

Volume 58, Issue 12
December 2019



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

Welcome to December – a time of holidays, reflection on a year gone by, and the start of a long bowl season!

November's membership meeting was very informative! Ms. Cathy Cooper provided a lot of good information on elder law and took many questions from the crowd. Just a reminder that there is NO membership meeting in December – just the Christmas Social.

Our next membership luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29th. It will be at 1100 at The Summit Club. Our guest speaker will be Judge Ruth Ann Hall from the 23rd Judicial Circuit who will discuss Veterans Court and the Second Chance Program. I have heard her speak on the issue and it should be of interest to all veterans! Please don't wait - **get your reservations in early**.

There is NO breakfast in December. Our next breakfast meeting will be 0900 on January 11th. Our venue will again be the City Café Diner on Drake Avenue. Come enjoy some great food and camaraderie!

On December 24th, our chapter will be conducting a fundraising gift-wrapping at the base exchange. We will be there from 0900 to 1900 (maybe not quite that late). Over the years, we have found that Christmas Eve is a BIG money maker for the gift-wrapping event – lots of last-minute shoppers. I will be sending a separate email asking for volunteers for the event. Please look at your calendar and help if you can – it is always a lot of fun!

We continue to work on filling the 2020 guest speaker schedule. If you have a suggestion or even a topic that you would like to see included, please let Christine Downing (our Programs Chair) or I know.

Have a great month and stay warm! Enjoy some football! Go Navy – Beat Army!

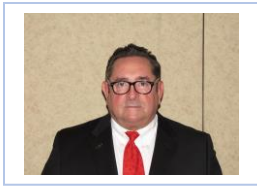
Rick

***No Member Meeting in December
See you at the Christmas Party on 7 December at the Overlook!***

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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.”

The Legislative beat is a little slow due to the nonsense surrounding the impeachment process of President Trump, but there are some items of note.

Congress is not likely to pass an appropriation bill any time soon so expect another continuing resolution.

Some items in the tax law will change for taxpayers filing a 2019 return. The Standard Deduction increases from \$12,000 to \$12,200 for single taxpayers; from \$24,000 to \$24,400 for taxpayers filing as a married couple, and \$18,000 to \$18,350 for those taxpayers filing as a head of household. For taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older they get to add an additional \$1,300 to their Standard Deduction. This means a married couple, both 65 years of age or older are entitled to a Standard Deduction of \$27,000. The exclusion for gift taxes remains at \$15,000.

Individuals whose 2018 modified adjusted gross income, as reported on their federal tax return, was \$87,000 or less, or was \$174,000 in a joint return, will pay \$144.60 a month in Medicare Part B premium costs, up from \$135.50 in 2019. Beneficiaries in five higher income brackets pay an extra charge, known as an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which also goes up at the start of the new year:

- If your individual tax income was above \$87,000 to \$109,000, or your joint income was above \$174,000 up to \$218,000, you'll pay \$202.40 per month.
- From \$109,000 to \$136,000 individual or \$218,000 to \$272,000 joint, you'll pay \$289.20 per month.
- From \$136,000 to \$163,000 individual or \$272,000 to \$326,000 joint, you'll pay \$376 per month.
- From \$163,000 to \$500,000 individual or \$326,000 to \$750,000 joint, you'll pay \$462.70 per month. If you are married but file a separate tax return with income above \$87,000 but less than \$413,000, you'll also pay this rate.
- Above \$500,000 individual or above \$750,000 joint, you'll pay \$491.60 per month. If you are married but file a separate tax return with income above \$413,000, you'll also pay this rate.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. The posting deals with articles on the shakeup of the Air Force officer promotion categories, a discussion on the FY 2020 COLA, cockroaches and other foul

Continued on page 10

2019-2020 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: CAPT William P. Nash, USN-Ret, (256) 858-1617, p3cdriver@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, mbaron468@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): CDR John Inman, 256-425-8022, inman331@msn.com

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

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: 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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

ROTC: Vacant

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

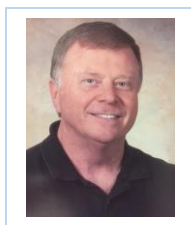
The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2020)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandits.com (July 2021)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2022)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Military Star Card promotion - Receive 0% interest rate plus no payments for 18 months on Patriot Star jewelry purchases of \$1,199 or more. If you have a Military Star Card, each time you use it through 31 Dec, you will automatically be entered to win getting your Star bill paid in full!

Be sure to 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 <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/customer-service/#contact> page or write to: AAFES HQ, Attn: Marketing Directorate, 3911 S. Walton Walker Blvd., Dallas, TX 75236-1598.

The Redstone Arsenal Exchange is located at Building 3220, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-7210. You may call us at [256-883-6100](tel:256-883-6100), fax [256-880-0588](tel:256-880-0588), or [email us](#).

Visit the Exchange website online at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> Coupons, rebates, interactive ads, specialty stores, and super daily specials? Your Exchange has it all at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/savings-center/>

Holiday Price Guarantee – Find an identical item elsewhere for less and we will give you an Exchange gift card for the difference. Computers, laptops, tablets and I-pads – be sure to ask about layaway without charge.

Keep checking every Friday for the Managers special – usually the more you buy – the more you save – and even MORE with your Star card!

Shoppette

Gluwein is here. Also, Weisswein (white wine), with cherry, blueberry, and market varieties.

Stop in and see all the gift packs! All your favorites now with promotional items included for the holidays. They make a great gift.

There are usually drawings held throughout the month and into January. Be sure to stop by and fill out an entry!

Continued on page 10

Need Addresses

None this month

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

Concerns

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

Shirley Jones – wife of CAPT Tom Jones, USN (Ret)

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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



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Do you know how the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset may affect the direction of your Social Security?



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For more information, contact Cloud Investments, LLC at 256.715.0094 or visit www.CloudFinancial.com

Cloud Investments, LLC and Cloud Financial, Inc. are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any government agency.



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



The Flu Vaccine Protects You, Your Family, and Your Neighbors

The best way to prevent flu is to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. This vaccine protects against the flu, a potentially serious disease. The vaccine can also reduce the severity of flu-related illness.

Flu activity generally begins in November, peaks between December and February, and ends as late as May. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, now is the time to get your TRICARE covered flu vaccine.

Why Get the Vaccine? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that millions of people get flu every year. It affects everyone differently. During the 2017-2018 flu season, an estimated 960,000 people in the U.S. were hospitalized, and an estimated 79,000 died due to flu complications.

Who Should Get the Vaccine? The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older. Some people are more likely to get complications from the flu, which can result in hospitalization or even death. According to the CDC, the groups of people who are more likely to get serious flu-related complications if they get sick with flu include:

- Adults age 65 years and older
- Children younger than 2 years old
- Pregnant women (and women up to two weeks postpartum)
- People with certain health conditions (for example, asthma, heart disease and stroke, diabetes)

Some people shouldn't get the flu shot, like those with severe, life-threatening allergies to flu vaccine or any ingredient in the vaccine. Talk with your health care provider if you have concerns about getting the flu vaccine.

How Can I Get the Vaccine? You and your family can get the flu vaccine at no cost at a military hospital or clinic, a network pharmacy, or from a TRICARE-authorized provider. It's best to call ahead to make sure the vaccine is available. The vaccine, when given by a pharmacist at a network pharmacy, is covered by your pharmacy benefit for free.

"You can still go to your primary care manager or TRICARE-authorized provider if the pharmacy has restrictions or the flu shot isn't available," said Dr. James Black, medical director of the Clinical Support Division at the Defense Health Agency. "If you do, the vaccine will be free, but you may have to pay your copayment for the office visit."

If you aren't sure how to get the flu vaccine, follow your plan's rules for getting care. You can also download the *TRICARE Plans Overview* for information about how you get care with your TRICARE plan.

Getting vaccinated helps protect you and your community. So take command of your health this winter, prevent the spread of germs, and get your TRICARE covered flu vaccine.

FAHC Holiday Schedule

24 Dec – open/minimum manning (subject to change if the President declares 24 Dec a Federal Holiday)

25 Dec – Closed for Federal Holiday

26 Dec – open for normal business

31 Dec – open for normal business

1 Jan – Closed for Federal Holiday

Chapter Happenings



2019 Veterans Day Parade – Rick West,
John Inman & Nancy Robinson
represented the Chapter



November Membership Meeting – guest speaker Ms. Cathy Cooper



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

No luncheon in December

Happy Holidays to all

Will resume our gatherings in January

Surviving Spouse Corner: Making the Best of the Holidays After Loss

Holidays come around at their own pace, whether we're ready for them or not. Personally, I've always enjoyed the season, which starts around Halloween and really doesn't end until the New Year. After the loss of my husband, that first set of holidays was a whirlwind. My blended family came around with little planning, as they made sure I wasn't alone or sad. They were grieving too, and it seemed natural to be together.

The years since that first set of holidays after my husband's death have not been as traditional. I'm ready to set a new tradition, but I find it difficult because the circumstances in my life have changed, as has my growing and changing family.

Last year, all the kids decided to coordinate spending every other year with their in-laws, and so it was the first year that I would have to find another way to spend Christmas without them. My sister invited me to spend Christmas Eve and day with her and her husband and her two grown kids. I accepted, but I had not expected it to be much fun.

It turned out to be one of the best times I'd had in years. We opened presents one by one, and it literally took six hours! It reminded me of the way my sister and I opened presents in our family when we were kids. Our dad always examined every gift and made a big deal out of the smallest things.

I left her house with a new perspective. I will try to keep an open mind about the holidays and remind myself the following:

- I am not alone.
- I'm thankful for even the smallest things
- I know there are people who care and want to help. I need to learn to accept help.
- I try not to worry or let fear take over. It's usually a waste of time.
- It becomes more evident that everyone who I have crossed paths with has been there for a reason.

As I move into the 2019 holiday season, I know there will be some struggles, but there also will be joys along the way.



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

The Awe of Christmas Eve

It may come as a surprise to learn that among Albert Einstein's talents was a gift for music. He played the violin and often joined in chamber music sessions in the homes of neighbors and friends.

When well past sixty, he decided to give up his participation in chamber ensembles because it was too demanding on his time and digital reflexes. Even so he continued to play for his own pleasure.

An exception occurred on Christmas Eve when choristers appeared at the Einstein home---112 Mercer Street in Princeton, New Jersey. Hearing the singing the noble man picked up his violin, went out on the chilly porch, and provided accompaniment for the carolers.

The contagion of Christmas is irresistible its charm surrounds and inspires young and old, rich and poor, wise and simple. Grateful souls are impelled to join in carols of praise, even the pious Jew.



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: 372
Regular Members: 305
Surviving Spouses: 67

New this month: 2
Deaths this month: 3
Renewals: 27

**Welcome New Members to
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

Mrs. Ann Dison
Mrs. Mary Jane Reumann

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.



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report September 2019

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

1. The September 2019 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. It was reviewed by the Governing Board and forwarded for membership approval at the October 2019 meeting.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$ 6,416.58	\$ 8,003.14
Income	\$ 2,685.15	\$ 0.20
Expenses	\$ 3,967.10	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 5,134.63	\$ 8,003.34

3. Notable income: Revenue from membership meeting meals, bankcard income (undesignated) associated with the golf tournament, petty cash repayment and dues.

4. Notable expenses: Payments for certificate holders and petty cash.

5. Chapter savings account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter re-invested a Certificate of Deposit (CD) with Wells Fargo Bank on 19 March 2019. The CD was opened for \$8,174.85 and the current balance is \$8,281.44. The funds represented by this CD are for reserve funding and advance dues payment protection.

Scholarship Fund

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

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During November 2019

Mrs. Stella Myers \$50


Thank you!

Total received for November:	\$50
Total received FY20 to date:	\$50



Legislative – continued from page 2

things in some family military housing, more on Medicare changes, the NDAA, and a change in how the Army selects its battalion commanders.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. The National Headhunters of MOAA has outlined action items they think are important to active duty force as well as those who have served, including you. On the MOAA webpage each action item is presented in the following format: Who is Affected; The Issue; and The Remedy. 

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Commissary

Visit <http://www.commissaries.com> or sign up at Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, or YouTube for all the commissary information! Also visit <https://commissaryconnection.dodlive.mil/> for all services information. Just inside the store – gift sets for men and women – check it out!

New – young tender turkeys by Shady Brook. Independent farmers that use no growth promoting antibiotics – breast and whole turkeys.

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



The Army-Navy Game

A classic rivalry since 1890

Navy leads the series 60-52-7

Watch Army attempt to extend its winning streak to 4

Saturday, 14 December, 2PM - Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field

Televised on CBS or at your favorite sports bar





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"/> Three Years	\$30	

Interested in a Chapter Life Membership
Contact us for pricing (age-based)

*New members joining after September 1st will have their membership paid through following calendar year

First Name		MI	Last Name		
Preferred Name		Birthday	Spouse's Name	Period(s) of Active Duty i.e. 1965 – 1990	
Grade	Branch of Service		MOAA National Member #		
Active	Retired	NG	Former Officer	Reserve	Surviving Spouse
Mailing Address		City		State	Zip
Phone Number		E-mail Address			

Attention Annual Members

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

Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls – If you need to renew your name is on the next page

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 csgiving@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

The following members need to renew their memberships

Please get your checks in the mail soonest

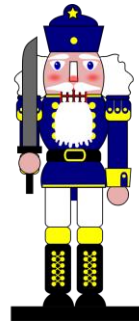
CDR Timothy L Zane
COL Mark R Arn
LTC John S Bolton
CW3 Braxton D Butler
COL Steven S DeBusk
Lt Col James B Dooley
LTC Linda L Green
LTC Robert W Hearon
LTC Norman P Hopkins
LTC Richard K Jackson
COL Alvin R Kemmet Jr
COL Dale C Kuehl
COL Terese D LeFrancois
COL George E Lewis
COL Michael S Maloney
LTC Thomas E Means
COL Millard E Moon
COL John A Olshefski
LTC Albert G Parmentier II
COL Mike A Roddy III
CW4 Robert C Savage
COL Marvin S Smith
CWO4 Gary K Sweet
COL Casmere H Taylor
CAPT Scott W Witt
Mrs. Sonia Gojsza
Mrs. Mary C Levaas
Mrs. Jean B Parker
Mrs. Travis Stewart
Mrs. Caroline Wilson

MAJ Craig R Ailles
CW4 William J Barron
COL Robert A Brown
CW5 Charles A Covell
LTC Michael W DiNardo
COL Ronald N Funderburk
COL Mary S Hall
COL William A Holbrook
MAJ Richard C Hudgens
LTC Charles A Joyner
LTC Edwin L Kennedy
LTC Ruby R Lardent-Davis
LTC Richard W LeVan
CAPT Dale E Lyle
LTC Thomas R McLaughlin Jr
CDR Steven T Middleton
Maj Edward L Morfenski
LCDR Neftali Pagan
MAJ Richard J Quinones
CW4 Tom O Sandner
LTC John R Scott
MAJ Sean R Sterling
MAJ Michael V Tallman
LCDR Frances K Witt
Mrs. Margot Chabot
Mrs. Marjorie E Hines
Mrs. Elaine Miner
Mrs. Gwen V Parks
Mrs. Virginia Wagner

Huntsville Chapter MOAA Christmas Party

Holiday Dinner

Sliced honey glazed ham
Oven roasted turkey breast with giblet gravy
Country Style corn bread dressing with giblet gravy
Rice pilaf
Whole green beans almandine
Yeast Rolls & Butter
Ice Water – Coffee
Sweet or Unsweetened Iced Tea
Carrot cake



HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY

**THE OVERLOOK at THE SUMMIT CLUB
SATURDAY EVENING, 7 DECEMBER 2019**

COCKTAILS - No Host/Cash bar - 5:00 pm

President's Remarks and Dinner - 6:00 pm

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

\$20.00 PER PERSON (Members & Family) - \$25.00 PER PERSON (Guests)

RSVP by 24 November 2019 (with check made out to HCMOAA) to:

**CDR Christine Downing
116 Spring Tanner Road
Hazel Green, AL 35750
256-828-9740**





42 Birthdays in December

Mrs. Esther S Gober
Maj William M Burke, USAF
Mrs. Billie K Jones
CW4 Carl J Woida, USA
COL Nathanael P Causey, USA
LTC Kenneth V Barnwell, USA
Lt Col Robert R Barnes Jr., USAF
LTC Malcolm R Sams, USA
Maj Robert F Stierwalt, USAF
LTC Douglas L Oyler, USA
LCDR James G Andrews, USN
Col David W Lair, USAF
COL David L Wyatt, USA
CAPT Thomas L Jones, USN
Lt Col Charles W Zavakil, USAF
COL Dahl J Cento, USA
MAJ Mark H LaFlamme, USA
Mr. Gloria D Lewis
Mrs. Edwina Morse

Mrs. Travis Stewart
MAJ Francis W Thonus, USA
COL Thomas M Devanney, USA
Mrs. Stella R Myers
LTC Eugene F Small, USA
LTC William D Katholi, USA
LTC Thomas E Means, USA
LTC Gary W Flecker, USA
COL Larry M Pigue, USA
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
MAJ Bruce T Robinson, USA
LTC Richard W Levan, USMC
CW4 Ronnie L Rogers, USA
CW5 William L Young, USA
Mrs. Dalila Carrasquillo
LTC John S Bolton, USA
Mrs. Rosemary Bundy
CAPT George C Skezas, USN
Lt Col Gerald W Haynes, USAF

CW3 Donald L Wagoner, USA
COL Casmere H Taylor, USA
LTC Robert W Senn, USA
LTC LaVerne J Gehm, 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 brucer76@knology.net so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

The Nutcracker 2019 Military Night

Huntsville Ballet, along with our community partners, will host a magical evening at the Von Braun Center, Mark C. Smith Concert Hall on **Thursday, December 12, 2019**. It is our honor to invite Active Duty, Retired, Guard and Reserve military members and their families to a complimentary performance of *The Nutcracker*. Please join us for an evening that is sure to get you in the spirit!

Huntsville Ballet Company is proud to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots again and will have boxes at the door for donations of new, unwrapped toys. The Rocket City Jazz Orchestra will open the evening at 6:00pm followed by Huntsville Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* at 7:00pm.

Complimentary tickets will be available with proper Identification at **Huntsville Ballet** 800 Regal Drive and at the **ITR Office** beginning November 25, 2019.

There is no charge for this performance, but you **MUST** have a ticket to enter. For further information, please contact: MilitaryNight@HuntsvilleBallet.org



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

TAPS

Colonel Kenneth T. Taylor, USMC (Ret) - 85, of Huntsville, Alabama passed away Monday, October 28, 2019. He was a graduate of Columbia Military Academy (1953), the University of Alabama (1961), and Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University (1972). KT served honorably in the United States Marine Corps for 34 years. His personal decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Navy Commendation Medal with a "V" for combat valor. After retiring in 1988 he went on to work in the Madison County District Attorney's office as an Assistant Deputy District Attorney until 2000.

KT was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Guerin Taylor (2016); his parents, Dawson and Lela Tate Taylor. Survivors include his wife, Joyce Barton Taylor; daughters, Leslie Taylor of Nashville, Tennessee, Laurie Taylor Rodgers (Gerry) of Montgomery, and Susan Taylor Lanier of West Chester, Ohio; grandchildren, Ashley Randolph, Sarah Randolph, Taylor Galadyk (Matthew), Madeline Boswell (Jack), James Rodgers (Ginny), John Rodgers, Nikki Moore (Josh), William Lanier, Benjamin Lanier, Andrew Lanier; and ten great-grandchildren.

Visitation was on Wednesday, October 30th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Laughlin Service Funeral Home. His funeral service was on Thursday, October 31st at 1:00 pm at Laughlin.

MAJ Robert (Bob) L. Usher, USA (Ret) - 75, of Lacey's Spring, AL, went to be with the Lord December 11, 2018. Bob was born in Hannibal, Mo to the late Robert "Scoop" and Mary Usher. Bob joined the Army in 1966, spent 1 year in Vietnam, and retired from Army Reserves in 1990. Following the military, Bob retired from Redstone Arsenal where he worked as a Logistics Management Specialist.

Bob is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jean; 3 children Cynthia Galloway, Deneice Baldwin, and Jason Usher; 5 grandchildren Amanda, Olivia, Jacob, Taylor, and Lucas; 2 great-granddaughters Charlotte and Eliza; and his sister Barbara Peavler.

Visitation was from 5:00 - 7:00 PM Saturday, December 15th, at Berryhill Funeral Home in Huntsville AL as well as from 1:00 - 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 16th, at Willowbrook Baptist Church in Huntsville AL. Funeral followed at 2:00 PM, burial was at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Colonel Michael J. Vaccaro, USAF (Ret) – 92, passed away at home on 5 November. Despite being 92 years old, Mike was very active in chapter happenings, attending nearly all luncheons and socials. He was a past member of the chapter Governing Board. He was also active in the Rescue Me Volunteer Group. A Veteran of both the Navy and the Air Force, Mike was a Past Commander

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and Chaplain of the DAV in Huntsville and a 20-plus year member of the Honor Guard of American Legion Post 237.

In addition to his warm smile and concern for others, the heartfelt TAPS he played as Honor Guard Bugler for hundreds of veteran funerals will be sorely missed.

Visitation was held on Monday, November 11, 2019 from 12:30 to 1:00 pm at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Huntsville. His funeral mass followed at 1:00 pm. Burial in Hampton Cove will follow with the Post 237 Honor Guard folding the flag and providing the gun salute.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be made in his name to American Legion Post 237 Honor Guard or Rescue Me Volunteer Group Non-Profit.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Mike!

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



Christmas

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger.' And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.'

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 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 400+ 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 brucer76@knology.net or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in December

- 1 December – Birth of Civil Rights movement - Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, AL (1955)
- 2 December – Napoleon Bonaparte crowned Emperor of France (1804)
- 2 December – United Arab Emirates formed (1971)
- 3 December – First artificial heart transplant (1982)
- 5 December - Haiti was discovered by Christopher Columbus (1492)
- 5 December - The AFL-CIO was founded (1955)
- 6 December - Thomas Edison demonstrated his newly invented phonograph (1877)
- 6 December - Gerald Ford was sworn in as vice president (1973)
- 7 December – Pearl Harbor Day
- 7 December – Chapter Christmas Party – The Overlook**
- 8 December - John Lennon was assassinated in New York City (1980)
- 8 December - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist (1991)
- 11 December - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi (1901)
- 11 December - King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England (1936)
- 12 December – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Cafe**
- 12 December – Military Night – Nutcracker Ballet – Von Braun Center
- 13 December - New Zealand was discovered by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman (1642)
- 13 December - Battle of Fredericksburg (1862)
- 13 December – Beginning of the “Rape of Nanking” (1937)
- 14 December - George Washington died at Mount Vernon (1799)
- 15 December – The Bill of Rights became effective (1791)
- 15 December - Gone with the Wind had its world premiere in Atlanta (1939)
- 16 December - The Boston Tea Party occurred (1773)
- 19 December - The House of Representatives impeached President Bill Clinton (1998)
- 20 December - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union (1860)
- 21 December – First Day of Winter
- 23 December - The transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories (1947)
- 24 December – Chapter Gift Wrapping - PX**
- 25 December – Christmas Day
- 31 December - Thomas Edison demonstrated his electric incandescent lamp (1879)
- 31 December – New Year’s Eve

