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November 2025



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings all!

Pretty dismal month – rain...sunshine...make up your mind! At least I am somewhat enjoying the college football season – though with the NIL, I don't have a clue who is playing for who – and I don't think some of the coaches do either! At least 'Bama is doing well and Navy is undefeated and ranked as of today!

Many thanks to Wes Kelley (CEO, HSV Utilities) for the briefing at the October meeting. Good speaker, good meal, good times! Thanks to all those members and their guests who attended! Our next membership meeting is scheduled for January 28th, at the Summit Club with our regular Meet and Greet starting at 1030. We are working on Guest Speakers for the first half of 2026 – if you have any ideas of people who might be of interest to our group, let me know please! Details for the meeting will be in the January Sentinel.

Veterans Week is fast approaching – hopefully many of you will be participating in the many events scheduled for the week! We will have an entry in the parade as usual – if you see us, give us a shout!

Our annual Christmas party is fast approaching – December 6th. RSVP instructions are included in the flyer in this Sentinel – please RSVP ASAP...it will, as usual, be a GREAT time! Lots of food, some good door prizes, and some great entertainment!

Many of you have asked about a Veterans Cemetery for Northern Alabama. This development is very close to becoming a reality. Land is being looked at in the Huntsville area and funding is being gathered. Several chapter members have been heavily involved in the project!

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

Have a happy and safe November and take precautions for winter!

Rick

There is no member meeting in November – Happy Thanksgiving!

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



Legislative Corner COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Federal Legislation:

Due to the government shutdown and the House recess, The Support Military Families Act (H.R. 977), which would permit federal employees who are spouses of military members to work remotely, remains in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. While the bill has not passed, bipartisan support has influenced the administration to grant temporary exemptions for military spouses.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 2033 and S. 1027), a MOAA priority, has been introduced in both the House and Senate and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The bill encourages the hiring of military spouses by adding them to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

House and Senate continue work on the 2026 defense bills. The House passed its version of the NDAA September 10th and the Senate passed its version on October 9th. The centerpiece of the House bill is a wide-ranging proposal to streamline the defense acquisition process by cutting the time it takes to validate requirements for new programs. The Senate NDAA also includes a complete overhaul of the Defense Acquisition System.

The NDAA includes significant funding for DOD activities in Alabama. There's \$44 million for a physics lab and \$55 million to finish the Propulsion Systems Building at Redstone Arsenal. Anniston Army Depot would get \$32 million to construct a Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Center, and there is \$28 million for Army Reserve construction and land acquisition projects at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Senate amendments of interest to MOAA include:

The Pentagon is directed to fully implement recommendations from a 2024 Government Accountability Office report addressing affordable housing challenges within one year of NDAA enactment.

The text of the MOAA supported Service members' Credit Monitoring Enhancement Act (S. 2074) would extend free credit monitoring protections to all members of the armed forces.

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2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD

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Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, rregner58@gmail.com

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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@hiwaay.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, avatarmax@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

STAR card promotion: Black Friday and several days before and after – usually 10% firearms with another 10% off when you use your STAR card.

Veterans Day specials around the store.

Free second frame for you, a friend, or family member at the optical store by Starbucks. Usually, specials do not apply if you use insurance.

Check every day for the Deal of the Day

<http://www.shopmyexchange.com> – major discounts on items you will want.

You may call us at [256-883-6100](tel:256-883-6100), fax [256-880-0588](tel:256-880-0588), or [email us](mailto:).

Coupons, rebates, interactive ads, specialty stores, and super daily specials? Your Exchange has it all at:

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/savings-center/>

Shopette

Glühwein – still in stock but going fast. Ice Wine (wine from grapes of the first freeze) – not yet in stock.

Stop in and check out all the gift packs! All your favorites now with promotional items included for the holidays.

Veterans Day likely to have special gas prices on that day.

The Shopette is still undergoing a major renovation. There is a lot of construction and shelves are not always full.

Commissary

Turkeys arriving for 79 cents per pound. Sale applied at register applies to Shady Brook Farms & Honeysuckle whole turkeys but must purchase over \$50 not including the price of the turkey. Cranberries have also arrived.

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.

Mrs. Louise Garman

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

LTC Nicholas M. Mikus

256-604-7767

nicholasmikus@comcast.net

Navy/USMC Representative:

COL Raymond G. Regner

256-851-5903

rgregner58@gmail.com

Air/Space Force Representative:

Col Gerald C. Maxwell

256-606-5282,

avatarmax@gmail.com

Personal Affairs Officer

Lt Col Gerald Haynes

256-882-7857

jerry15@hiwaay.net

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



FAHC Happenings

Our military clinic remains open and we're continuing to provide healthcare services. Scheduled appointments are proceeding as planned, and new appointments continue to be booked. For the latest information regarding TRICARE benefits during this period, please visit www.tricare.mil/shutdown

Flu Shot update:

- All TRICARE beneficiaries, to include retirees, may walk in to the Fox Immunization Clinic M-F from 0900 - 1400, except 1230 - 1300, for their flu shots.
- We have tentative dates for Nov 7th at the Commissary between 0900 - 1100 and a Fox Beneficiary Day on November 17 from 0900 - 1500. However, these November events may be adjusted based on the length of the shutdown.
- Also available FREE of charge through any TRICARE Retail Pharmacy

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

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

Fox Army Health Center will CLOSE during specified times below:

- Friday, November 21, 2025 – ALL DAY
- Friday, December 5, 2025 – noon to 4 p.m.
- Friday, February 20, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 15, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 12, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. to noon
- Friday, August 21, 2026 – noon to 4 p.m.

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

- Monday, October 13, 2025 – Columbus Day
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025 – Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 27, 2025 – Thanksgiving Day
- Thursday, December 25, 2025 – Christmas Day
- Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day
- Monday, January 19, 2026 – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Monday, February 16, 2026 – Presidents' Day
- Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day
- Friday, June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth
- Friday, July 3, 2026 – Independence Day
- Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day

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

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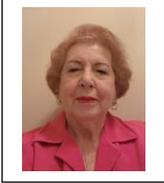
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Redstone Arsenal Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

The next widow's luncheon will be held on Thursday, 20 November, at Tellini's Italian Restaurant, 1515 Perimeter Parkway NW, Huntsville. All will be notified.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Protect Your Health and Wealth

Suppose you suffer a debilitating accident or a devastating stroke (these affect both young and old) and you are unable to care for yourself, temporarily or permanently. You might think, "How would I handle that?" First, with the assistance of loved ones, and second, with pre-planning for long term care.

Long term care can be expensive and location-dependent. The median cost in the U.S. in 2024 was:

- \$30-\$40 per hour for in-home care
- \$4,000 to \$6,000 per month for assisted living
- \$100,000 per year for nursing home care

This is not petty cash. Outlays such as these require careful planning. Fortunately, there are some ways to handle these expenses, such as:

Insurance Products

A long-term care insurance policy may cover home care, adult day care, assisted living, and nursing facilities. Your age, health metrics, and amount of coverage desired establish the premium base. Both the premium and the coverage can have inflation increments built in. These premiums are much more affordable in the mid-40s or 50s ages.

Hybrid life insurance with a long-term care rider may be purchased. The policy accelerates the death benefit as you use it. Any remaining policy value passes to beneficiaries as a death benefit.

Self-Funding

An annuity you own might offer a long-term care payout or a guaranteed income stream that can be applied to health costs.

You could also use your personal savings, investment accounts, or retirement accounts to pay for care.

Another option might be converting your homestead and/or vacation home to a rental to create an income stream. These are emotional decisions. However, your home or vacation home might no longer be suitable for the new reality of your living needs. Use a professional to establish the lease, price, and conditions. It might be possible to preserve that family reunion tradition by carving out that time frame from the leases. Review any income tax complications this action may pose.

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Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Luke 1:13

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. (NRSV)

Luke 1: 78-79

78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel (NRSV)



I am reading *Brian's Winter* by Gary Paulson. It's about a man who is trapped in the arctic north. And the frigid cold season is soon coming. Brian and his period of waiting to die or be rescued is a desert he has found himself in. We all somewhat are in this same position; we find ourselves in this land waiting. Henri Nouwen wrote, "For many people, waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go". Brian knew where he was and where he wanted to go, he wanted to be rescued. Yet while he waited, he had to be actively present in the moment. I won't spoil the book by telling you how it ends. But what happens when we find ourselves waiting like Brian did?

In my heart, I know the time I find myself waiting should be a time to help me grow and mature. Yet, one of my biggest issues with waiting is fear. That fear is overwhelming, distracting you from what God is telling you. Fear of what might be coming is endemic to our period of waiting. Our mind wonders to all the what ifs. And if you're like me they are not always positive. I tend to worry too much and second guess what will happen instead of focusing on what God is doing to prepare me for. While waiting for my CT scan and results I feared my cancer had returned, and that's where my thoughts were until I got my results. Early in Luke's Gospel we find lots of people waiting; Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna. In almost every verse we read, "Do not be afraid".

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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: 259
Regular Members: 221
Surviving Spouses: 38

New this month: 2
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals: 2

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

Mrs. Sally Shepard
Col Larry Vannoy, USAF

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.

Commissary/PX – continued from page 3

Visit <http://www.commissaries.com> or sign up at Facebook, Twitter @YourCommissary, Pintrest, Instagram, or YouTube for all the commissary information! Also visit <https://commissaryconnection.dodlive.mil/> for all services information.

Christmas treats from all over the world arriving – next to the bread isle – check it out!
Also past the check outs is a donation box for prebagged items you can purchase for donations to those less fortunate.

Your bakery and deli can create meat and cheese trays or/and sandwich trays. Please call 256.876.3517 and provide a two-hour notice.

Also, check out the center of the store where warehouse pricing is in effect! Throughout your commissary you will find specials that will make your Holidays the best yet! ❄️

Meet your new Surviving Spouse Liaison

I hope this message finds everyone well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. As the newest addition to the MOAA Board I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you that I may not have had the privilege of meeting during my time at MOAA. My name is Angie Inman and I will be stepping into the role of Surviving Spouse Liaison. Mrs. Bonnie Treadway will continue to be the liaison for the Redstone Surviving Spouse luncheon that is held monthly and I will handle the rest of the Surviving Spouse Liaison duties outlined by our Chapter.

My husband John and I have been members of the Huntsville chapter of MOAA for over 10 years and he served on the board for over 5 of those years in varying positions. I am a native of Alabama and we moved to Huntsville in 2008 after John's retirement from the Navy.

The reason many of you may not be familiar with my husband or may not recognize me is because for the last 3 years my husband has been a resident in our local VA long term care facility battling Parkinson's with Dementia. He lost that battle this past June.

MOAA Huntsville was how we managed to get through that final chapter. From meeting the financial advisor who would get us prepared for what was to come. To helping me manage the paperwork for getting on the list for VA long term care. Friends from MOAA made sure we were never forgotten anywhere along the way. They were there all the way to the end.

When I was approached about this position, I did what most people do and started thinking of all the reasons why I wasn't the right person for the job. I had told CAPT West I would think about it. When I sat down and gave it some thought, all I could hear was my husband John's voice whispering in my ear the words he would always say when someone thanked him for his service. "It's an Honor to Serve". Then I knew what my answer had to be. So here I am with willing hands and a smile. I look forward to meeting more of you in person as time goes by. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Warmest Regards,

Angie Inman

Retirees and Veterans: One amendment directs the Pentagon, VA and Department of Labor to include additional factors such as child care requirements, location and employment status of other adults in the household when developing pathways for transition to civilian life.

Another amendment requires the development and implementation of plans to increase veteran access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) with excess capacity, and to increase case volume and complexity for MTF graduate medical education programs.

Survivors: One amendment would expand eligibility for employment services provided by the Department of Labor to surviving military spouses under the Disabled Veterans 'Outreach Program.

Now the legislation heads to a House and Senate conference committee and top of the agenda for House and Senate leadership will be the final language on acquisition reform, the legislative priority for both committees. The conference will also have to address the difference in top lines as the Senate's bill came in at \$924.7 billion, \$32 billion more than the Pentagon's budget request, versus the House version at \$893 billion.

2026 COLA: The Social Security Administration announced 23 October that the 2026 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will be 2.8 percent after consumer prices rose 3% over the last 12 months as tariffs raise prices. The same 2.8% COLA will apply to federal military and civilian retirement payments.

Alabama Legislation:

Legislators will get a 7.15% raise. Alabama's 140 state lawmakers will earn \$66,659 next year, a 7.15% increase over this year. A 2012 voter-approved constitutional amendment tied legislators' salaries to the state's median household income. The amendment initially caused a pay cut for many lawmakers, putting their salaries at \$42,849 in 2015. Since then, they've received raises each year except for two.

On 26 September, Gov. Kay Ivey, saying she could not justify the time and expense, decided not to call a special legislative session to draw new Alabama Senate districts after a federal judge ruled the current map violates the Voting Rights Act. Following Gov. Ivey's decision, U.S. District Judge Anna Manasco, a Trump appointee, appointed a special master to redraw Alabama's state Senate districts and rejected a motion from the state to stay her ruling that the present map violates the Voting Rights Act.

Health care will cost more. Two major public insurers in Alabama are seeking significant funding increases from the legislature to address rising program costs. It's part of a national trend of insurance price spikes this year which experts say is due to market pressures and federal policies including tariffs and uncertainty over the extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies.

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

A pre-filed bill in the Alabama Senate would make it a Class C felony to injure a public official. Senate Bill 20 expands the definition of assault in the second degree to include "injury to a current or former

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HCMOAA Treasurer's Report
December 2024 – September 2025

1. The December 2024 through September 2025 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$14,018.81	\$ 1,703.69
Income	\$ 9,725.92	\$ 0.15
Expenses	\$11,594.95	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$12,149.78	\$ 1,703.84

3. Notable income: Income items over this 10-month period have been monitored, reviewed, and approved by the Governing Board. The President and Treasurer hold a detailed listing.

4. Notable expenses: Expenses over this 10-month period have been monitored, reviewed, and approved by the Governing Board. The President and Treasurer hold a detailed listing.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. The Chapter holds a Certificate of Deposit (CD) in the amount of \$20,000. This CD will reach maturity on November 8, 2025, with an estimated value of \$20,558.07. It will be renewed then at the best rate available.

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

Scholarship Fund Donations

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

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

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

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During October 2025

Anonymous

Total received for October:	\$150.00
Total received CY25:	\$1750.00



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



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

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

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

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

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

_____ MOAA National Membership Number

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

Attention Annual Members

It is not too early to renew your membership for next year
 The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

Those members needing to renew are listed on page 19

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate
 Don't know when your membership expires? Contact MAJ Bruce Robinson at
 256-426-0525 or brobinso1976@gmail.com.

Don't want to worry about renewing ever again - consider becoming a Chapter Life Member – contact
 COL John Fairlamb at 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net for the details

How to Identify and Avoid Scams

When disaster strikes, scammers do too.

- After a natural disaster, fake charity scams are common. Protect yourself by only donating to established charities that you've researched.
- Contractor scams might ask for cash upfront or won't want you to use your insurance.
- Do your research through organizations like Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC). You can report disaster relief scams to the FBI or FTC.

Watch for red flags.

Scammers may change their stories, but these signs will stay the same.

Unsolicited contact

If you get an unexpected email, text, call or social media message asking for money or information, it could be a scam.

Posing as someone you trust

Scammers pretend to be figures like government officials, companies, or even friends and family. Don't trust caller ID to verify their identity.

Pressure to act fast

Scammers often use limited-time offers, threats or emergencies to rush you into making quick decisions.

Emotional manipulation

If you feel like someone is playing on emotions like fear, sympathy, or excitement to influence your decisions, it might be a scam.

Requests to pay in specific ways

Scammers often insist on payment through cryptocurrency, wire transfers, payment apps or gift cards.

These steps can help you stay ahead of scammers.

- Stay cautious. Always be on alert when someone asks for information or money.
- Take your time. Scammers want to rush you. Slow down and think before you act.
- Only trust verified sources. Double-check information through trusted channels.
- Protect your info. Never share personal or financial details unless you're sure who you're dealing with.



23 Birthdays in November

Mrs. Clara W Kirsopp
COL John V Vanderbleek, USA
MAJ Julius Plucker IV, USA
LTC Ruth J Sonak, USA
MAJ George T Wandler, USA
CW4 Tommy O Sandner, USA
COL John C Schulz, USA
LTC Paul E Williams, USA
Col Gerald C Maxwell, USAFR
LTC David C O'Neil, USA
CW4 Johnie M Keeter, USA
CDR Milton C Williams, USN

COL Matthew C Mingus, USA
Col Lee T Smith, USAF
LTC Joseph S Minor, USA
CAPT Timothy W Howell, USN
Mrs. MaryAnne Woodard
LTC Thomas R McLaughlin Jr, USA
CW4 Samuel I Whitaker, USA
CW3 Kenneth J Albrecht, USA
LTC Jose G Velasquez, USA
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA
Lt Col Montgomery S Hand, USAF

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

Waiting is an active part of our life. It's not a passive function like some might think. Nouwen wrote that, "active waiting means to be present fully to the moment, in the conviction that something is happening where you are and that you want to be present in it." When we find ourselves waiting, we shouldn't picture a lonely desert, we need to be proactive. While waiting, we can become more alert to what God is telling us by praying, meditating, going to church, and even studying the Bible. God has a message for each of us, one of hope and salvation. May each of us hear that message when we find ourselves in that desert of waiting.

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

Blessings, Dave





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

TAPS

Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, of Huntsville, AL passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025. He was 92 years old. Born on October 11, 1932 to Edward William and Alice Blendermann, Ed spent his childhood in Queens County, New York City. He attended local schools and graduated from high school in 1950. He then studied for three years at the City University of New York before entering the United States Air Force in 1953.

Ed married his childhood sweetheart Anne Blaylock in June of 1955, and, after graduating from pilot training, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base for advanced fighter interceptor training in F-86Ds. He later served at Greater Pittsburgh Airport and Hahn Air Base in Germany. Selected for advanced education through the Air Force Institute of Technology, he earned both BS and MS degrees in Engineering from Texas Tech University.

Ed's next assignment was to the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing (352nd Fighter Squadron), deploying with the unit to Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam. His subsequent assignment was with the Pentagon, then serving as Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at USAFE Headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany. Upon returning to the U.S., he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Ft. McNair in Washington, D.C., and continued his education at Harvard Business School, followed by an assignment to the Oklahoma Air Logistics Center.

His final military post was at the Pentagon, serving as Deputy Director of Logistics, Plans and Programs, where he completed his 28-year military career retiring from the Air Force in 1981. Among his many awards and decorations for military service were the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Following his military retirement, Ed joined The Boeing Company, where he enjoyed his positions in Program Management, Special Projects, Unmanned Air Vehicles, and Subcontract Management with the Space Station Program. He retired from Boeing in 1996 but returned as a consultant for three additional years.

For the last 35 years, Ed and Anne made their home in Huntsville where he was an active member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He volunteered with the Huntsville Land Trust and the Huntsville Museum of Art and was a dedicated member of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), Huntsville Chapter and Kiwanis.

For the last 17 years, he and Anne resided at Magnolia Trace Retirement Community, where he remained active in community life.

Ed is survived by his loving wife, Anne, with whom he shared 70 years of marriage; daughters, Lauren Uher (Daryl Shall) of St. Petersburg, FL, Kathryn Snider (Craig) of Amarillo, TX, and Suzanne Schaefer (Stan) of Houston, TX; and beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Jonathan Edward Snider (Whitney), James Edward Snider, Margaret Winston Gromek (Ryan),

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Scarlett Blair Gromek, William Parker Snider, Karl Edward Schaefer (Peter Lido), and Madeline Eileen Schaefer.

A service to honor and celebrate Colonel Ed Uher's life was held Friday, October 10 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Huntsville, AL. Visitation was held at 10 am with a service at 11am and a reception to follow.

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



Surviving Spouse – continued from page 7

Reverse mortgages are a possibility for those age 62 and over. These convert your home equity into tax-free income that you can use to pay for care. These products are extremely complicated depending on your long-term housing needs and financial situation. Ask a lot of questions.

Your assets are your tools to finance your new life situation. Most state and federal programs require you to spend them down before you use their aid. Please seek the advice of your family, a financial planner, or trusted advisor before you act.

Safety Nets

Medicaid is a federal government program administered by the states. It covers long-term care for those with limited income and assets. States have their unique guidelines, but most require a spend-down of assets before applying for aid. Speak to an elder law attorney or advisor. They might be able to help preserve some of your estate before qualifying for eligibility. The states have different requirements on assets, income caps, and state residency. Also, not all nursing facilities accept Medicaid.

The VA's Aid and Attendance program is a means-tested benefit available to qualifying veterans and their spouses. This assistance should be explored with an accredited veteran's service officer.

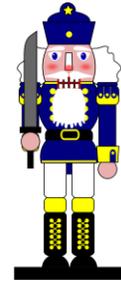
Thoughtful analysis of preparations and solutions for life's possibilities can help you ask intelligent questions, make informed decisions, and attend to needs. Your actions will benefit you and your family.



Huntsville Chapter MOAA Christmas Party

Holiday Dinner

**Sliced honey glazed pitted ham
Tender oven roasted turkey breast with giblet gravy
Country Style corn bread dressing with giblet gravy
Mashed potatoes
Whole green beans
Yeast Rolls & Butter
Ice Water – Coffee
Sweet or Unsweetened Iced Tea
Pumpkin pie**



HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY

**THE OVERLOOK at THE SUMMIT CLUB
SATURDAY EVENING, 6 DECEMBER 2025**

**COCKTAILS - No Host/Cash bar - 5:00 pm
President's Remarks and Dinner - 6:00 pm**

DOOR PRIZES

Live entertainment provided by Dave McConnell, who sings Sinatra

DRESS: Business Casual – khakis/slacks and collared shirts/polo shirts for the men – slacks/skirts and blouses/collared shirts for the ladies – of course you can always dress more formally

\$30.00 PER PERSON (Members & Family) - \$35.00 PER PERSON (Guests)

\$15.00 PER PERSON (Children 6 – 10) - NO CHARGE (Children under 6)

RSVP by 25 November 2025 (with check made out to HCMOAA) to:

**MAJ Bruce Robinson
809 Farley Drive SE
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-426-0525**



local, state, or federal public official during or as a result of the performance of the current or former official's duty” and increases such an assault from a misdemeanor to a felony.

An amendment to Alabama’s constitution bans elected officials (excluding state legislators) from getting salary increases during their terms. But a 2000 pay bill that allowed local officials to increase compensation for officials in the form of expense accounts along with three Alabama attorney’s general opinions that ruled expense accounts are not compensation, allow lawmakers to raise local officials’ remuneration before they complete a term. Legislators during the 2025 session filed nearly 25 bills that dealt with the compensation of county officials and 18 of the bills became law.

A panel of Alabama lawmakers recently had a contentious meeting with leadership of the Alabama Board of Pharmacy meaning more legislation regarding the body that licenses thousands of pharmacists is expected in 2026. The Legislative Sunset Committee also voted to end the authority of two other professional licensure boards and transfer the management of three to state agencies. The intent is to reduce the size of government, reduce regulations and overregulation and fees charged to small businesses.

Alabama's funds that fuel education and government agencies ended fiscal year 2025 in good shape and in the case of the General Fund, better than expected. The General Fund, which supports most non-education state agencies, increased by \$120.1 million, or 3.47%, over last year to nearly \$3.6 billion. The Education Trust Fund ended FY-25 at \$10.9 billion, up 2.49% or \$265.6 million.

But crafting the fiscal 2027 spending plans will be challenging.

Lawmakers are concerned about expected dips in revenue in the coming years. Concern with the General Fund is that much of its growth since 2023 is from interest on state deposits including earnings from high interest rates and billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 funds sitting in state coffers waiting to be spent. It’s been a lucrative situation, but that COVID money must be spent by the end of 2026, and interest rates are dropping, down 5.5% from last year and expected to continue declining. Nothing else in the General Fund grows enough to offset a big decline in this revenue source.

Department heads are already voicing needs for budge increases and the chair of the Senate’s General Fund committee said “the numbers are not adding up” on budget requests from state agencies for FY 2027, with needs far exceeding the estimated funds available. Alabama faces challenges from federal funding changes and cuts from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which increase the state’s responsibility for funding programs in the Alabama Department of Human Resources (ADHR), especially in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), requiring at least a \$35 million increase in the 2027 ADHR budget alone.

Lastly, when the 2026 regular Legislative Session begins January 13th, earlier than usual so representatives can campaign for the November mid-term elections, Alabama Arise that lobbies for laws addressing poverty, will continue its “beating drum” strategy for its 2026 legislative agenda priorities: health equity, hunger relief, adequate state budgets, inclusive democracy, justice reform, tax reform and worker power. 

The following annual members need to renew their memberships:

LTC Robert Archer, USA
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN
CW4 Christopher R Chance, USA
MAJ Lewis M Davidson, USA
Mrs. Susan Della-Corte
MAJ Jean M Downs, USA
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
LTC Robert W Hearon, USA
CH (LTC) James R Johnson Sr, USA
COL Jason E Kerr, USA
Col Larry D Layne, USAF
LTC Clarence R Longcor, USA
LTC Thomas E Means, USA
COL Matthew C Mingus, USA
BG Daniel L Montgomery, USA
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA
LT James L Pointer, USN
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA
LTC Samuel Scruggs, USA
LTC Ruth J Sonak, USA
CPT Sean R Sterling, USA
MAJ Michael V Tallman, USA

LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA
COL Perry C Butler, USA
Lt Col Charles T Clements, USAF
COL Steven S Debusk, USA
LTC Gregg M Dellert, USA
COL Ryan J Fayrweather, USA
CAPT Steven M Guiliani, USN

LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA
COL Thomas J Kunhart, USA
CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA
LTC Thomas R McLaughlin Jr, USA
Mrs. Elaine Miner
LTC Joseph S Minor, USA
LTC Johanna L Mora, USA
LCDR Neftali Pagan, USN
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA
CW4 Tommy O Sandner, USA

MAJ William H Steele, USA
CAPT Ronald L Stowe, USN

Chapter Happenings – October Membership Meeting



Mr. Wes Kelley, CEO of Huntsville Utilities, addresses the membership



Chapter President Rick West presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Kelley

History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving's history in America begins with the 1621 feast between Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag tribe, celebrating a successful harvest. However, the holiday was not an annual event until Sarah Josepha Hale successfully campaigned for a National Day of Thanksgiving, which President Lincoln declared in 1863. In 1941, Congress officially set Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November.

Colonial Origins

The commonly cited "first" Thanksgiving was a 1621 harvest feast in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Wampanoag tribe joined the Plymouth colonists for a three-day celebration of feasting and games after the colonists' first successful harvest.

Some Native Americans view the holiday as a day of mourning, given the fraught history of European colonization.

Earlier thanksgiving services also occurred, such as the one held by the Berkeley Hundred settlers in Virginia in 1619.

National Holiday Establishment

For years, Thanksgiving was celebrated on different dates in various colonies and states.

Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, began a decades-long campaign in the 1840s to establish a national Thanksgiving Day.

In 1863, amidst the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring a national Thanksgiving for the last Thursday of November to promote unity.

A presidential proclamation officially set Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November in 1941, ending years of controversy over the date.

Modern Holiday

Over time, the holiday has shifted from its religious origins to a secular celebration focused on family gatherings and food, such as turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie.

Parades, such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and football games have become popular modern traditions.

History of Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Saving Time (DST) has been implemented inconsistently throughout U.S. history, first appearing during World War I and becoming standardized in 1966. Currently, its observance varies across states, with recent legislative efforts to make it permanent stalling at the federal level.

Early History and World Wars

1918 (WWI): Daylight Saving Time was first enacted in the U.S. with the Standard Time Act, which also established standard time zones. It was intended to save fuel and energy during World War I. However, the measure was unpopular, especially with farmers, and was repealed after the war in 1919.

1942 (WWII): President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-instituted year-round DST, calling it "War Time". It was once again intended to save energy for the war effort and was observed from February 9, 1942, until September 30, 1945.

Post-WWII Chaos (1945–1966): After World War II, there was no federal law regulating DST. This led to a confusing patchwork of policies where some states and cities observed it while others did not, making it difficult for industries like transportation to coordinate schedules.

Standardization and Extensions

1966 (Uniform Time Act): The federal government intervened to end the confusion by passing the Uniform Time Act. The law standardized the practice for states that chose to observe DST, mandating it from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. It also gave states the option to exempt themselves by passing a state law, which Arizona and Hawaii did.

1974 (Oil Crisis): In response to the 1973 oil embargo, Congress passed a trial period of year-round DST in 1974. Public opinion, which was initially favorable, dropped significantly during the winter months due to dark mornings and safety concerns for children traveling to school. The year-round policy was repealed a year later.

2005 (Energy Policy Act): President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act, which extended the duration of Daylight Savings Time. Starting in 2007, DST was moved to begin on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November. This was partly influenced by the candy industry, which wanted to include Halloween within the DST period to encourage more trick-or-treating.

Modern Legislative Efforts and Debate

State-level pushes for permanent time: Today, many states have introduced or passed legislation to adopt permanent DST, should federal law allow it. In recent years, Florida and Washington were among the states to pass such bills, but they cannot be enacted without federal approval. Under current federal law, states can only opt out of DST and remain on permanent standard time.

The Sunshine Protection Act: This federal bill was introduced in the Senate in 2019 to make DST permanent nationwide. The Senate passed it by unanimous consent in 2022, but it did not pass the House and expired. A renewed version of the bill was introduced in 2025, but no further action has been taken.

Split public opinion and scientific findings: Polls consistently show that most Americans want to stop switching their clocks twice a year. However, there is no consensus on whether to adopt permanent DST or permanent standard time. Sleep and health experts largely advocate for permanent standard time, citing negative health impacts from shifting schedules, while others support permanent DST for economic and safety benefits.

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 November

- 1 November – All Saints Day
- 1 November - Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded in California (1776)
- 1 November - The European Union came into existence (1993)
- 2 November - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" (1947)
- 2 November – End of Cuban missile crisis (1962)
- 2 November – Daylight Savings Time ends
- 3 November - *Dewey Defeats Truman* headline on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* (1948)
- 4 November - King Tut's tomb was discovered (1922)
- 4 November - Richard Gatling patented the first rapid-fire machine-gun (1862)
- 4 November - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated (1995)
- 6 November - Henry VI was crowned King of England at age eight (1429)
- 7 November - President Franklin Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term (1944)
- 8 November - X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen (1895)
- 9 November - The Berlin Wall fell (1989)
- 10 November - The U.S. Marine Corps was established (1775)
- 11 November – Veterans Day**
- 11 November – World War I ended (1918)
- 13 November - The Holland Tunnel was opened (1927)
- 13 November – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 15 November - General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta (1864)
- 17 November - The Suez Canal was formally opened (1869)
- 19 November - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address (1863)
- 20 November - The first use of tanks in battle (1917)
- 22 November – President John F Kennedy was assassinated (1963)
- 22 November - Trans-Pacific airmail service began (1935)
- 25 November - Ireland voted to legalize divorce (1995)
- 26 November – The first Thanksgiving holiday – proclaimed by George Washington (1789)
- 27 November – Thanksgiving Day
- 28 November – Black Friday
- 29 November – Iron Bowl

