

Volume 55, Issue 12
December 2016



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Charles T. Clements, Lt Col, USAF, Ret



Dear Members –

Well, another year has come and gone. It is already December—the weather has finally cooled off, Christmas lights are going up, and Alabama is poised for another National Championship.

Our Christmas Party is fast approaching on 17 December. The theme this year is “A Traditional Christmas”. Entertainment will be provided by the Moondust Big Band. This is a traditional, 17-piece jazz band that features two amazing vocalists and plays the American songbook with energy, style, and class. It’s not too late to sign up – a reservation form is inside.

December also means that it is time for annual members to renew their membership in our award-winning chapter. A renewal form is inside.

December brings the terms of our current elected officers to a close, and their replacements will be sworn in in January and provide chapter leadership for the next 2 years. We still have a several key vacancies on our board – Publicity Chair, Chapter Historian, and Chaplain. If any of you are interested in stepping up and helping out, please let me know.

Finally, something I want you to think about. Our Chapter plans to take a trip to Nashville leaving 20 August 2017 to witness the Total Solar Eclipse that occurs in the early afternoon on 21 August 2017, just a little north of Nashville. We intend to take a bus and stay the night in or near Nashville on 20 August 2017 and will return to Huntsville after the eclipse on 21 August 2017.

This is my last letter to you. The next one will be from Gerald Maxwell.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

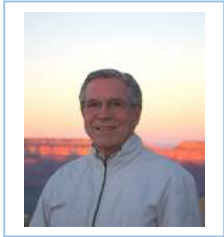
Charles

Get Involved!

In This Issue

President's Message	1	Membership Statistics	10
Legislative Corner	2	Membership Renewal Notice	11
Concerns	3	Birthdays	12
PX/Commissary	3	TAPS	12
Fox Army Health Clinic	5	Chapter Happenings	13
Widow's Activities	6	PX/Commissary (continued)	14
Chaplain's Corner	7	Member Spotlight	15
New Members	7	Legislative (continued)	17
Treasurer's Report	7	Christmas Party	18
Legislative (continued)	9	Chapter Objectives	19
		Important Dates	20

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

• Changes on the Hill—VETS in Congress

(This article was provided by national MOAA the day after the 2016 election.)

Service members and their families are already asking how the election results are likely to affect MOAA's efforts on Capitol Hill. President-elect Donald Trump surprised pundits by winning the White House; Republicans defied expectations of some and managed to hold on to both the House and the Senate.

The latest election results, combined with a number of legislator retirements, mean the military and veterans community will be losing some legislators who have been among the strongest supporters of military personnel issues in the past, including:

- Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) retires after 34 years in office. Reid, a long-time champion of providing full concurrent receipt, will be missed. Finding a new Senate sponsor for concurrent receipt will be a key MOAA priority in 2017.
- MOAA's 2016 Marix Award winner, Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.), who supported a range of pay and health care protections as chair of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, left the House to run for Reid's Senate seat - but lost that race.
- MOAA's 2015 Marix Award winner and Senate Armed Services Committee member Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), who led the successful fight to repeal unfair cuts to military retiree benefits, lost her re-election bid to Maggie Hassan.
- Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), chair of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) and champion of the successful charge to eliminate the SBP age-62 offset for military widows a decade ago, is retiring from Congress this year.
- After a congressional redistricting, Randy Forbes (R-Va.), chair of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, lost in a primary election earlier this year. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.) also lost her primary and stepped down as ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC).
- John Fleming (R-La.) leaves the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) to become a senator.
- HASC members Chris Gibson (D-N.Y.), Gwen Graham (D-Fla.), John Kline (R-Minn.), and Richard Nugent (R-Fla.) are all retiring.

Continued on page 9

2015-2016 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@nda.mil

1st Vice President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov

2nd Vice President: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8022, inman331@msn.com

Secretary: MAJ Joe H. Williams, USA-Ret, 256-880-7694, joehwilliams@bellsouth.net

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

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jtreadway51@mchsi.com

Navy Representative: CW4 Louis J. Kubik, USMC-Ret, 256-859-3054, lkubik@mediacommbb.net

Air Force Representative: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov

Immediate Past President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glennscrawley@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, cdowning@bellsouth.net

Programs: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jtreadway51@mchsi.com

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

Personal Affairs: : COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, mrbill5779@comcast.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, janetecamp@aol.com

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

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164, rolf@att.net

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

Audit: MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, szeremi@comcast.net

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

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

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

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org / Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, don.kimminau@gmail.com

ROTC: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8022, inman331@msn.com

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2017)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandis.com (July 2018)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2016)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

The Exchange Christmas holiday hours were not available at this writing. Christmas Eve (Saturday 24 Dec) they are usually open until 6 and closed Christmas day with normal hours afterwards Check your main Exchange for all your Christmas needs and after Christmas sales events!

Big news! Popeye's Chicken is coming to the Exchange food court! Anticipated in December/January. Additional big news – Many people have benefited from the Firestone Service center next to the Commissary. I hear their last day is 5 Dec. The Exchange is trying to work on an extension, but that is unknown at this time. The Firestone crew will be sorted out to other local Firestone stores and any work done will be honored at all Firestone stores. Replacing Firestone is NAPA. They will be doing all the same auto repair you are used to including major engine overhaul. More information as I find it out.

Download the Exchange Extra App. You can find Exchange sales anywhere in the world, coupons, recipes, fitness tips, start a shopping list, join the coffee club, and so much more!

To contact the Exchange about corporate information, visit our [Customer Service](#) page or write to: AAFES HQ, Attn: Marketing Directorate, 3911 S. Walton Walker Blvd., Dallas, TX 75236-1598.

Redstone Arsenal Exchange is located at Building 3220, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-7210. You may call us at 256-883-6100, fax 256-880-0588, or [email us](#). Have you visited the Redstone Arsenal Exchange website online? [Check it out now!](#)

Coupons, rebates, interactive ads, specialty stores, and super daily specials? Your Exchange has it all at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/savings-center/> If you have a Military Star Card, each time you use it through 31 Dec, you will be automatically entered to win getting your Star bill paid in full! Three Grand Prize winners minimum prize \$2,500. Second Prize of \$1,000

PX/Commissary continued on page 14

Need Addresses

None at this time

We have lost track of the above member. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:
COL James D. Treadway
256-859-1484
jttreadway51@mchsi.com

Navy/USMC Representative:
CW4 Louis J. Kubik
256-859-3054
lkubik@mediacombb.net

Air Force Representative:
Col Gerald C. Maxwell
256-606-5282
gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov

Personal Affairs Officer
COL William Stevenson
256-424-1334
Mrbill5779@comcast.net



**Paul Snowden,
Tim Kinnison, COL., USAF (Ret.)
Gary Brotherton**

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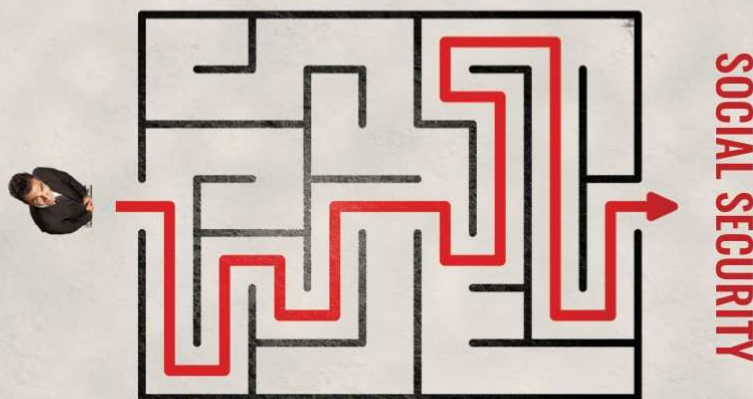
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*Nominated by
SSG Gary Brotherton
who returned recently
from a year of
active duty overseas.*

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Fox Army Health Center
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



TRICARE Reminds Beneficiaries: Protect Your Personal Information

Don't wait for fraud against TRICARE beneficiaries to be in the news. Always protect your personal information! Whether you are active duty or retired, don't share your uniformed service identification card, or personal or family information with someone you don't know. Protecting your personal information is vital to your privacy, and prevents abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Fraudsters often target TRICARE beneficiaries. For example, they conduct fake surveys to collect personal information. They call saying they know you have TRICARE and want to let you know you qualify for a free or low cost knee brace or walker. They then bill TRICARE for services or supplies you don't need and never get.

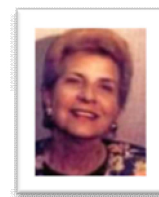
No one from TRICARE will ever recommend a particular product or medicine. If someone does, don't share any personal information. If you think you're the victim of TRICARE-related fraud, [report it](#) to the Defense Health Agency. Also, report when you think a provider or company is trying to defraud TRICARE. For example, if your TRICARE explanation of benefits (EOB) shows a charge for services you didn't get, tell your [TRICARE Regional Contractor](#).

TRICARE won't just call or email you asking for personal identifying information, such as your uniformed service ID number, social security number, or Department of Defense benefits number. Only give that kind of information to a trusted person or office, like your doctor, a TRICARE claims processor or regional contractor. Be wary of an unknown person offering a gift or reward in exchange for a health service. They may be trying to commit fraud.



Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Widow's Luncheon



Mrs. Liz Townsend
256-721-9762

Due to declining attendance, we are combining the two widow's activities into one consolidated luncheon. Carrie Hightower will organize the activity. Everybody will be called.

This month's luncheon will be on Thursday, 15 December, at Logan's Roadhouse. The address is 4249 Balmoral Drive in Huntsville. We will meet at 12 noon.

If you have any ideas about how to increase the activities for the surviving spouses, please let Carrie know.

Controlling Portion Sizes

The Holidays are here, and with it the temptations that come with everyone's favorite dishes. So as we gather with friends and family to celebrate, we should be mindful of portion sizes.

Prediabetes puts people at increased risk for type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. It has been estimated that without weight loss and moderate physical activity, 15-30 percent of people with prediabetes will go on to develop type 2 diabetes within 5 years.

According to National Institutes of Health (NIH), a portion is an amount of food you choose to eat for a meal or snack, while a serving is a measured amount of food or drink, such as one slice of bread. This means a single portion can actually consist of multiple servings. Over the past 20 years average portion sizes have grown so much that sometimes there's enough food for two or three people on one plate. The NIH calls this portion distortion.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), you can practice portion control in a number of ways. When eating out you can split an entrée with a friend or eat half of the food on your plate and ask for a "to go box" for the rest. When eating at home, serve food on individual plates instead of putting the serving dishes on the table to discourage overeating. When you eat in front of the TV, put the amount you plan to eat in a bowl or container instead of eating directly from the package.

If you are hungry, try a healthy snack. It will help to prevent overeating later. For more information on portion control and nutrition check out choosemyplate.gov.

If you have questions, you may be able to talk to a nutritionist at your military hospital or clinic. You can also visit the [Health and Wellness](#) page of the TRICARE website for tips and resources to help you live a healthier life.



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

Another Bethlehem!

Oklahoma City made startling and shocking news Sunday morning, December 6, 1964. A thirty-one-year-old mother gave birth to a child on the sidewalk at the corner of Sheridan and Broadway. A curious crowd "watched without helping." The woman and her baby lay on the pavement for about forty-five minutes in a temperature of about thirty-four degrees.

A visitor from Tulsa summoned a taxi. When the cab arrived, however, the driver refused to take the mother to the hospital. Then the helpful stranger called the police, to no avail. During the time the woman lay on the sidewalk, two patrol cars passed the scene and neither stopped.

A former representative chanced that way, stopped and called the fire department for an ambulance. He also sent a man across the street to a hotel to borrow a blanket, but a porter refused him. Meanwhile, the rescue squad arrived. While waiting for an ambulance, Captain Bill Latham of the fire department and the former representative, Bob Cunningham, decided to take the mother and her child to the hospital in the latter's car. And they did.

This unbelievable story, heralded across America Monday, December 7, and doubtless around the world, is reminiscent of what happened in ancient Bethlehem, when another woman was heavy with child. "And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO
HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

CW4 William Barron, USA
LT William Byrd, USN
COL John Greaves, USA

HCMOAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or ray.kw@juno.com.

Scholarships

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one or more scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Gerald Maxwell for details.



Treasurer's Report

CAPT Richard West, USN

For the Month of September 2016

Beginning Balance	\$10,597.89
Credits	1729.42
Debits	4408.95

Ending Balance	\$7918.36
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Open Enrollment and the Health Insurance Marketplace

It's the time of year when people can enroll in or change their health insurance plan. The open enrollment period for [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) is November 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017 for 2017 coverage.

How does this affect you? Most TRICARE beneficiaries don't need to worry about open enrollment. However, for beneficiaries who are not eligible for TRICARE coverage, have lost or are losing coverage, or may qualify to purchase a TRICARE premium-based health plan ([TYA](#), [TRR](#), [TRS](#) or [CHCBP](#)) you can use this open enrollment period to see if there are other health coverage options that work best for you and your family.

Go to [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to explore your coverage options outside of TRICARE. Specify that you don't currently have coverage when using the portal to find out if you qualify for financial assistance and review coverage plans offered in your area without submitting an application.

On HealthCare.gov, go to the 'Individual and Families' tab, and click 'Get Coverage'. From there, click the '\$ See Plans and Prices' section near the middle of the web page. Follow the directions to enter your ZIP code, family size, and income, to get an estimate of available coverage and costs, including available plans, premiums, and cost shares. If you are under 30, you can get personalized health coverage options on HealthCare.gov [here](#).

After exploring the Health Insurance Marketplace options, you can use [TRICARE.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) to compare TRICARE premium based coverage and costs to the marketplace plans. You can also compare TRICARE plans online with our '[Compare Plans](#)' tool. If you need additional help, call the HealthCare.gov toll free line (1-800-318-2596 or TTY: 1-855-889-4324) or contact a local person or group in your area for assistance. Visit their '[Contact Us](#)' page to enter a zip code to find contact information for individuals and organizations in your area.

If you are currently enrolled in a premium based TRICARE plan and decide to use a non-TRICARE option, you need to submit a disenrollment request to your TRICARE regional contractor. Be sure not to dis-enroll from your current TRICARE coverage until you confirm the start date of your new coverage so that there is no gap in coverage and you aren't penalized for each month that you and the other individuals listed on your tax form do not have coverage. Once the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System \(DEERS\)](#) records your disenrollment date, the Defense Manpower Data Center responds to queries from the Federal Hub that you do not have minimum essential coverage (MEC) from the Department of Defense.

Beneficiaries losing TRICARE coverage due to separation or discharge, divorce, aging out, etc., may qualify to enroll for alternate coverage during [a special enrollment period](#). They must apply for marketplace coverage within 60 days of losing their TRICARE coverage. You can find more information online at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

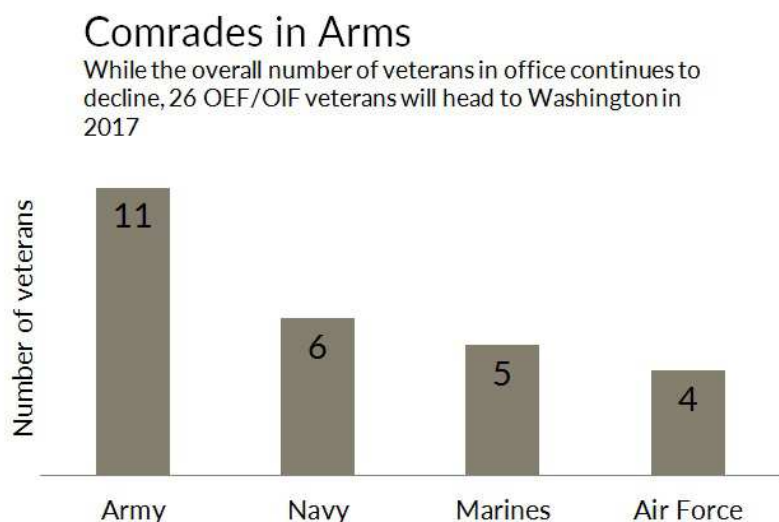
Don't forget that the Affordable Care Act requires most Americans, including TRICARE beneficiaries and DoD employees, have MEC. Most TRICARE plans meet this requirement, but if you want to explore health care options outside of TRICARE, make sure to visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) during open enrollment.

We will miss these legislators, as well as the strong support of their staffs. MOAA thanks them for their dedicated service to the men and women in uniform and wishes them well in all of their future endeavors.

With Brown's departure as HVAC ranking member, Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.), a retired Army National Guard E-9, and Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.) are angling for the top Democratic spot on the committee.

The number of veterans serving on Capitol Hill will continue its long decline when the 115th Congress convenes next year. In the House, the percentage of members who served in the uniformed services could slip to less than 17 percent - the lowest level since before World War II. As few as 73 veterans will head to Washington in January. The final number won't be known until mid-December, after Louisiana's run-off races take place for the 3rd and 4th districts. A total of 81 representatives - nearly 19 percent - had served in uniform at the start of the 114th Congress.

The number in the Senate increases by one to 21 veterans. While the chamber loses a veteran with the departure of Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), it gains Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.). The representation of veterans in Congress has declined steadily since it peaked at 74 percent for the House (1969-70) and 78 percent for the Senate (1977-78). Some of the decline can be explained by an inevitable demographic shift. As fewer members of the overall population serve in uniform, so has the proportion of veterans serving in elected office. However, the number of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans serving in Congress continues to grow, with 26 heading to the Hill in 2017.



That said, just because a legislator is a veteran doesn't necessarily mean they support our issues. In fact, some of MOAA's staunchest legislative supporters have been non-veterans, and some who have staunchly opposed our personnel and compensation efforts in the past have been veterans.

What the declining veteran population does mean is we have a continuing challenge to educate legislators and their staffs on the unique conditions and exceptional sacrifices inherent in decades of uniformed service that defy comparison with a civilian career. To that end, MOAA works hard to maintain good working



Your Huntsville Real Estate Connection



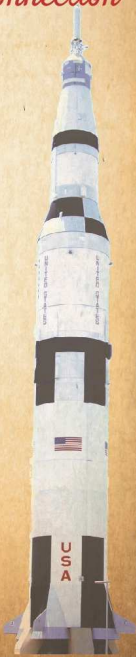
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256-508-0211

Mike@MoveToHuntsville.com

www.MoveToHuntsville.com



Membership Statistics

Total Members: 366
Surviving Spouses: 64

New this month: 3
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals: 7

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Help the Chapter Recruit New Members

**Do you know someone who is eligible
to be a Chapter member?**

**Bring him/her to the next membership
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at the next meeting**

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Hot Towel Shave...Our special seven step process.....	\$22.00
Gentlemen's Choice...Club cut AND hot towel shave.....	\$45.00
Hero Cut...Club cut for active duty servicemen, police and firemen.....	\$22.00
Head Shave...Same special seven step process as the face.....	\$22.00
Beard Trim.....	\$12.00
Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline.....	\$18.00
Littlemen...Age 10 and under.....	\$18.00



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1301
Huntsville, AL 35807



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

<input type="checkbox"/> New		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	\$10	Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (based on your age)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	\$20				
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years	\$30				
<input type="text"/> First Name		<input type="text"/> MI	<input type="text"/> Last Name		
<input type="text"/> Preferred Name		<input type="text"/> Birthday (mm/dd/yy)	<input type="text"/> Spouse's Name	<input type="text"/> Period(s) of Active Duty i.e. 1965 – 1990	
<input type="text"/> Grade	<input type="text"/> Branch of Service	<input type="text"/> MOAA National Member #			
<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
<input type="text"/> Mailing Address		<input type="text"/> City	<input type="text"/> State	<input type="text"/> Zip	
<input type="text"/> Phone Number		<input type="text"/> E-mail Address			

Attention Annual Members

It's not too early to renew your membership for next year – why wait until the last minute

The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

You can't even get lunch for \$10 these days!

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate

Don't know when your membership expires? Contact CDR Chris Downing at
256-828-9740 or csdowning@bellsouth.net

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

46 Birthdays in December Happy Birthday!



TAPS

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

COL Jimmy Wiggs, USA

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:

Mrs Esther Gober
CW3 Donald Wagoner, USA
MAJ Francis Thonus, USA
Mrs Billie Jones
COL Thomas Devanney, USA
COL George Newman, USA
Mrs Stella Myers
LTC Eugene Small, USA
LTC Kenneth Barnwell, USA
Lt Col Robert Barnes, USAF
MAJ Bruce Robinson, USA
Mrs Carol Russell
COL David Wyatt, USA
CW4 Ronnie Rodgers, USA
CWO3 Osceola Cloud, USN
COL Dahl Cento, USA
Mrs Lee Newell
LTC Royal Lewis, USA
Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF
COL Scott Wilson, USA
LTG Patricia McQuisttion, USA
CAPT George Skezas, USN
BG Leslie Fullen, USA
LT Aubrie Hess, USN

Mrs Rosemary Bundy
Maj William Burke, USAF
Col Eric Silkowski, USAF
LTC Malcom Sams, USA
LTC Robert Senn, USA
COL David Carpenter, USA
LTC LaVerne Gehm, USA
MAJ James Kirsch, USA
LTC William Katholi, USA
LTC Thomas Means, USA
Mrs Travis Stewart
LTC Arno Hoerle, USA
Lt Col Charles Zavadil, USAF
CAPT Thomas Jones, USN
Mrs Dalila Carrasquillo
COL Larry Pigue, USA
COL Edmund Dowling, USA
Mrs Edwina Morse
Maj Robert Stierwalt, USAF
LTC Richard Levan, USMC
COL David Byers, USA
CW4 Carl Woida, USA
CW5 William Young, USA
COL Casmere Taylor, USA

DEERS and Your Income Tax Reporting

When you do not have your family enrolled in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#). (DEERS), the Department of Defense (DoD) cannot accurately report your healthcare coverage to the Internal Revenue Service.

Starting last year, the DoD reported health care coverage of its service members and their dependents to the IRS. This report allows the IRS to determine which families had [minimum essential coverage](#) (MEC) as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

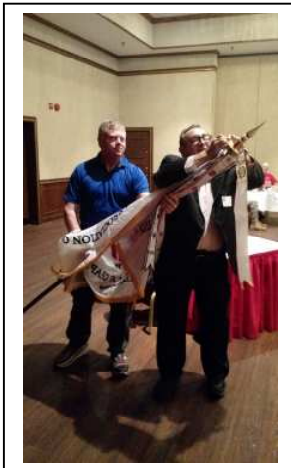
For tax purposes, individuals and family members are identified by their Social Security Numbers (SSN). If a sponsor receives a letter indicating that their SSN or a family members' SSN needs to be updated in DEERS please follow the instructions in the letter to ensure your information is correctly reported to the IRS. Those who have not met the MEC requirement will be required to pay a fee for the number of months each family member did not have coverage. If your family information is not reported accurately in DEERS, then your IRS information will be reported incorrectly.

Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy members, retirees and annuitants serviced by Defense Finance and Accounting Services can opt-in to receive their IRS Form electronically via [myPay](#) or call 1-888-332-7411 for assistance. Active duty members and active reservists of the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can call 1-866-772-8724 or visit their [Pay and Personnel Center](#) page. Non-active duty Coast Guard, NOAA, Public Health Service (PHS) retirees and annuitants can call 1-800-772-8274. Active Public Health Service members can call 240-276-8799, email the PHS pay center at compensationbranch@psc.gov.

Chapter Happenings



Chapter trip to Pond Spring



November Member Meeting – 5-star LOE streamer, LTG Willie Williams speaking, Gold Bar recipients



Chapter members John Inman, Rick West and Jerry Haynes in the Veterans Day Parade

(10 winners), Third Prize \$500 (25 winners). If you do not have a Star Card, see any AAFES employee or go online. Your first day is 10% off everything (including guns and ammo – I checked) you charge on your Star card (and always 10% off at the food court) so make a long list!

Shopette

At the Shopette – don't wait until the last minute to stock up for watching your favorite football game playoffs! Plus, don't forget you get 10% off case sales at your Shopette. Not into football? Stop by and rent new release movies from the Redbox. You can download their app and reserve movies using your phone to pick up later that same day – no worries about your movie not being there! Plus, there are often in app exclusive savings!

A Crown Royal Gift Box as available \$52.90 that includes 4 x 1.75 Liter Crown Royal Blended Canadian Whisky with limited edition rocks glasses and a Crown Royal 750 ml gift set (\$26.90). Chivas 12-year gift set with 50 ml (\$35.90), Remy Martin VSOP 750ml gift set (\$43.90), Hennessy VSOP 750ml gift set (47.90), Rumchata 750ml (\$22.90), Old smoky Apple pie moonshine gift set (\$22.90), and a Belvedere Martini gift set (\$28.90).

Commissary

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

18-23 December - Open 0900-1800

24 December - Open 0900-1600

25-26 December - CLOSED

Commissary gift cards, available in denominations of \$25 or \$50, are a great way to provide the necessities to your loved ones and friends conveniently and quickly. Commissary gift cards are convenient because:

- * Card balances can be checked easily by phone and online
- * Anyone can purchase the cards for authorized patrons to use
- * Cards are available in-store worldwide and on our website
- * There is no limit to the number of cards you can purchase
- * Cards can be shipped anywhere in the United States as well as to APO, FPO or DPO addresses

Your commissary has coupons to print out and save! Visit:

<http://www.mymilitarysavings.com/coupons>.

Upcoming sales

Dec 26 thru Jan 2: After Christmas Sale on Holiday candies, cookies, and gift packs will be on sale.

Dec 28 thru Jan 10: Kellogg's "See You at Breakfast" Sale (Special savings on select Kellogg's products). General Mills "Warming Up America" and "Get Fit, Get Healthy" events! Soup at Amazing Prices!

Month of January: Procter & Gamble will be promoting items in support of Special Olympics. Planters Jumbo Tins (Peanuts, Mixed Nuts and Cashews) will be on sale just in time for Super Bowl.

Jan 2 - Feb 14: Shop early for Valentines Candy. 

Member Spotlight – LCDR Fran Witt, USN

As Relayed by CDR Christine Downing

This month our Spotlight is trained on LCDR Fran Witt who recently joined the chapter with her husband, CAPT Scott Witt, USN. Fran was born and raised in Castlewood, VA a small town in the southwest corner of the state. After graduating from high school, she became a police officer in the town, but her urge to travel and see the world was tugging at her. After looking at all the armed forces, Fran decided she liked the educational opportunities and promotion potential of the Navy, so she enlisted in 1978. She assumed that she could continue her career in law enforcement, but the Navy decided she would become a Cryptologic Technician.

She really liked this new field of work and advanced from E1 to E7 (Chief Petty Officer) in her 11 years of enlisted service. She then applied for and was accepted into the Limited Duty Officer program and after commissioning, she rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Fran had always wanted to see Hawaii (among many other places) and was fortunate enough to be stationed there as her first duty assignment. Subsequent tours included London, England, Pensacola, FL Washington, D.C. (three times!), San Diego and the USS Coronado. While on board the ship her duties included helping to train the battlegroups before their deployments and also sailing to all kinds of ports along the Pacific rim on goodwill tours.

It was in 1990 while stationed at the Headquarters, Naval Security Group in Washington, D.C. that she met her husband Scott, who was also a career cryptologic officer. When asked what she liked most about her career she was quick to answer: everything! And when asked which parts were perhaps a little less likeable, she was even quicker to answer: nothing! Clearly service to her country in the Navy was a great choice for Fran.

About fifteen years ago she and her husband made the decision to retire to help care for his parents in Colorado. Unfortunately, the tragedy of September 11th put a “hold” on their already approved retirements and they stayed to help work in the intelligence field until the Navy released them. Visiting his parents over time and through many seasons led Fran to the decision that living in Colorado just wasn’t in the cards for her. So she and Scott turned their attention to New Mexico and found just the right place to retire: Las Cruces. They moved there along with his mother (his father had passed away) and they’ve spent the last 14 years there. Fran spent her time getting volunteering in many different capacities; she even worked as the campaign manager for several local political candidates. Fran’s stepdaughter and her husband are doctors in the physical therapy field and her stepson is a corrections officer.

This last summer Fran and her husband took an extensive RV trip throughout the south west region with their 6-year-old grandson. After that the Witts developed a case of “itchy feet” and thought it was time for another move. This past summer they moved to Huntsville and they believe it was a wonderful choice. Fran is learning all about Huntsville and Madison county and is looking forward to finding new volunteer opportunities.

REDSTONE ARSENAL COMMUNITY WOMEN'S CLUB
presents at the SUMMIT



MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

10 February 2017

6:00 pm - 11:30 pm

Tickets: \$50 per person

includes \$5000 in casino bucks,

Mardi Gras cuisine, Roulette wheel, Blackjack, etc

for more information contact us at rsacwcsecretary@gmail.com



DERRICK WILLIAMS
GRAPHIC DESIGNS

Flyer designed by Derrick Williams (virtuosodesigns@hotmail.com)

relationships with legislators and staff members on both sides of the aisle and with veterans and non-veterans alike.

The real battles are usually fought over funding. Heightened concern over the budget will continue to make resisting disproportional defense cuts a significant challenge in future years, regardless of which party is in charge.

- **What’s Happening on Pay, Manpower, TRICARE and SBP**

Not at all surprising, Congressional leaders have decided to kick the can to next year on most major funding issues. Instead of passing a year-end omnibus appropriations bill to fully fund government operations for FY17, the new plan is to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to carry the funding only through sometime in March 2017. That would give the new Administration and Congress a stronger hand in funding negotiations. But it poses three problems.


First, an extended CR means funding is limited to the FY16 levels and programs. No new contracts could be let, for example, which is a nightmare for those involved in procurement, among others.

Second, it means the new Congress will have to do double duty. That is, they will have to finalize funding for the current year (FY17) at the same time their first priority is supposed to be building the normal appropriations bills for FY18. This will be some tough duty for appropriations committees and their leadership.

Third, and potentially the most significant for members of the military community, it raises at least some risk the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill process may be curtailed in some way.

House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders have been working for months to resolve the differences between their respective versions of the defense bill, and are nearly ready to complete action on what has been considered a “must-pass” bill. But what if members of the lame duck congress just want to pass a 4-month continuing resolution and get out of town? Will there be enough time for both the House and Senate to bring a final defense bill up for a vote? Could the defense bill (or maybe just selected parts of it) get wrapped into the continuing resolution?

What would that mean for the military pay raise, TRICARE reform, TRICARE fees, force levels, and survivor benefits? At present, House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders are planning on expeditiously finishing the defense bill and bringing it to the floor in early December. We’ll be thankful if they can get that important job done.

As I constantly harp on it, be sure to keep in touch with your elected representatives and remember you can help by sending your legislators a [MOAA-suggested message](#), which you can also find at: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=74336626> urging them to make sure Congress passes a final FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill before the lame duck session adjourns. MOAA will be thankful for your help on this, and I wish you a very happy and festive Holiday Season with friends and family. 

Editor Needed – Member Spotlight Column

After over a year of providing thoughtful, and sometimes humorous, articles on Chapter members each month in *The Sentinel*, Chris Downing is taking a hiatus. This issue will be the last “Member Spotlight”, unless someone volunteers to take her place. All you have to do is contact one of our members each month, and have them tell you their “story”. If interested, please contact Bruce Robinson, 256-450-3191 or brobinso@mitre.org.

Huntsville Chapter MOAA Christmas Party



Holiday Dinner

Sliced honey glazed ham
Oven roasted turkey breast with giblet gravy
Corn bread dressing with giblet gravy and cranberry sauce
Garden long-grained rice pilaf
Green beans almandine
Yeast Rolls & Butter
Ice Water – Coffee – Sweet or Unsweetened Iced Tea
Carrot cake

HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE OVERLOOK

SATURDAY EVENING, 17 DECEMBER 2016

COCKTAILS - No Host/Cash bar - 6:00 pm
President's Remarks and Dinner - 7:00 pm
MUSIC – Moondust Big Band
DOOR PRIZES

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

\$15.00 PER PERSON (Members & Family) - \$20.00 PER PERSON (Guests)

RSVP by **7 December 2016** (with check made out to HCMOAA) to:

CDR Christine Downing
116 Spring Tanner Road
Hazel Green, AL 35750-8483
256-828-9740
csgiving@bellsouth.net



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 about 450 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 Community Women's 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.

Board Positions Open

The Chapter has the following position open on the Governing Board:

Chaplain – provides religious assistance and guidance to the Chapter, recommends timely monetary contributions from available Chapter funds to local charities, prepares a monthly “Chaplain's Corner” article for *The Sentinel*, participates in NAVFOC activities as appropriate, prepares and sends sympathy cards to the next of kin of deceased members, makes periodic visits to members who find themselves in the hospital or a nursing home, and renders prayers at Chapter functions.

Public Affairs - insures activities of the Chapter are well publicized via the local news media, and makes any needed arrangements for news coverage for special MOAA events.

Historian – maintains historical records of the Chapter – financial records, minutes, newsletters and any other documents as deemed appropriate for archiving.

Important Dates in December

- 1 December – Civil Air Patrol founded (1941)
- 1 December – RSA Tree Lighting – Summit Club
- 2 December – Napoleon crowned Emperor of France (1804)
- 3 December – SEC Championship Game
- 5 December – 18th Amendment (Prohibition) repealed (1933)
- 6 December – Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph (1877)
- 7 December – Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 December – Monthly Board Meeting – Summit Club**
- 8 December – USSR ceases to exist (1991)
- 11 December – King Edward VIII abdicates throne of England (1936)
- 13 December – MRC Holiday lunch – Building 4488
- 15 December – “Gone with the Wind” premieres (1939)
- 16 December – Boston Tea Party (1773)
- 17 December – Chapter Christmas Party – Overlook**
- 17 December – Wright brothers first flight (1903)
- 20 December – South Carolina secedes from the Union (1860)
- 21 December – First day of Winter
- 23 December – Transistor invented at Bell Labs (1947)
- 24 December – First V1 missile launched by Werner von Braun (1942)
- 25 December – Christmas Day
- 31 December – New Year’s Eve
- 31 December – Thomas Edison demonstrated the incandescent light bulb (1879)

