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April 2024



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

I missed seeing the Aurora Borealis on the 25th – maybe it was the wind and rain? Maybe it was my long power outage? Maybe I just slept through it? I have been fortunate enough to see it before – once on the surface in the company of Polar Bears (or at least I was told they were there) and many times through a periscope. It is quite the sight!

Our March meeting was very interesting! I very much enjoyed the discussion, but we were darn near outnumbered by the FBI agents! Many thanks to SAC Peeples and his gang for talking to us and taking our questions.

Our next membership meeting will be April 24th at The Summit Club with Meet and Greet starting at 1030. This will be a special meeting for two reasons: (1) we will be making our annual Scholarship Awards donation to the Military and Civilian Club and (2) we will be conducting our first Gold Bar ceremony since all activities were shut down by COVID. The Garrison's PAO is still working a General Officer as a guest speaker. We will not only be presenting a huge scholarship check to MCC, but also presenting Gold Bars to about 12 ROTC cadets about to be commissioned. They will all join us for lunch and conversation prior to the presentations. Please join me in a huge turnout to support two great presentations. Now is the perfect time to RSVP. **Please RSVP to John Vanderbleek at jvbleek78@gmail.com or 256.893.1565.** Remember that family and guests are always welcome.

JROTC/ROTC Medal Presentations. On behalf of Geno Lesinski and myself, I would like to thank all those who have volunteered as presenters. Feedback has been great from those presentations that have already occurred!

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

Stay safe!!! Hope to see a whole lot of you on the 24th!

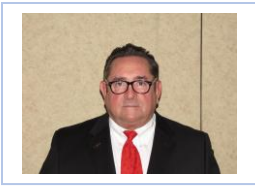
Rick

The next member meeting is on 24 April – the Guest Speaker is TBD

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

Voter turnout for the Alabama Primary election was 21.05% on 7 March, according to the Secretary of State. Former Department of Justice official Shomari Figures and Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels are headed to a runoff for the Democratic nomination in the newly-drawn 2nd Congressional District. Former Sen. Dick Brewbaker of Pike Road and attorney Caroleene Dobson are headed to a runoff for the Republican nomination for the 2nd Congressional District.

U.S. Rep. Barry Moore, R-Enterprise, won the Republican nomination Tuesday for the Alabama 1st Congressional District, which stretches from Mobile through the Wiregrass. Moore, who currently represents the 2nd Congressional District, will face presumptive Democratic nominee Tom Holmes in the November general election.

Sarah Stewart, an associate justice on the Alabama Supreme Court, won the Republican nomination for Alabama Chief Justice.

The Alabama Legislature will have to keep a procedural vote before considering local bills after voters rejected a proposed constitutional amendment.

The runoff for the contested nominations is on 16 April.

A special general election for House District 10 is set for 26 March. This is to replace former Rep. David Cole, R-Madison, had to resign the seat last fall after entering a plea deal on a felony voter fraud charge. The Democrat nominee is Marilyn Lands, and the Republican nominee is Teddy Powell.

Governor Ivey signed a bill on 7 March approving the education savings account. The legislation provides up to \$7,000 in tax credits for families to use on private school education or other education options. Home school families can receive up to \$2,000 in credits per child, capped at \$4,000 per family. The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education or CHOOSE Act has been a GOP priority and promise to school choice advocates.

The Alabama Veterans Affairs (ADVA) was 'blindsided' by a new veterans' health care system proposal in early March. HB 197 and SB 135, originally read into the record on 24 February, would direct the ADVA to establish and operate a statewide health care system for Alabama veterans and their families. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs held two special-called board meetings on 5 March after the filing of two bills that members said came as a surprise to

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, m.barron468@gmail.com

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biced992K@aol.com

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

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

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

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

Commissary & Post Exchange: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, 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

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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 2024)

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Plants will be arriving at the end of March/early April at your exchange. Buy a few or a flat for this very popular sale. They sell out quickly.

Stop by and check out Winter clearance and Spring specials. Lawn mowers are in and on sale – along with fertilizers and topsoil.

The Exchange Optical Shop has their very popular buy one & get one free offer for glasses going on now. You can also arrange for an eye exam – call for an appointment. Tax season is here and the software to make it easier is available at your Exchange! Easter savings are happening at your Exchange and specials are available. Your Exchange also has a wide assortment of lawn care equipment, chemicals, fertilizer, and patio items all on sale. Come by and check it out!

Be sure to check out the latest gun sale going on every two weeks. They also have a selection of pistols at 25% off with your STAR card (look for the green circle in the display case).

Apply for the AAFES Star card and get at least 10% your first day’s purchases with additional per cent off during periodic store specials and get 10% off at all food court items – plus, as always 5 cents off per gallon at the gas pumps (sometimes even more)! Check the <https://www.shopmyexchange.com> web site every day for the super daily special. At this site, you can also see the latest specials, weekly sales, and sweepstakes.

Shopette

Be sure to check out the “What’s New” section (spirits and wines) and the “Wine of the Month” for special selections and sales! Your Shopette now has an even wider selection of local craft brews! Ten Per cent off liquor case lots – be sure to ask.

Rent Bissell carpet cleaners (two-day rental just \$10 more) and now occasion cards are available at the Shopette. Check out a RED BOX movie at the machine outside – reserve your movie and pick it up later that day.

Commissary

Smoked turkey’s will not be available until October at the earliest. Salad items are still having supply problems but that is expected to be over soon. Check out the huge Star-Kist on the go tuna display near the bread isle.

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.

COL Darrell Bright, USA
CW4 Jeffrey Sumners, USA

Concerns

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

Ms. Carrie Hightower

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 Edward L. Uher
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Personal Affairs Officer
Lt Col Gerald Haynes
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CONTACT:

GERMI CLOUD,
NSSA, CRPC
VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
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germie@cloudfinancial.com



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



New Feature of MHS GENESIS Patient Portal Allows Prescription Refills

The Defense Health Agency has launched a new feature that lets you request prescription refills through MHS GENESIS. MHS GENESIS is the Department of Defense's new electronic health record. It's now in use at every military hospital and clinic worldwide.

Prescription refills through the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#) became available on Feb. 29. In the first week, the Military Health System processed nearly 30,000 refills using the portal request.

This new capacity within MHS GENESIS is something that was desired by beneficiaries," said U.S. Public Health Service Lt. Cmdr. Minh Doan, patient portal solution owner for the DHA. "It is another tool for beneficiaries to manage their own health care."

You can now easily refill your prescriptions by selecting the "Rx Refills" tab in the upper right panel on the portal's homepage.

Through your MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, you'll be able to:

- See all your prescriptions that are available to be refilled.
- Choose which ones you want refilled.
- Choose where you want to pick up the refill.
- See when your prescriptions are ready to be picked up.

This is an example of how the DHA is working to meet the patient where they are to make health care access more convenient," Doan added.

This new feature applies to existing prescriptions that have remaining refills, said U.S. Navy Capt. Angie Klinski, deputy chief, MHS GENESIS pharmacy solution owner.

According to Klinski, the system determines a prescription is ready to be refilled when you've completed 75% of the previous fill. Your prescriptions won't be eligible for refill before that time.

You need a renewal when your prescription has no refills left, or has expired, and you still need the medication. You can use the MHS GENESIS secure messaging feature to request a renewal. You may also need to talk to your provider first before you can renew your prescription.

To access the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, visit <https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>. To read frequently asked questions on using the refill feature, visit [MHS GENESIS Prescription Refills](#).

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Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



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

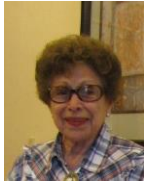
Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

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

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, 18 April, at the City Café, 101 Main Street in downtown Madison. Phone: 256-461-8096. We meet at 11AM. Everyone will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?

Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane (yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.

Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like [Everplans](#) or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection against physical damage or loss, ensuring critical information remains accessible even if the originals are destroyed.

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Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Luke 9:51-56

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. 54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' 55 but he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then they went on to another village.

Welcome to April, hoping for April showers that are said to bring May flowers. Looking ahead, and not necessarily looking back. Yet we are often drawn back in time to many pleasant and maybe not so pleasant memories. We like to share stories of our compatriots. I've enjoyed listening to these discussions sometimes in our gatherings. Sort of like the "then and now" stories. Can you remember someone back when, who might have been more geek-like, only to see them become a recognized military leader? I can remember General so and so when he was a lieutenant, trying to figure out what way was up. Now look at him! I was one of those. My nickname as a lieutenant was junior and was known for not being able to find a light switch in the launch control center, so I could turn down the lights. Later, I went on to become the senior Air Force contracting officer before I retired.

The Apostle John was much that way. He was known as the one of the two thunderous disciples, ready to destroy a village because they rejected Jesus. He also was known for wanting to stop someone from casting out demons in Jesus' name because he wasn't part of their group.

John, as tradition has it, was the last of the living Apostles and probably the oldest one. In his old age, he was so feeble that tradition says the young men would carry him on their shoulders into worship gatherings. He became known as the Apostle of Love.

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: 310
Regular Members: 262
Surviving Spouses: 48

New this month: 1
Deaths this month: 8
Renewals: 1

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

LTC Phyllis O'Connell, USA

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.


Legislative – continued from page 2

them. Member by member, the 17-person ADVA Legislative Committee all shared similar sentiments on the bills: That while health care for veterans did need to be improved in the state, the scope of the proposal could exceed the manpower or funding resources of the department.

The Alabama Senate on 7 March approved gambling legislation from the House of Representatives, but only after making substantial changes. The House originally created a lottery and a state gambling commission and allowed casino gaming and sports wagering at seven different locations in the state. It also directed Governor Ivey to negotiate a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, who operate casinos in Atmore, Montgomery, and Wetumpka. The Senate version keeps the lottery and compact language but dropped sports wagering and casino gaming. The bill would only allow pari-mutuel betting and historic horse racing machines at the seven locations. More to come.

On 13 March Governor Ivey signed a bill aimed at restarting in vitro fertilization (IVF) services in the state, minutes after the Alabama Legislature gave final approval to the legislation.


The Alabama Senate sent two controversial bills to Governor Ivey’s desk on 19 March. The legislature sent SB 1 that would prohibit any payment for assistance in absentee ballot applications or to “knowingly” provide an absentee ballot with pre-filled information. Gudger said the purpose of the bill was for election integrity. The other is SB 129 that limits the use of public funds for DEI (Diversity, Equality and Inclusion) efforts and outlines a number of “divisive concepts” that teachers or other public employees cannot compel others to accept or conform. Divisive concepts include “the moral character of an individual is determined by his or her race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin” and “meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist.”

February’s 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released March 12, was 304.284, 1.0% above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. March 2024 figures will be announced April 10. 

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Sign up for savings at mymilitarysavings.com A few clicks, and you will get information on current and upcoming Commissary and AAFES sales. Plus, recipes, contests, and there is an app you can download (Apple and android), that will take you directly to the site.

Your Commissary also has their Plant Sale going on now with ferns and assorted plants available through May.

Make tax season easier with the family gathered around the grill. Stop in and get savings on barbecue meats, ketchup, a huge assortment of mustards, pickles, lettuce and buns! Everything to make the tax season more bearable – including aspirin, Tylenol, and other headache relief medications. 





HCMOAA Treasurer's Report February 2024

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

1. The February 2024 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

| | Operating Funds | Savings |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Starting Balance | \$18,923.63 | \$ 1,703.55 |
| Income | \$ 1,695.79 | \$ 0.02 |
| Expenses | \$ 2,468.02 | \$ 0.00 |
| Ending Balance | \$18,151.40 | \$ 1,703.57 |

3. Notable income: Membership meeting meals, payments for an advertisement in the Sentinel, petty cash, and dues.

4. Notable expenses: Membership luncheons for January and February, CNA Surety Premium, renewal of the Post Office Box, petty cash, and Bankcard fees.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$15,279.00 from Wells Fargo on 8 November 2023. The term of the CD is 11 months at an interest rate of 4.88%. The current value is \$15,468.29. The CD matures on 8 October 2024.

7. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$2,179.71 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from previous donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

Scholarship Fund Donations

The Chapter has an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the RSA Military & Civilians' Club, we issue scholarships each year to deserving area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at rickw675@att.net 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 March 2024

None

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total received for March: | \$0.00 |
| Total received CY24: | \$0.00 |





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



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

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

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

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

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

_____ **MOAA National Membership Number**

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

Tax Day – Monday, Apr 15, 2024

The IRS reminds taxpayers the deadline to file a 2023 tax return and pay any tax owed is Monday, April 15, 2024. Taxpayers living in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 17, 2024, due to the Patriot's Day and Emancipation Day holidays.

Since 1955, Tax Day has typically fallen on or just after April 15. Tax Day was first introduced in 1913, when the Sixteenth Amendment was ratified.

Surviving Spouse Corner – continued from page 7

Furthermore, having your important documents organized facilitates seamless communication and coordination with emergency responders and relief agencies. Whether you're seeking medical assistance, applying for government aid, or navigating insurance claims, having all necessary documentation readily available expedites the process and ensures you receive the support and resources you need in a timely manner.

What documents should you include in your important documents kit? While the specific documents might vary depending on individual circumstances, some essential items to consider include:

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, immunization records)
- Financial documents (bank account information, insurance policies, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family members, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates, power of attorney)
- Property records (homeowner's insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items

Every day you see stories about natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies, and unforeseen events that change someone's life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're well-prepared is invaluable. Take the time today to gather your important documents and create an important document kit — it could make all the difference tomorrow. 🏠

Governing Board Vacancies

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

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

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

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

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



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Live Well.**



**“HONORING
our VETERANS”**

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



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**2024 Annual
Scholarship Golf
Tournament**

It’s that time again. The golf committee will have its next planning meeting on **17 April**, 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



19 Birthdays in April

LCDR Emanuel M Tsikalas, USN
Mrs. Myrna G Griffiths
Mrs. Josephine O Walsh
MAJ Gordon M Brown, USA
COL Herbert M Dixon, USA
Mrs. Terry Cave
Lt Col David L Dunlap, USAF
CW4 Dennis M Horn, USN
COL Joshua S Kennedy, USA
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA

CPT Stephen E Cecil, USMC
CW4 Christopher R Chance, USA
Lt Col Edward J Gniadek, USAF
MAJ Theron Bowman, USA
LTC Fred Maksimowski Jr, USA
Mrs. Lillian Kawano
1LT William H Redmond, USAR
Mrs. Pattie C Chatfield
LTC Samuel Scruggs, 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

John's journey to being known as the Apostle of Love did not happen overnight. It started the moment he was born, guided by the Holy Spirit.

As we journey in the season of Easter, I pray that you continue to be transformed in love as we continue this journey together. I'd like to close with:

1 John 4:19

We love because he [God] first loved us.

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

Blessings, Dave





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

TAPS

LTC David Earl Pray, USA-Ret - aged 85, died on Saturday, February 24, 2024, in Huntsville, Alabama. The son of the late Verne E. Pray and Eleanor Brayton Pray, he was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1961 and was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program and was commissioned in Army Ordnance Corps. He later received master's degrees in business administration from Indiana University and in systems management from the University of Southern California.

During his Army career he served in Vietnam, Germany, and Korea, as well as in numerous locations in the United States. His final assignment was with the Ordnance Center and School at Redstone Arsenal. After retirement from the Army in 1987, Mr. Pray worked for CAS, Inc. in Huntsville as a program analyst and manager. He retired from CAS, Inc. in 2009. His hobbies included playing chess and genealogy. He was of the Methodist faith and was a long-time member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Huntsville.

Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Ae Sun Pray of Huntsville; three daughters, Marcia Linton and husband, Kyle, of Wellington, Colorado, Allison Shontz and husband, Brian, of South Jordan, Utah, and Jennifer Puskarich and husband, John, of Newton, Massachusetts. Also surviving is his sister, Pandora Rulli of Mishawaka, Indiana. Survivors also include four grandchildren, Benjamin Shontz and Julie, Nina, and Mia Puskarich.

A memorial service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bill Etheridge officiating. Burial with military honors will take place at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

LTG George Raymond Stotser, USA-Ret – 87, died on 1 July 2022. Commands he held included the Fifth United States Army and Fort Sam Houston, the 3rd Infantry Division, the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Armored Division (Forward), Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, United States Army Europe, and Deputy Commander in Chief, United States Army Europe.

Stotser was born in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee and attended Middle Tennessee State University, where he participated in the Army ROTC program. He enlisted in the Army on January 25, 1955, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry in 1956 upon graduation with a B.S. degree in biology. Stotser completed the Basic Infantry Officer Course at the Army Infantry School in February 1957 and the Advanced Course in May 1963. He then completed the Naval Command and Staff Course at the Naval War College in June 1966. Stotser earned an M.S. degree in education from Middle Tennessee State in June 1971 and graduated from the United States Army War College in June 1972.

Stotser was deployed to Europe multiple times during his career. He also served two combat tours in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the second as commander of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment in 1969. Stotser retired from active duty on July 31, 1991.

After his death, Stotser was buried at the Fort Benning Main Post Cemetery on July 15, 2022.

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COL Faison “Bud” Gibson, USA-Ret - 94, died in Ann Arbor, MI. Bud was born and raised in Washington, DC and was the son of Edward Banks Gibson and Sallie Peirce Gibson.

He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1946 and served in World War II and the Korean War. In 1958, he married Sarah Abbott of Buffalo, New York. He received his Ph.D. from MIT in the early 1960's. He worked for decades as a Nuclear Physicist for the government and then for private contractors in Huntsville, Alabama, where he and his wife raised their two children. He was a principled, kind, and gentle man. He loved cats and line dancing.

He is survived by his son, Bud Gibson Jr. and daughter-in-law, Mara Gibson, of Ann Arbor, Michigan; his daughter Sallie Peirce Gibson of San Francisco, California; and his three grandchildren: Aram Gibson, Levon Gibson, and Charles Gibson. A memorial service was held on Monday, July 22 at 1 pm at Glacier Hills Retirement Community in the Dobson Room at the Life Enrichment Center. He will be buried at West Point Cemetery with his wife who predeceased him.

LTC Colonel William Andrew Green, Jr, USA-Ret - 95 of Grant passed away Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at his residence. William was born May 26, 1925, the son of William Andrew Green, Sr and Ruby Loggins Green.

He is survived by Son: William Kenneth Green (Kay); Granddaughter: Suzanne G. Burkart (Vann); Great Grandchildren: Kenzie Burkart and Knox Burkart; Sister: JoAnn James. He was preceded in death by his First Wife: Lorena Green, Second Wife: Elizabeth Hamby Green; Daughters: Mary Margaret Green and Ellen Maureen Green.

Graveside Service with Military Honors were 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at Huntsville Memorial Gardens with Gober Funeral Chapel directing.

LTC James Morrow Ivy IV, USA-Ret - 91, of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on December 20, 2021.

James retired in 1974 after 22 years of serving in U.S. Army. He served in the Vietnam war.

Survivors include sons, James Morrow Ivy V, John Alfred Ivy; daughter, Cynthia Scott; grandchildren, Shannon Ivy, Elizabeth Wilson, Christina Yates, James Morrow Ivy VI; and great-grandchild, Wyatt Yates

Visitation was held on Thursday December 23rd from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. at Berryhill. A memorial service was held in the chapel at 4:00 P.M. with Tim Cole officiating.

CW2 Edward C. Baltz, USA-Ret – no obituary available

COL Paul A. Wilber, USA-Ret – no obituary available

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LCDR Don Reese Vaden, USN-Ret - 80, passed away on Dec. 6, 2020, at his home.

He was born on April 17, 1940, in Kermit, Texas to the late Eddie Kenyon Vaden and Naoma Jean (Wren) Vaden.

He served in the United States Navy from September 1959 to October 1984. Upon retiring, he worked for Day, Zimmerman and Basil Corporation at the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada, from 1984 to 2004.

LCDR Vaden is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rita; three sons, Scott (Sandy), Robert (Judy) and James (Julie); grandchildren, Wyatt, Halee, Tony, Taylor, Conner and Owen; brother, Jack Vaden and sister, Melanie Peacock.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, Juluis Peacock and brothers, Charles E. and Jerry M. Vaden.

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



Total Solar Eclipse

The Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT.

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.



Membership Meeting
24 April 2024
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

At this meeting we will resume our Gold Bar Ceremony. There are approximately 12 graduating ROTC seniors from three local colleges and universities who will be recognized.

We typically invite a General Officer to speak at the Gold Bar Ceremony. Redstone Arsenal has promised to provide a speaker. However, at the time of publication he/she has not been identified.

Once the speaker is identified, you all will receive an email with a photo and biography.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Menu: Chicken Schnitzel (with Jaeger sauce), Bratwurst, Red Cabbage, German Potato Salad, German Chocolate Layer Cake, Cucumber Salad, Broetchen with Butter, Iced Tea, Iced Water, Lemonade

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

RSVP: COL John Vanderbleek, 256-893-1565, jvbleek78@gmail.com NLT 19 April 2024.

Chapter Happenings – March



LTC Audrey Ransom, USA (Ret),
presents a JROTC medal at Columbia
High School



FBI SAC Carlton Peebles from the
Birmingham Field Office address the
membership.



SAC Peebles receives a
Certificate of Appreciation from
Chapter President Rick West.

Top 3 Identity Crimes

Overview

In 2023, victims were most affected by false applications, new account fraud, and tax fraud. Learn how these schemes work, whether they still pose a threat, and how you can stay protected in 2024 and beyond.

Through it all, reports of fraudulent applications, new account fraud, and tax fraud continued to come in, revealing a pattern similar to previous years.

Identity thieves are known to switch up their tactics but it's clear that these identity crimes will remain a threat in the coming year. Stay one step ahead in 2024 — and beyond.

Fraudulent applications were the most common crime.

In this scheme, fraudsters steal and use your personal information to apply for a line of credit in your name like a loan, mortgage, credit card, or auto lease. A lender must then review this credit application, which can trigger a "new inquiry" on your credit report.

If the fraudster successfully opens this new account or line of credit in your name, that's considered new account fraud, the second most common fraud type.

Criminals also frequently apply for checking and savings accounts using stolen personal information. It's become easier for fraudsters to apply for fraudulent bank accounts partly due to the increased access and popularity of online banking. Sometimes, it only takes a few pieces of information to create an online profile.

While these digital applications are convenient, they can present challenges to both financial entities and consumers.

Identifying a fraudulent inquiry on your credit report

A new inquiry on your credit report may be fraudulent if you know you haven't...

- Recently applied for a line of credit like a new credit card or auto loan.
- Been added as an authorized user to a line of credit.
- Cosigned a line of credit for someone else.

New account fraud had the greatest financial impact.

When you're approved for a new credit line or listed as an authorized user on an account, your credit report may show a "new account."

Opening a new credit account typically requires your detailed personal information like Social Security number or driver's license. Some accounts even require proof of income or address.

When a criminal gets access to this kind of personal information, they could open a new account on your behalf, resulting in new account fraud or "account opening fraud."

For new checking or savings accounts, it may be as simple as providing a photo ID.

While the number of new account-related crimes decreased by 18 percent from 2022 to 2023, it remained the second most frequently reported last year.

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How do criminals steal the information they need to commit these crimes? Their methods of attack range from phishing to data breaches to malware.

Phishing attacks are growing in both frequency and sophistication. When in doubt, do not disclose any personal information until you are certain that the communication is from a trusted source.

Identifying new account fraud

You can tell if someone has opened an account in your name if you...

- receive snail mail or email with information about an account you don't recognize.
- get a message from your bank that says someone has changed your account information like your phone number or email address.
- see information about a new account you didn't open when you review your bank statement or when you log in to your online bank.

Government and tax fraud peaked in the first half of the year

Another troubling pattern? Tax fraud spiked in the first two quarters of 2023 and was the third most reported crime for the year.

The weeks leading up to the tax filing deadline (typically mid-April for most Americans) are prime time for scammers to pose as IRS employees, attempting to get your information to file your taxes under your name.

Although we saw a decrease in this case type in the second half of the year, our identity specialists recommend staying vigilant for calls and texts from people claiming to be from the IRS all year long. File your taxes as soon as you receive your W2 or other relevant tax documents to prevent a criminal from filing on your behalf.

Since the IRS only accepts one submission per taxpayer, anyone attempting to file a tax return after you have already filed electronically or by mail will be rejected.

Identifying tax fraud

You can tell if someone has filed a tax return in your name if...

- The IRS shows that you have filed more than one tax return.
- You have a balance due or have had collection actions taken against you for a year you didn't file taxes.
- It's reported that you received wages from an unknown employer.

Looking ahead to identity theft in 2024

Fraudulent applications, new account fraud, and tax fraud have been common crimes in the past few years and that trend is likely to continue.

One thing's clear: Fraudsters are eager to take advantage of your personal information through any means necessary. 

See What's in Store for the TRICARE Pharmacy Program in 2024

The most recent TRICARE pharmacy contract, known as TRICARE Pharmacy 5th Generation (TPharm5), started on Jan. 1, 2023. Since then, you may have experienced some enhancements to how you get your prescription drugs. In 2024, you can continue to expect improved access to pharmacy benefit services through the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#).

“The Defense Health Agency listened to our beneficiaries’ concerns and needs. We responded with several enhancements to the pharmacy contract that went into effect last year,” said U.S. Public Health Service Cmdr. Teisha A. Robertson, Deputy Chief of the Purchased Care Branch at the Defense Health Agency. “This year, we’ll continue to roll out improvements. These improvements include new specialty pharmacy services, cost control measures, and a more efficient home delivery process.”

Here are some TRICARE Pharmacy Program updates to note.

2024 cost updates

Your options for filling your prescriptions are [military pharmacies](#), [TRICARE Home Delivery](#), [retail network pharmacies](#), and [non-network pharmacies](#). Prescription copayments for most beneficiaries changed on Jan. 1. To see your costs, check out the [TRICARE Costs and Fees Fact Sheet](#). As noted in this fact sheet, active-duty service members (ADSMs) pay nothing for covered drugs from military pharmacies, home delivery, and retail network pharmacies.

Want to know the copayment for your prescription? Check the [TRICARE Formulary Search Tool](#). You can search for your drug to see if it’s covered, how much it will cost, and where you can get it.

Military pharmacy tools

If you get prescriptions at a military pharmacy, you may be able to use certain tools to avoid long pick-up lines. Check with [your military pharmacy](#) to see if it offers these tools:

- [Q-Anywhere](#) lets you quickly activate a new prescription by texting your military pharmacy or scanning your pharmacy’s unique QR code. You’ll get a text when your prescription is ready for pick-up.
- [ScriptCenters](#) are automated kiosks and locker systems that give you a safe, secure way to pick up prescriptions. You can use them to pick up prescriptions after hours or avoid crowds at the pharmacy. Each location sets its own hours, but some are open 24/7.

TRICARE Home Delivery

[TRICARE Home Delivery](#) is a convenient way to have up to a 90-day supply of medication shipped right to you.

With home delivery, you can manage your prescriptions from the [Express Scripts Pharmacy Mobile App](#). You’ll also have 24/7 access to pharmacists who can answer questions about your prescription.

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The TRICARE Pharmacy Program is also making sure that you only receive your medications when you need them. Express Scripts requires you to give consent on every refill in the [Automatic Refill Program](#). You'll need to consent via email, text message, or phone call before Express Scripts will fill your prescription.

Specialty drugs changes

Effective March 1, [Accredo provides specialty drugs](#) and enhanced clinical services if you fill [TRICARE-defined specialty prescriptions](#) with TRICARE Home Delivery. Accredo is in the TRICARE network as a retail pharmacy.

With Accredo, you have 24/7 access to a clinical care team who can help you manage your treatment with specialty drugs. These expanded services are provided at no extra cost beyond your TRICARE cost-share.

This change improves cost efficiency in the Military Health System (MHS). Increasing the use of home delivery helps the MHS keep your prescription costs lower.

If you already get your specialty drug through home delivery, your prescription has been transferred to Accredo. If you were getting your prescription at a network pharmacy, Express Scripts contacted you. To contact Accredo, call 1-877-882-3324. An Accredo patient care advocate will work with you and your military or civilian prescriber as needed. To learn more, go to [Accredo](#).

TRICARE retail network pharmacies

Looking for a retail network pharmacy in your area? You may find that there's a network pharmacy closer than you thought. TPharm5 network [access standards](#) state there must be at least one pharmacy within 15 minutes driving time of 90% of TRICARE beneficiaries.

It's easy to find a retail network pharmacy near you with the Express Scripts [Find a Pharmacy](#) tool. Enter your ZIP code to see a map of network pharmacies nearby.

Stay updated on your pharmacy benefit throughout 2024. Read more about the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#). 



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

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

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

Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our 320+ members each month. All they can say is “no”.

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

Important Dates in April

- 1 April – April Fool’s Day
- 2 April – Ponce de Leon discovered Florida (1513)
- 2 April – The first US Mint was established in Philadelphia (1792)
- 3 April – Pony Express service established (1860)
- 3 April – Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces (1865)
- 4 April – Dr. Martin Luther King assassinated (1968)
- 6 April – US entered World War I (1917)
- 9 April – The Civil War ended (1865)
- 10 April – Bataan death march began (1942)
- 11 April – Civil Rights Act signed into law (1968)
- 11 April – Apollo 13 launched (1970)
- 11 April – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 – Java Café**
- 12 April – The Civil War began (1861)
- 12 April – President Franklin Roosevelt died (1945)
- 12 April - Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space
- 12 April – First space shuttle flight occurred - *Columbia* (1981)
- 13 April – Monthly Breakfast – 0900 – City Café Diner**
- 14 April – President Abraham Lincoln shot & mortally wounded (1865)
- 15 April – The *Titanic* sank, killing over 1500 people (1912)
- 17 April – Golf Meeting – 1200 – The Links**
- 18 April – The midnight ride of Paul Revere (1775)
- 18 April – The San Francisco earthquake, killing over 4000 people (1906)
- 18 April – Jimmy Doolittle’s air raid on Tokyo (1942)
- 19 April – The Oklahoma City bombing, killing 168 people (1995)
- 20 April – Columbine High School shooting (1999)
- 21 April – The Red Baron Manfred von Richtofen was shot down & killed (1918)
- 22 April – Earth Day
- 24 April – Library of Congress established (1800)
- 24 April – Monthly Member Meeting – 1100 – Summit Club**
- 26 April – Chernobyl nuclear accident (1986)
- 26 April – Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa (1994)
- 28 April – Mutiny on the *Bounty* (1789)

