.

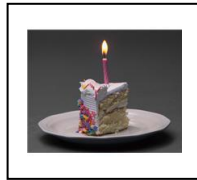
Once a speaker is confirmed, we will provide you the details via e-mail.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

Menu: Pork Schnitzel (with Jaeger sauce), Bratwurst, Red Cabbage, German Pan Fried Potatoes, Cucumber Salad, German Chocolate Layer Cake, Broetchen with Butter, Assorted Drinks.

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

RSVP: CAPT Rick West, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net, NLT 26 May 2023



17 Birthdays in May

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Col John A Morrison, USAF | CW4 Jeffrey A Sumners, USA |
| COL Harold J Hicks, USA | LTC Randall W Withrow, USA |
| CPT Robert E Steward, USMC | Col Larry D Layne, USAF |
| Mrs. Jan Camp | LTC David E Pray, USA |
| COL Stephen H French, USA | CW3 Kenneth J Nurmi, USN |
| LTC Paul A Hays, USA | CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA |
| COL Marvin S Smith, USA | Mrs. Charlotte U Miller |
| MAJ Charles B Drake, USMC | LTC Donnie L Henley, USA |
| 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 so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Nurse Advice Line – continued from page 12

- Go to the MHS Nurse Advice Line website
- Choose call, chat, or video chat

If you you're in the U.S., Guam, or Puerto Rico, call 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273) and choose option 1. Outside these countries, go to the MHS Nurse Advice Line website to find your location-specific number.

Q: Can I use the MHS Nurse Advice Line if I live or I'm traveling overseas?

A: The MHS Nurse Advice Line is available overseas where there's a military hospital or clinic. If you're traveling overseas and need care outside of the MHS, you can call the MHS Nurse Advice Line. A nurse will coordinate with the TRICARE Overseas contractor to get you the care you need.

Q: In an emergency, should I call the MHS Nurse Advice Line?

A: No. The MHS Nurse Advice Line isn't for emergency situations (conditions that threaten your life, limb, eyesight, or safety). If you or a family member reasonably believe you're experiencing a health emergency, dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. If overseas, dial your international emergency number.

The MHS Nurse Advice Line is there for you all year round, day or night. Whether you're in your own backyard or moving across the country, a nurse is available when you need health care advice, nonemergency treatment, and options for care after hours. IIII



TAPS

None this Month

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


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



PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

The Commissary continues its plant sale! Various ferns, mosquito plants 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.

Download the Commissary Rewards mobile app (on Google Play and the App Store) today. No more clipping coupons, save time and money with the Commissary Rewards card! Pick up your card at any Commissary location worldwide and register it at <https://newdeca.couponselectionpage.com/#register> and you are ready to start saving! Your Commissary has selected special coupons for our customers to help you make the most of your benefit. 

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

With our country so polarized today, I encourage you to follow Paul and Barnabas' example by not maligning or speaking harshly of the ones you disagree with. Like Paul and Barnabas, be the body of Christ, witnesses of compassion and gentleness. This is sometimes hard, believe me, but well worth the effort. This will lead us well when our country reaches a turning point and starts the healing process.

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





Second Annual Benefit for the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum
in Huntsville and the Army Heritage Center Foundation

“An Evening in the Ia Drang Valley- 1965”

May 9, 2023 | 5:30 PM
The Jackson Center

In November 1965, the U.S. Army engaged, for the first time in a major battle, the North Vietnamese Army in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam's Central Highlands. A panel of battle participants from the famed 7th and 5th Cavalry Regiments and 21st Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division will discuss that battle and their role in it. Panelists include:



COL (Retired) Ramon "Tony" Nadal
*Commander, A Company,
1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment*



SFC (Retired) Earnie Savage
*Squad Leader, 2nd Platoon, B Company,
1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment*



COL (Retired) Joe Marm
*Medal of Honor Recipient
Platoon Leader, 2nd Platoon,
A Company, 1st Battalion,
7th Cavalry Regiment*



COL (Retired) Bob Edwards
*Commander, C Company,
1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment*



COL (Retired) John Herren
*Commander, B Company, 1st Battalion,
7th Cavalry Regiment*



LTC (Retired) George Forrest
*Commander, A Company,
1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment*

VIP Reception at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm. Program begins at 7:30. All proceeds from this event will benefit the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum (Huntsville) and the Army Heritage Center Foundation.

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 2023 will occur on Monday, May 29.

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. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

The Birthplace of Memorial Day and Early Observances

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Did you know? Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day Traditions and Rituals

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.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. 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. IIII




Legislative - continued from page 9

adults for certain crimes. This act would require these individuals to be tried as adults for any gang-related criminal activity. The Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police and the Alabama Sheriffs Association submitted a letter for this legislative action. More than 160 sheriffs and police chiefs signed the letter.

- A Bill that would permit licensed social workers in Alabama to diagnose and develop treatment plans for patients passed the Alabama House Tuesday. This Bill would help expand health care reach in the state – particularly those in more rural areas – by permitting social workers to diagnose patients remotely through telehealth communications.
- A Bill in the Alabama Senate that would allow retired law enforcement officers to earn more money working as school resource officers without affecting their state-run retirements. Currently, retirees in the Retirement Systems of Alabama can earn \$37,000 from an employer who participates in RSA without having to suspend their retirement benefits.
- The Alabama Legislature has expanded occupational licensing reciprocity for military spouses and dependents every year since 2018. Rep. Kenneth Paschal, R-Pelham, says he is continuing to make Alabama a military friendly state by sponsoring legislation that will allow military personnel and military dependents licensed as cosmetologists in other states to continue practicing their trade while stationed in Alabama.
- A Bill that would require cameras in classes in which at least half of the students receive special education services. According to the bill, the video cameras would record audio and video during school hours and at any time a student is present. Recording must be kept for at least three months.
- A Bill that will prohibit Transgender women in Alabama would from joining female sports teams in college'. The House voted 83-5 in favor of the legislation that would extend a 2021 ban on transgender athletes in K-12 sports teams to include college teams. The bill states that sports teams “designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to a biological male.” Similarly, a “biological female” would also not be allowed to participate on teams for boys and men. The legislation now moves to the Alabama Senate.

And there are several Bills looking to reduce the State of Alabama’s tax on groceries and/or a potential rebate of state income tax.

The March 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released April 12, was 296.021, 1.4% above the FY 2023 baseline of 291.901. The next CPI-W release is set for May 10. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2023) will be compared to the FY 2023 COLA baseline to calculate the 2024 COLA. 

Chapter Happenings – April Membership Meeting



Chapter check presentation to MCC. From left – Chapter President Rick West, Scholarship Fund President Bruce Robinson, MCC President Cherie Cain & MCC Merit Awards Chair Erica Lewis.



Ms. Martha Schaeffer, Director of Communications for the Marshall Space Flight Center, addresses the membership meeting.



Ms. Schaeffer receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President Rick West.

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 320+ 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 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 – German airship Hindenburg explodes at Lakehurst, NJ (1937)

7 May - The *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German submarine, killing 1

8 May – Battle of Coral Sea (1942)

11 May – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 – Java Café

12 May – Golf Meeting – 1200 – The Links

13 May – Monthly Breakfast – 0900 – City Café Diner

11 May – Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969)

12 May – Berlin Blockade lifted (1949)

13 May – Pope John Paul II shot in St. Peter’s Square (1981)

14 May – Smallpox vaccine developed (1796)

14 May – Mother’s Day

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)

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)

29 May – Memorial Day

31 May – Monthly Member Meeting – 1100 – Summit Club – Meet & Greet starting at 1030

31 May – Johnstown flood killed over 2300 (1889)

