

Volume 65, Issue 5
May 2026



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings all!

Welcome to May! Nice weather – maybe we should hold a yard cleanup party at my house?

Many thanks to those of you who attended our annual Gold Bar Ceremony on April 22nd! MG Meisler gave a great motivation speech for the Cadets and did some great interaction with each one of them during the meeting. For those of you who couldn't attend, we had coverage by the Redstone Rocket (so I expect a good article soon since we bought them lunch 😊) and one of the current candidates for U.S. Senate (retired Navy Captain Submariner) also attended. FYI, there is one heck of a lot of work that happens behind the scenes to get the Gold Bar Ceremony to happen, and Geno Lesinski was responsible for doing 90% of it! Thanks Geno – wouldn't have happened without you!

Our next luncheon is **Wednesday, May 27th**. See details on page 13. Our guest speaker will be MAJ Rich Rogers who basically spent last year as J3 (Director of Operations) at GTMO! I just know this will be interesting as his presentation had to be cleared by higher authority! This is a reschedule of the presentation we had to cancel in January due to predicted weather. RSVPs are open – **Please RSVP now to John Vanderbleek at jvbleek78@gmail.com or 256.893.1565.** Family, friends and guests are always welcome.

We continue the planning for many events, including the RAD and the Tut Fann annual BBQ for the Vets. Keep an eye out for updates in future emails.

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

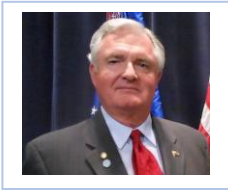
Rick

This month's membership meeting in on 27 May – the guest speaker is MAJ Rich Rogers, former Director J3 JTF-GTMO

In This Issue

President's Message	1	Guest Speaker	13
Legislative Corner	2, 10, 21 & 24	Birthdays	14
Concerns	3	TAPs	15
PX/Commissary	3 & 9	Golf Tournament	15
Advertisements	4 & 6	Chapter Happenings	16-17
Fox Army Health Clinic	5	Unused Prescriptions	18-19
Surviving Spouse Info	7 & 9	Mother's Day	20
Chaplain's Corner	8 & 14	TRICARE	22-23
Membership Statistics	8	Veterans Week Activities	24
Treasurers Report	11	Chapter Objectives	25
Membership Application	12	Important Dates	26

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



Legislative Corner

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Federal Legislation:

Following a two-week recess, Lawmakers returned to Washington amid a flurry of new developments with the Iran war, a persistent Department of Homeland Security shutdown and a deadline to reauthorize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

- Iran: May 1st, Congress faces the 60-day limit in the *War Powers Resolution of 1973* either to authorize the military action or end it.
- DHS Shutdown: Over 60 days into the DHS stalemate, lawmakers seeking to fund the department got into a House/Senate tiff. The Senate adopted a budget reconciliation framework to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol for three and a half years in a two-step process. But House Republicans want to pass a party-line bill to fund ICE and Border Patrol before taking up the Senate bill to fund the rest of the department.
- FISA: A key surveillance law, known as Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, expires April 30 unless reauthorized by Congress. FISA allows the government to conduct warrantless surveillance of foreign persons living abroad for intelligence gathering. The law is controversial over concerns it allows Americans to get swept up in the surveillance efforts, infringing on their civil liberties. So far, Speaker Johnson has been unable to rally the votes.
- Aviation Safety: An **aviation safety bill** to address lessons learned from last year's midair collision of a jet with an Army helicopter near the nation's capital is up for a vote in the House, but key senators and the families of the 67 victims think the bill needs to be strengthened. The House bill, called the *Alert Act*, has the backing of key industry groups and the National Transportation Safety Board says the legislation now **addresses its recommendation** to require all aircraft flying around busy airports to have **key locator systems** that let pilots know more precisely where other aircraft are located.

The House passed a sweeping elections reform bill, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act, that mandates requirements such as presenting photo ID when voting, citizenship verification to register to vote, new restrictions on how states administer and maintain their election systems and additional restrictions on mail-in ballots. But the votes aren't there to pass the *SAVE Act* in the Senate in its present form because senators from both parties still have concerns the bill will limit opportunities to vote.

Continued on page 10

2025-2026 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, m.barron468@gmail.com

Treasurer: Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, mckinnewd@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, rregner58@gmail.com

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

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Angela Inman, 256-425-6465, inmanangela@hotmail.com

Chapter Hospitality: Vacant

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, avatamax@gmail.com

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 2026)

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

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Exchange

The Exchange has not started the vegetable plant sale outside – there are some outdoor decorative plants – but I’m told the vegetable plants may not be available this year – no word on why that may be.

The gun shop will finish a Sig Sauer pistol, optics, and ammo sale on 30 April. Then another sale will start and last for two weeks where you get 10% off with the STAR card.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day 8 May at 11:30 - gift bag and treats. Your Exchange also has Spring cleaning supplies and everything for your yard! The Main Exchange has the yard care tools, fertilizers, mulch and top soils 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 are hiring! Positions start at \$15/hour.

Shopette

Most of the construction seems to be over. There is a new Beer Bunker, a smaller frozen section, and a refrigerated drink section. The Express continues to have a wide variety of local beers and spirits – however, the amount in stock has been greatly reduced – two isles are now missing from the amount available. Your Express continues to have your favorite and new offerings of beer, liquor, and various spirits – just less of them.

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 and service birthdays.

Check out the wines of the Month, Spirit of the Month, and Limited Time Specials. The most expensive item is Don Julio tequila \$350 for 1.75L but by volume it’s Glenmorangie highland single malt Scotch whiskey at \$253 for

Continued on page 9

Need Addresses

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

None this month

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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

FOCUS

FINANCIAL GROUP
— YOUR FUTURE IN FOCUS —

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

Investment Advisory Services offered through AlphaStar Capital Management, LLC, a SEC Registered Investment Adviser. SEC registration does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by the Commission nor does it indicate that the adviser has attained a particular level of skill or ability. AlphaStar Capital Management, LLC and Focus Financial Group, LLC are independent entities. Fixed insurance and annuity product guarantees are subject to the claims paying ability of the issuing company and are not offered or guaranteed by AlphaStar.

HELPING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SIMPLIFY RETIREMENT

**TSP PLANS • FERS PENSIONS • CSRS PENSIONS • EFFECTS OF WEP •
PENSION SURVIVORSHIP OPTIONS**

CONTACT:

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



CLOUD
— FINANCIAL INC. —

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

Insurance products and services are offered through Cloud Financial. This information is for informational purposes only and should not be used to make any financial decisions. Life insurance and annuities are insurance products and are subject to state insurance laws and regulations. In order to sell, negotiate, or solicit insurance, an individual must be properly licensed as an insurance agent. The information contained herein is not legal or tax advice. An individual should consult the appropriate professional for legal or tax advice. Cloud Financial is not affiliated with, or endorsed by, the Social Security Administration or any other government agency.



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



FAHC Happenings

Mind and Body Detox:

Real talk about physical and emotional changes. Insight rooted in the Army Performance Triad: Sleep, Activity & Nutrition. Guidance for movement as bodies age. Tools to help you be kind to yourself and thrive during this life transition.

On-line appointments are now available on MHS GENESIS.

Our next scheduled closure for training is Friday, May15 from noon – 4 p.m.

The Fox Army Health Center change of command will be June 11, 2026 at 10 a.m. The incoming commander is Lt. Col. Aimee Mack. Lt. Col. Mack is currently the Executive Officer to the Commanding General, Medical Readiness Command, West.

THE MIND AND BODY DETOX
PERI -/ MENOPAUSE EDITION
A 5- WEEK EMPOWERMENT SERIES FOR WOMEN
Wednesdays, June 3—24
10:00—11:15 AM
The Burrow, Fox Army Health Center
LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS
Let's detox the myths, embrace change, and build lifelong wellness!
To register, call the Dietician's office:
256-955-8888 extension 1294
Register by March 30, 2026

Managing Diabetes Class
Please join us on the first Tuesday of each month in The Fox Den from 10-11:30 a.m. This class is for those who have been diagnosed (newly diagnosed or living with diabetes for years) or are supporting someone with Diabetes.
→ March 3, 2026
→ April 7, 2026
→ May 5, 2026
→ June 2, 2026
• Education
• Helpful Tips
• Self-Management
• Peer to Peer Support
FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER
Where: The Burrow
When: First Tuesday
Time: 10-11:30 a.m.
4100 Goss Road
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35809
RSVP:
Heather Hough
256-955-8888
EXT: 1294

Hypertension and Beyond
Please join us on the fourth Thursday of each month in The Burrow from 12:30-2:00 p.m. This class will provide participants with actionable steps to improve their health and take charge of their blood pressure.
• February 26, 2026
• March 26, 2026
• April 23, 2026
• May 28, 2026
• June 25, 2026
Fox Army Health Center
4100 Goss Road
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35809
Where: The Burrow
When: 4th Thursday
Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
RSVP:
Heather Hough
256-955-8888
EXT: 1294

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



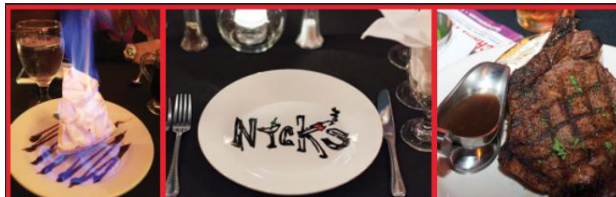
You've served our country. Let us serve you.
Call to schedule a one-on-one.

Dale C Kuehl, CFP®, AAMS™

Financial Advisor

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

MKT-58940-A-A1 AECSPAD 25217572



NICK'S RISTORANTE

FANTASTIC NORTHERN ITALIAN CUISINE
OFFERING FINE DINING IN HUNTSVILLE

100%
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF
PREMIUM SEAFOOD

CIGAR-FRIENDLY
LOUNGE

SMOKE-FREE
DINING

WWW.NICKSRISTORANTE.COM

 @NICKSRISTORANTE

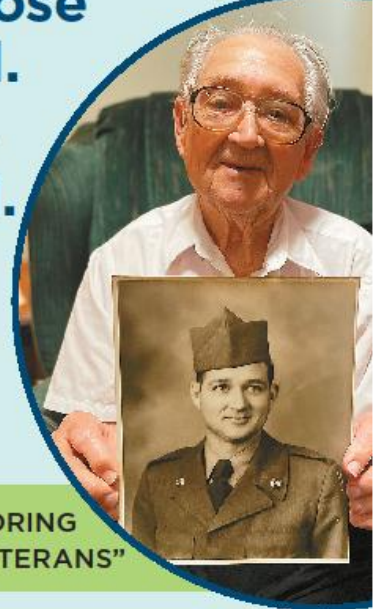


256-489-8280

10300 BAILEY COVE ROAD
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35803
INSIDE CREEKSIDE CORNER

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

**Choose Well.
Live Well.**



**"HONORING
our VETERANS"**

THERE COMES A POINT

A point to live well, love well, BE well.



**RESIDENCES
at WELLPOINT**

• INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE

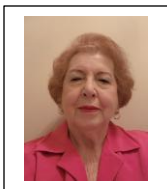
256-701-8300

2940 MILL RUN ROAD SE
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35763

RESIDENCESATWELLPOINT.COM



★ MEMORIAL DAY ★
— HONORING ALL WHO SERVED —



Redstone Arsenal Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

No information was provided by publication. Please contact Bonnie for the details.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Strengthening Emotional Well-Being

The death of a military spouse reshapes emotional well-being in ways that reach far beyond grief itself. It is a loss that touches identity, daily rhythm, and the quiet sense of safety that comes from sharing life with someone who understood both the burdens and the pride of service.

For many, the brain responds to this kind of profound disruption with a mix of numbness, hypervigilance, and deep fatigue — natural reactions to a heart trying to make sense of a world suddenly changed. Yet within that upheaval, emotional well-being becomes not just a hope but a necessity: a steadying force that helps the mind process sorrow, rebuild resilience, and slowly rediscover moments of connection, purpose, and peace. This journey is neither quick nor linear, but it reflects the same courage and endurance that military families have always carried.

Emotional well-being and brain health are deeply interconnected, shaping how we think, cope, and experience daily life. Strong emotional balance supports healthier brain function, while a well-nourished brain strengthens our ability to manage stress, build relationships, and maintain resilience.

Research shows that chronic stress can harm key brain regions involved in emotional control, memory, and decision-making, including the prefrontal cortex, amygdala, and hippocampus. When these areas are disrupted, people might experience anxiety, irritability, or difficulty concentrating.

How Emotions Shape the Brain

Positive emotional states — such as purpose, connection, and calm — help regulate stress hormones and support cognitive performance. People who report higher emotional stability and life satisfaction tend to support stronger memory and decision-making abilities as they age.

Conversely, chronic stress elevates cortisol, which can shrink the hippocampus and over activate the amygdala, making emotional regulation more difficult and increasing vulnerability to depression or anxiety.

The Brain–Body Connection

The brain communicates constantly with the body through neural pathways and chemical messengers. Neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine influence mood, motivation, and focus. When these systems are imbalanced, emotional well-being can suffer.

Continued on page 9



Chaplain's Corner

Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Genesis 7: 1-8 (NRSV)

7 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.



Listening, Trust, and Obey. Three words that seem to cause so much strife in our world.

When we entered our respective military services, we spent a lot of time learning about leadership and then spent years honing those skills.

One of the first tenets of leadership I remember learning was to listen. By listening, we can begin to understand the issues at hand, and can better prepare a plan to deal with it. In Genesis God spoke and Noah listened. God gave specific instructions for Noah to follow. As a contracting officer I was given plenty of procurement issues to resolve. The first thing I always had to do was to listen, so I could understand what was being expected of me and my troops.

The second tenet of leadership I had to learn, and it was not always easy, was trust. The higher up the chain of command we moved up, the more people we had to place our trust in. And we also had to place our trust in the military vehicles (jet, plane, submarine, jeep). We had to trust that the men and women who built them did so correctly and that they would not fail us. Here Noah knew God and placed his trust in Him and set forth in accomplishing the actions he was being asked to do.

The final tenet of leadership is one I am sure all struggle with at

Continued on page 14

Memorials

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

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 243
Regular Members: 206
Surviving Spouses: 37

New this month: 5
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 1

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

COL James Bacon, USA
CW5 Thomas Adkins, USA
LTC Craig Cowell, USA
COL Clinton Boyd, USA
CPT Lucia Claborn, ARNG

Recruiting

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

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

for 750mL. A popular favorite is Macallan 12-year-old Scotch whiskey on sale for \$80.40.

Commissary

The commissary now charges 5 cents for plastic bags and 10 cents for paper bags. You can bring your own and avoid the charges.

For your Memorial Day BBQ - steaks and chops – check out the prices at your Commissary! Check out the Alabama made Conecuh sausage or the Texas Kielbassa sausage. 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 also has a plant sale - but also no vegetable plants. 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 the International Isle.

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. |||

Surviving Spouse – continued from page 7

Physical factors such as sleep, inflammation, and fatigue also affect how the brain processes emotions, reinforcing the need for whole-body care.

Strengthening Emotional and Brain Health

Several habits support both emotional balance and neurological resilience:

- **Regular physical activity** boosts serotonin and dopamine, improving mood and cognitive flexibility.
- **Quality sleep** helps the brain detoxify and consolidate memories.
- **Social connection** reduces stress responses and protects cognitive health.
- **Mindfulness and gratitude practices** calm the nervous system and enhance emotional regulation.
- **Balanced nutrition**, especially omega-3s and antioxidants, supports neural communication.

Together, these practices create a reinforcing cycle: A healthier brain supports stronger emotional well-being, and emotional well-being protects the brain.

Suggested reading: *Dial Down: Holistic Strategies to Move from Chaos to Calm* by Lt. Col. Raquel Durden, USA (Ret), a transformative guide offering simple, actionable wellness practices, interwoven with real-life stories. (Note: MOAA is an Amazon Associate and earns money from qualifying purchases, with the revenue supporting [The MOAA Foundation](#).) |||

During oral arguments on a Mississippi case, the Supreme Court appeared likely to approve a challenge to counting mail-in ballots that arrive after Election Day, a move that could upend election procedures in states across the country before the midterm elections. A majority of justices seemed ready to side with those who told the court that federal election law preempts Mississippi from counting ballots that arrive after polls close.

The Supreme Court held oral arguments on the Birthright Citizenship issue and most of the justices seemed skeptical about the administration's case. The Court is unlikely to end a citizenship guarantee clearly outlined in The Constitution, but the Court may not rule before June.

The House passed *The Defending American Property Abroad Act* that aims to push back on Mexico's attacks on an Alabama company by deterring and punishing foreign countries that seize, nationalize or interfere with property or assets owned by U.S. businesses. Mexico targeted Vulcan's properties on the country's Caribbean coast and **invaded** and seized the company's port facility. A year later, Mexico's Interior Department issued a decree declaring Vulcan's seaport and quarries a **natural protected area** to prohibit the company's operations. The legislation will also expand Trade Act protections to include expropriation of U.S. assets as grounds for trade enforcement action and now moves to the Senate.

Alabama Legislation:

The 2026 legislative session ended on 9 April and the final days were boisterous. In what was supposed to be a light session, 1046 bills were introduced, 8% more than last year, but only 402 passed both Chambers. Some bills that **did not pass this year**:

HB541 which would have made AL a closed primary state failed to pass after acrimonious debate. The bill could have prevented independent voters from voting in primaries.

[HB 13](#) would have allowed local police to enforce immigration laws.

[HB 360](#) would have created a Second Amendment (Firearms) sales tax holiday. So no tax break on your guns and ammo.

[HB 363](#) would have made [disrupting a worship service](#) a Class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Gov. Ivey signed legislation that offers wage earners an up to \$1,000 tax deduction on overtime pay and House Bill 527 suspends the state's portion of the grocery tax for two months beginning in May.

Desiring to make Alabama a "Veteran Friendly State", Governor Ivey signed a package of bills aimed at enhancing benefits for veterans, military members and their families.

Key 2026 Veteran Legislation Highlights:

- **Employment & Licensing:** House Bill 307 provides hiring and promotion preferences for veterans and military spouses in public/private sectors. HB 182 allows military medical training to count toward state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) licensure.
- **Education & Teaching:** Senate Bill 149 (Military Veteran Temporary Teaching Certificate) enables veterans with 48 months of active duty and 60 college credits to teach for five years while obtaining a degree. HB 233 expands tuition assistance to include workforce training programs for the National Guard.

Continued on page 21



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report March 2026

Submitted by Col Dave McKinney, USAF (Ret)

1. The March 2026 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are attached.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$12,631.36	\$1,703.91
Income	\$ 1,495.49	\$ 0.01
Expenses	\$ 2,709.26	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$11,417.59	\$1,703.92

3. Notable income: Individual dues, Lunch fees, LMT's share of the Surety Bond, reimbursement of the Scholarship Fund's share of the liability insurance premium, and MOAA National Community Outreach Sponsorship.

4. Notable expenses: Member lunches for February and March, Liability Insurance (State farm), and the Donation for the Pineapple Open Sponsorship.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. The Chapter holds a Certificate of Deposit (CD) in the amount of \$20,821.38. This CD will reach maturity on July 8, 2026. It will be renewed then at the best rate available.

7. The Chapter's Operating Fund contains \$1,188.30 in reserved funds in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees.

Scholarship Fund Donations

The Chapter has an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the RSA Military & Civilians' Club, we issue scholarships each year to deserving area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at rickw675@att.net or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year basis. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible - 501(c)(3). **100% of all donations goes 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 2026

None

Total received for April:	\$0.00
Total received CY26:	\$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!

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

*New members joining after September 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

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

Recruiting

You are the best recruiting tool the Chapter has. Tell your eligible friends & associates about our Chapter – the best in Alabama. We have the lowest membership rate in the country at \$10. One can also sign up for multiple years.

Direct questions to MAJ Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 or brobinso1976@gmail.com.

We also offer a Chapter Life Membership – COL John Fairlamb - 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net - has the details.

Spread the word!



Membership Meeting

27 May 2026

1100 – Summit Club

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

MAJ Rogers began his career when he enlisted in the Alabama Army National Guard in 2006. In 2008 he completed OCS. Upon completion of OCS, MAJ Rogers was assigned to the 1165th Military Police Company as a platoon leader. In 2010-2011 MAJ Rogers deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this mission MAJ Rogers was the detachment commander of NKC and surrounding areas. In 2012, MAJ Rogers was assigned to the 217th Military Police Company as Commander.

The Alabama Adjutant General, Major General Perry Smith, selected MAJ Rogers as his Executive Officer. As the Executive Officer he was responsible for planning and coordinating Major General Smith's movements, to include multiple overseas missions which included assignments in Germany, Romania, Jordan, Kuwait, Bulgaria, Croatia. In addition, MAJ Rogers was directly involved in planning and coordination with the Country of Romania, in respect to the State Partnership program and Multinational Planning.

In 2016 MAJ Rogers was assigned to the Civil Support Team as the operations officer. His duties included planning and coordinating all missions for the CST which averaged 30 per year. In 2020 MAJ Rogers was assigned to the 203D MP BN as the S-3/AO. His duties included oversight and management of all active-duty staff. In late 2020 MAJ Rogers was sourced with the 203d MP BN in support of the Southwest Border mission.

MAJ Rogers was reassigned to the 142nd MP BDE in 2024 as the BDE Training Officer. In October of 2025 MAJ Rogers deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the 142 MP BDE HHC in support of JTF-GTMO. MAJ Rogers returned in October of 2026 and was reassigned as the Deputy Commander/Administrative Officer for the 142 MP BDE. MAJ Rogers currently holds this position.

MAJ Rogers holds a bachelor's degree in political science/economics from Auburn University. He also attended Marion Military Institute. Graduate of Command and General Staff School.

MAJ Rogers is married to his wife, Catherine, and they have three grown Children. MAJ Rogers and his wife currently reside in Madison, AL.

Menu: Bratwurst, Chicken Schnitzel (with Jaeger Sauce), Red Cabbage, German Pan-Fried Potatoes, Apple Strudel, Cucumber Salad, Broetchen with Butter, Iced Tea, Iced Water, Coffee

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

RSVP: COL John Vanderbleek, 256-893-1565, jvbleek78@gmail.com NLT 22 May 2026.



18 Birthdays in May

Col John A Morrison, USAF
COL Harold J Hicks, USA
Col Larry D Layne, USAF
COL Michael D Teter, USA
CW3 Kenneth J Nurmi, USN
CW4 Derrick M Holland, USA
BG Robert A Drolet, USA
LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA
MAJ Charles B Drake, USMC

CW4 Jeffrey A Sumners, USA
LTC Randall W Withrow, USA
LTC Marc J Jacobson, USA
COL Stephen H French, USA
LTC Paul A Hays, USA
CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA
Col James R Schumacher, USAF
COL Marvin S Smith, 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.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

times, and it's to obey. Noah listened to what was being asked of him. He trusted the source of the instructions he was being given. But now it was time to obey. This much water in or dry desert? Incredible! But Noah knew to trust the Lord and obeyed His commands.

Where are you in life right now? Are you open to listening to God's call? A call that will give direction in your life or maybe some answers to some issues you've been grappling with? If so, are you able to trust the source of the guidance on what you are hearing? If so, are you willing to step up and obey, much like Noah did? I am sure Noah got a lot of ridicule, but He was prepared when the storms raged. I pray that you will listen and trust what God is calling you to, so that like Noah, you will be prepared should the storms of life beseech you.

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

Blessings, Dave





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

TAPS

None this month

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



2026 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

It's that time again. The golf committee will have its next meeting on 3 June, 12 noon, at the Links. Come early for lunch.

As always, we need volunteers to make the tournament successful.

You don't need to know anything about golf to help.

Some areas where we need volunteers include:

- Contacting local golf courses for donations of free rounds of golf
- Contacting local businesses to be hole sponsors or to donate goods & services
- If you are still working, getting your company to be a sponsor
- Filling one of the numerous staff positions on tournament day
- If a golfer, playing in the tournament & advertising it to others

Chapter Happenings – JROTC Program



John Fairlamb presents the MOAA JROTC Medal to Cadet Emily Stolz at Huntsville HS.



Dave Dunlap presents the MOAA JROTC Medal to Cadet George Youngblood at Decatur HS.



Audrey Ransom presents the MOAA JROTC Medal to Cadet Angel Ortiz at Columbia HS.



President Rick West presents the MOAA JROTC Medal to Cadet William Daniels at Buckhorn HS.

Chapter Happenings – April Member Meeting



MG Kevin Meisler, AMC Chief of Staff,
address the membership.



MG Meisler presents a MOAA
certificate to a graduating ROTC cadet.



MG Meisler, the ROTC cadre from Alabama
A&M, Chapter President Rick West & the
seven graduating ROTC cadets.



Chapter President Rick West
presents a Certificate of
Appreciation to MG Meisler.

Dispose of Unused Prescriptions and Keep your Community Safe

Do you have unused or expired medications sitting in your medicine cabinet? Now is the perfect time to clear them out.

Promote a healthier community by helping to prevent accidental misuse of expired or unused drugs. Returning unused medications also helps protect the environment by limiting spread of harmful chemicals in local water systems.

Here's what you need to know.

The risks of keeping unused medications at home

Old or unused medications don't just take up space; they can cause real harm if they aren't handled correctly.

Safe disposal protects more than just your household. It helps your whole community. When you use a proper disposal site, you:

- Reduce the risk of accidental poisoning in children
- Help prevent drug misuse
- Keep harmful chemicals out of the environment

What you can bring

Most medications are accepted, including:

- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter drugs
- Vitamins and supplements
- Pet medications
- Controlled substance prescription drugs

You can't drop off:

- More than four ounces of liquid drugs
- Needles
- Aerosol cans
- Illegal drugs

Check the [full list of accepted items](#) if you aren't sure about a specific item.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Your options at a military pharmacy

As a beneficiary, the [Military Health System Drug Take Back program](#) lets you dispose of medications safely throughout the year.

Military pharmacies may offer free disposal options including:

- Secure blue drop boxes, OR
- Secure mail-in envelopes you can take home

Keep in mind that under [Drug Enforcement Administration rules](#), pharmacy staff can't accept your medications for disposal. You must place the drugs in the drop box or envelope yourself. Before you do, remove your personal information on the labels.

How to dispose of your medications

Using a military pharmacy is easy. Here's how:

1. Find your nearest [military pharmacy](#).
2. Ask about drop boxes or secure mail-in envelopes.
3. Remove any personal information from medication labels.

Not near a military pharmacy? The DEA has other drop-off sites year round. Use the [DEA Collection Site Locator](#) to find one near you.

If you can't make it to a drop-off site

A drop-off site is always the best option. But if you can't get to one, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) offers [guidance](#) on how to dispose of medications at home:

1. Take the medications out of their original containers.
2. Mix them with something unappealing, like coffee grounds or cat litter.
3. Seal the mixture in a bag or container.
4. Remove your personal information from the empty containers.
5. Throw the sealed container in the trash.

Do you use a needle for self-injectable medication? According to the EPA, there are numerous community-based options and national services for safe needle disposal. Visit [Safe Needle Disposal for Households](#) to learn more.

Have questions? Contact your military pharmacy or [read more about how to safely dispose of drugs](#).



History of Mother's Day

Mother's Day was officially established in the U.S. by Anna Jarvis in 1908 to honor her mother, a peace activist, holding the first service in Grafton, West Virginia. It became a national holiday in 1914 after a campaign for a day recognizing mothers' contributions to family and society. Despite its sentimental origins, it soon became highly commercialized.

Key Historical Details

Founder's Intent: Anna Jarvis conceived Mother's Day as a "personal day" (singular possessive) for families to honor their own mothers, rather than a plural celebration of all mothers.

Origins in Activism: Jarvis was inspired by her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who created "Mothers' Work Clubs" in the 1850s to improve hygiene and health, and later organized "Mother's Friendship Day" to unite families divided by the Civil War.

Official Recognition: Following a massive letter-writing campaign by Jarvis, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation in 1914 designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Commercialization: Within a few years, the holiday became heavily commercialized, leading Anna Jarvis to deeply regret her campaign. She spent her later years and fortune trying to abolish the holiday she created.

Precursors: Earlier celebrations included the ancient Greek/Roman festivals for mother goddesses (Rhea and Cybele) and the Christian "Mothering Sunday" in the UK.

The Evolution of Traditions

Carnations: Jarvis chose the carnation, her mother's favorite flower, as the symbol of the holiday.

Global Impact: While the US holiday was established in 1914, other countries have their own traditions, such as France establishing a day in 1926 to honor mothers of large families.

Modern Day: Today, it is recognized by gift-giving, cards, and brunch, with the National Retail Federation estimating billions spent annually.



Legislative – continued from page 10

- Taxes & Financial Benefits: HB 341 exempts the first \$5,000.00 of National Guard drill pay from state income tax. HB 155 eliminates the need for 100% disabled veterans to verify their status for homestead tax exemptions annually. HB 77 eases home loan approval for 100% disabled veterans.
- Quality of Life: SB 158 requires high schools to provide optional annual ASVAB testing. The state implemented free veteran access to state parks, including boat ramps and the Gulf State Park pier.
- HB 75: Requires high schools to host "signing days" for students entering the military or trade schools.

Education bills that crossed the finish line:

Gov. Ivey signed **Senate Bill 99**, and a **House companion** bill requiring public schools to place a poster of the Ten Commandments in fifth- through 12th-grade classrooms where U.S. history is taught and in a common area such as a cafeteria or lunchroom effective Jan. 1, 2027.

Gov. Ivey signed **Senate Bill 59** requiring public colleges and universities to submit an annual report on the amount of state and federal funds they receive and spend, along with a plan for operating if funding is reduced by 5% or by 25% or more effective Oct. 1.

Gov. Ivey signed both the Education Trust Fund bill and the General Fund bill for fiscal year 2026. Here's what's in each bill: Gov. Ivey's \$10.5 billion Education Trust Fund proposal includes **the \$10.5 billion for the regular Education Trust Fund budget**, a \$520 million supplemental appropriation for the current fiscal year, and a \$1 billion Advancement and Technology Fund appropriation. The bill provides **a 2% pay raise** for state-funded education employees.

The General Fund **\$3.72 billion spending bill** is about \$37.1 million more than Gov. Ivey proposed and about \$8.5 million more than the current budget. Increases include \$5 million for the state court system and \$10 million for the Legislature's first payment on the new State House under construction by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, expected to be completed this year.

People who intentionally drive away from police will face tougher penalties. Gov. Ivey signed SB233 making it a felony to elude police in a vehicle. A conviction will carry a sentence of up to five years in jail.

Gov Ivey signed a bill to stop people from buying candy and sodas with benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food stamps). **SB57**, requires the Alabama Department of Human Resources, which administers SNAP, to request a waiver from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to authorize the department to exclude candy and soda from the definition of "eligible foods" or face losing up to 20% of its SNAP funding. The Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service has approved similar waivers for 22 states.

Gov. Ivey signed SB 270 requiring the Alabama Public Service Commission to consider the public interest when approving data center contracts. **SB270** requires that any contract between an electric utility and a "large load data center customer" include a provision that allows the utility to recoup costs associated with providing electricity to the data center customer. The bill also requires that a contract between an electric utility and a data center have some positive benefit for other electricity customers which could include lower costs, increasing the efficiency of a power system or promoting economic growth in the community.

Continued on page 24

How does a service, treatment, drug, or device become a TRICARE benefit?

Have you ever wondered how a service, drug, or treatment becomes a TRICARE benefit? As drugs and technology continue to develop, TRICARE coverage evolves along with them.

It's important to know that U.S. law governs TRICARE benefits. If the law allows TRICARE to cover a [treatment](#) or [drug](#), the [Defense Health Agency](#) reviews the proposed benefit to make sure it's:

- Proven
- Safe
- Effective

“It takes many teams to add a new TRICARE benefit. Congress sets the rules for coverage. Health care experts evaluate whether a proposed benefit is safe and effective. Policymakers outline the rules for using the benefit,” said Elan Green, chief, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch, TRICARE Health Plan, at the Defense Health Agency. “This process ensures the longevity and success of the TRICARE health plan.”

Want to learn more about this process? Keep reading.

Medical treatments

Before TRICARE can add a new benefit, the law or the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) must allow it. Sometimes, the law doesn't allow TRICARE to cover certain services. DHA doesn't have the ability to change the law. Only Congress can expand what TRICARE covers.

When deciding whether to cover a service, DHA considers:

- Changes to federal law
- Changes in national health care coverage
- Advances in medical science
- Denials brought to DHA's attention through the [appeals process](#)
- Input from providers or military leadership

TRICARE only covers treatments that are:

- Medically necessary
- Proven

This means TRICARE doesn't cover experimental treatments.

Experts review all clinical data. Sometimes, DHA creates a pilot program or demonstration to get more information before deciding whether to add it as a TRICARE benefit.

Once DHA approves a new benefit, it will:

- Develop policies about the benefit
- Identify funding within the budget
- Update the [TRICARE Manuals](#)
- Update contracts with the regional contractors

New prescription coverage

There's a different process for approving coverage for prescription drugs that you get at an outpatient pharmacy (military pharmacy, retail pharmacy, or home delivery). When a private company develops a

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

new drug, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) determines if the drug is safe and effective before approving it. TRICARE never covers drugs the FDA hasn't approved.

Even when a drug is FDA-approved, DHA still needs to decide if it will become a TRICARE benefit.

All TRICARE-covered drugs are on a list called the [TRICARE Formulary](#). The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee is responsible for recommending drugs for the formulary. Every quarter, they review new drugs approved by the FDA. They make recommendations based on a comparison of the other drugs already available.

The committee's mission is to provide appropriate drug therapy in a uniform, consistent, and equitable way. The committee has voting members from across the Department, including:

- Pharmacists
- Physicians

A second group of professionals also gives input on what drugs TRICARE should cover. This group, the Beneficiary Advisory Panel, gives independent suggestions to the DHA director. It includes:

- Members of associations who represent TRICARE beneficiaries
- The [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#) contractor
- TRICARE [network providers](#)

The DHA director makes a final decision. The DHA then places the drug into one of four categories, as described in the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook](#):

- **[Generic formulary drug](#)**
 - These drugs are widely available.
 - They offer the lowest out-of-pocket costs.
- **[Brand-name formulary drug](#)**
 - These drugs are generally available.
 - They have moderate out-of-pocket costs.
 - Some drugs may require [prior authorization](#).
- **[Non-formulary drug](#)**
 - These drugs may have limited availability.
 - They have higher out-of-pocket costs.
 - The drugs may require prior authorization.
- **[Non-covered drug](#)**
 - TRICARE doesn't cover these drugs.
 - You pay 100% of the drug's cost.
 - Your payment doesn't go toward your [annual TRICARE catastrophic cap](#).

There are many steps involved in approving new TRICARE benefits. But each step helps ensure that TRICARE-covered treatments are proven, safe, and effective. This process enables TRICARE's resources to support the health needs of millions of service members, retirees, and family members. Want to learn more? Check out [How a Benefit Becomes Covered](#). Or, watch "[How a Benefit Gets Covered](#)" on the TRICARE YouTube channel for a quick overview. 

Legislative – continued from page 21

Gov. Ivey signed a bill raising the financial penalties for those who abuse their public offices. **Under Senate Bill 58**, public officials and employees convicted of a felony related to their position would have to forfeit contributions to the state retirement system and that money would be used as restitution to the harmed office or entity.

Gov. Ivey signed SB 242 requiring all commercial drivers be proficient in English and making it a crime to present a false commercial driver license. **SB 242** would codify a federal law that requires English proficiency for commercial drivers. The bill has a \$1,000 fine for operators and a \$2,000 fine for drivers if the driver is not proficient in English and receives a traffic citation.

Gov. Ivey signed a bill officially recognizing President Trump's name change for the Gulf of Mexico. HB2 says that beginning Oct. 1, all state and local entities and their employees are required to use the Gulf of America name on newly created maps, documents, educational materials, websites, official communications, and other resources.

Finally, efforts to adopt comprehensive voting reform measures have stalled for years in the Statehouse, and HB486, called the Alabama Voting Rights Act, failed to pass again in 2026. The bill would have restored voting rights to most people with felony convictions, allow no-excuse absentee voting and permit voter registration up to Election Day. 

Huntsville Veterans Week Activities

5 June – Iron Mike Golf Tournament, 7:30-1:00 am (Register at [2026 AUSA Iron Mike Golf Tournament](#))

6 June – Redstone Arsenal Army Birthday Celebration @ Redstone Gateway, 4:00-9:00 pm

7 June – Gold Star Family recognition @ Trash Panda game, 4:00 pm

8 June – Proclamation Signing Ceremony @ Veterans Memorial Park, 8:00 am

8 June – Concert in the Park @ Big Spring Park, 6:30-8:30 pm

9 June – Armed Forces Celebration Luncheon @ VBC Saturn Ballroom, 12:00-1:15 pm

10 June – Community vs RSA Softball Game @ Toyota Field, 6:00-7:30 pm

12 June – Prayer Breakfast @ the RSA Summit, 7:30 am

12 June – Viewing of docuseries first episode, “Resilience: Warriors Rise”, USSRC, time TBD

13 June – AUSA Legacy & Liberty Birthday Ball @ USSRC Davidson Center, 6:00-9:00 pm

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

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

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have over 250 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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

Attention Members

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

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

Important Dates in 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 1198 (1915)
- 8 May – Battle of Coral Sea (1942)
- 11 May – Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969)
- 10 May – Mother’s Day
- 12 May – Berlin Blockade lifted (1949)
- 13 May – Pope John Paul II shot in St. Peter’s Square (1981)
- 14 May – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 – Java Café**
- 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)
- 26 May – Evacuation of Dunkirk began (1940)
- 25 May – Memorial Day
- 27 May – Golden Gate bridge opened (1937)
- 27 May - Monthly Member Meeting – 1030 Meet & Greet – Summit Club**
- 28 May – Amnesty International founded (1961)
- 30 May – Lincoln Memorial was dedicated (1922)
- 31 May – Johnstown flood killed over 2300 (1889)
- 3 June – Golf Meeting – 1200 - Links**

