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December 2020



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 the last month in 2020. I do not think ANY of us will be sad to see this year go away!

As you all know, we are in the middle of a donation drive for our Scholarship Fund to recover from the unfortunate cancellation of our fundraising golf tournament this year. As of November 25<sup>th</sup> – a little more than a week after sending out the initial requests – we received an amazing 18 donations ranging from \$25 to \$1000, for a total of \$2905! That puts us 29% towards our goal in just a week-plus. There is still plenty of time to donate and I will include a form with the email promulgating this newsletter. One member even got his boss to make a corporate donation – that is great! My sincere thanks to those who have donated so far and, if possible, those who plan to donate soon!

As I have said numerous times, all face-to-face meetings/events are cancelled until at least January – and possibly beyond. I have had some queries regarding the meetings and remain uncomfortable with resuming them until CDC, Federal, and State officials feel the COVID environment can support safe contact. The Zoom meetings are getting business accomplished but are just a bit impersonal! The next Zoom meeting will be January if no face-to-face meeting is held. We have some important Chapter business to discuss and will be swearing in the slate of Chapter Officers for 2021-2022.

I know it sounds repetitive, but please continue to follow CDC and AL guidelines regarding the COVID. You will be tempted during the Holiday season but stay strong! There is no need for unnecessary meetings and there is certainly NO reason or excuse not to take adequate personal measures including face masks and copious amounts of sanitizer! When we do resume face-to-face meetings, I want to see all of you there and healthy!

### Stay Safe!

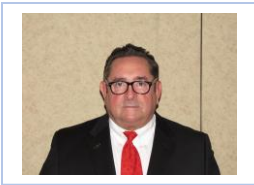
Rick

*Due to the coronavirus situation, Member Meetings are cancelled until further notice*

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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.”

Congress has yet to pass a budget. Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated programs limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget before the current continuing resolution expires on 11 December 2020.

On 3 November I was a first-time poll worker at Precinct 12. The polls opened at 0700. When I arrived at 0615 there were already a dozen folks in line waiting. My job was to check the photo ID of the voter—usually a driver license, but I saw passports and military IDs too. There were a few that were turned away because the IDs had expired or they were in the wrong voting location. After the doors opened all of the poll workers labored nonstop for six hours until we noticed that the flow of voters had slowed. After the polls closed, the ballots—paper and electronic output—were boxed for transport to downtown Huntsville and the voting machines were broken down and packed up for next time. I departed the voting location at about 8:30 or so. It was an interesting experience.

More Alabamians voted in the 2020 presidential election than in any election in the state's history. Over 2.3 million voters participated, an increase of 170,000 from 2016. Forty-six of the 67 counties experienced their highest turnouts since such data has been recorded. While the raw numbers of voters in 2020 set a record, it represented a smaller slice of the total registered electorate that turned out for some elections of the recent past. About 62.2 % of registered voters cast their votes in person or by absentee ballots in 2020 whereas 65.9 % voted in the 2000 election.

In a recent survey from Alabama voters strongly favor a special legislative session to take action on unfinished business. In May, the Alabama Legislature adjourned its Regular Session that was severely curtailed by the coronavirus. After only meeting sparingly for two months, the House and Senate returned to a socially-distanced State House to pass only essential legislation, including the two state budgets and the distribution plan for the \$1.8 billion the state received from the federal CARES Act. However, several other bills that could have been considered essential were left at the wayside, including those for economic development, limiting coronavirus related lawsuits, and preventing Alabamians from being taxed for any coronavirus relief funding they receive. It will be interesting whether the governor calls for a special session anytime soon.

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and Social Security recipients

*Continued on page 9*

## 2019-2020 GOVERNING BOARD

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

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

2nd Vice President: LTC Gary R. Young, USA-Ret, 256-722-2134, [youngbikers@att.net](mailto:youngbikers@att.net)

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, [mbaron468@gmail.com](mailto:mbaron468@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, [ctcbama76@gmail.com](mailto:ctcbama76@gmail.com)

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, [jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, [raymond.regner@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.regner@gmail.com)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [bged992K@aol.com](mailto:bged992K@aol.com)

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

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

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership (Acting): MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

Programs: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

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

Personal Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, [jerry15@hiway.net](mailto:jerry15@hiway.net)

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, [janetecamp@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

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

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

ROTC/JROTC: LTC Gary R. Young, USA-Ret, 256-722-2134, [youngbikers@att.net](mailto:youngbikers@att.net)

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

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

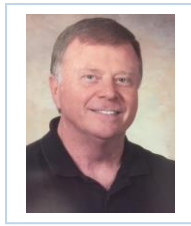
Webmaster: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, [fairlambjrf@comcast.net](mailto:fairlambjrf@comcast.net) (June 2023)

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

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



**PX / Commissary**  
**Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR**



**Main Exchange**

Exchange Hours: Regular hours except closed 25 December.

STAR card promotion: Each time you use your STAR card, you are eligible to win your monthly STAR credit card bill paid in full. 0% interest for six months using your STAR card.

Be sure to visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> every day. You will see the Special of the Day, plus there are often other one day only specials! You will also find coupons, rebates, interactive ads, specialty stores, and super daily specials.

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!

Holiday Price Guarantee – Find an identical item elsewhere for less and we will give you an Exchange gift card for the difference. Be sure to ask about layaway without charge.

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.

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](mailto:).

**Shopette**

Hours: Christmas Day closed. Otherwise regular hours 0600-2200

Still available! Gluwein – Weisswein (white wine), Cherry, blueberry, and market varieties. Best served warm on a cold day!

Now in -- Ice Wine – Frost Bitten brand. New – Hallmark Channel wines in white/red. Lesse-Fitch from California in Cabernet Sauvignon and pinot noir. Also new: Dearly Beloved, Cask and Barrel wines, Biltmore, Whispering Angel, Menage a Trois, A to Z, wines. Morgan Creek Wineries in various Muscadine varieties.

Jack Daniel's No. 27 Gold Maple Wood finish and the ever-popular Sinatra Select (on sale!) also available. Various Japanese whisky brands available (not inexpensive!) and one brand has already sold out.

*Continued on page 9*

**Need Addresses**

**None this month**

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 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  
[jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy/USMC Representative:  
**COL Raymond G. Regner**  
256-851-5903,  
[raymond.regner@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.regner@gmail.com)

Air Force Representative:  
**Col Edward L. Uher**  
256-882-6824,  
[biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Personal Affairs Officer  
**Lt Col Gerald Haynes**  
256-882-7857  
[jerry15@hiwaay.net](mailto: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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**Fox Army Health Center**  
MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret



# Flu Shots

## Influenza Vaccine Season

**FAHC has NOT yet received Flu Vaccine for the 2020-2021 season.**

Beneficiaries may receive their flu vaccinations through any Tricare Retail Pharmacy which offers the vaccination **FREE** of charge.

For Information on TRICARE retail network pharmacies, please contact TRICARE at 1.877.363.1303 or search on-line at <https://tricare.mil/flu>

For FAHC Flu updates call the Flu Hotline at 256-955-8888 ext.1071

Email flu related questions to [usarmy.redstone.medcom-fahc.mbx.flu@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.redstone.medcom-fahc.mbx.flu@mail.mil)



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## **Surviving Spouse's Luncheon**

**Mrs. Carrie Hightower**  
**256-882-3992**

Due to the coronavirus situation, the need for social distancing, and the fact that the surviving spouses would be more susceptible to complications from an infection, the widow's luncheons are cancelled until further notice.

Everyone will be called when we resume the luncheons.

## **Surviving Spouse Corner: How Surviving Spouses Benefit from MOAA Membership**

*Surviving spouses will find resources, support, and connection.*

MOAA's mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses have opportunities to connect with kindred surviving spouses in addition to receive information about benefits and programs that might be new to them.

Understandably, when someone becomes a surviving spouse, there is a certain knowledge gap to navigate. Surviving spouses of MOAA work to help close that gap.

It's also important to note many survivors might not be aware they are eligible to join MOAA even if their military spouses were not MOAA members.

Depending on your membership level, surviving spouses will have a consistent line of communication as well as support regarding their eligibility for various MOAA benefits, such as discounts, advocacy, scholarships, and membership to their virtual chapter. Communication options include telephone, emails, literature, social media, and webinars.

[Read more about the benefits of membership on MOAA.org.](https://www.moaa.org)

A great example of the support MOAA provides is the [MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) and the [Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group](#), which unites military survivors from different war eras. Through these avenues, a surviving MOAA spouse has ample opportunity to relate to like members with similar backgrounds. Local chapters also can provide a spouse with a tangible sense of community and connection.



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

### **Christmas Spells Peace**

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14, ESV)

Amid the horrors of World War I, there occurred a unique truce when for a few hours, enemies behaved like brothers. Christmas Eve in 1914 was all quiet on France's Western Front, from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps. Trenches came within 50 miles of Paris. The war was only five months old, and approximately 800,000 men had been wounded or killed. Every soldier wondered whether or not Christmas Day would bring another round of fighting and killing. But something happened. British soldiers raised "Merry Christmas" signs above the trenches, and soon carols were heard from German and British trenches alike.

Christmas dawned with unarmed soldiers leaving their trenches, though officers of both sides tried unsuccessfully to stop their troops from meeting the enemy in the middle of no-man's land for songs and conversation. Exchanging small gifts, they passed Christmas Day peacefully along miles of the front. At one spot, the British played soccer with the Germans; the Germans won 3-2.

In some places, the spontaneous truce continued the next day as neither side was willing to fire the first shot. Finally, the war resumed when fresh troops arrived and the high command of both armies ordered that further "informal understanding" with the enemy would be punishable as treason.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27, ESV)



## **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: 353  
Regular Members: 297  
Surviving Spouses: 56

New this month: 0  
Deaths this month: 2  
Renewals: 2

## **Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

**None this month**

## **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*

will see a 1.3% increase in their monthly checks for 2021. The annual COLA is slightly less than the 1.6% increase from last year but is in line with the historical increases seen over the last 10 years. Each year, military retirement pay, Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities, VA Compensation and Pensions, and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation.

The Department of Labor determines the annual COLA by measuring the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measurement of a broad sampling of the cost of consumer goods and expenses. The CPI is compared to the previous year; if there is an increase, there is a COLA. If there is no increase, there is no COLA. The COLA affects about one in every five Americans, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans, federal retirees and retired military members.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. There are three articles, all touching on interesting naval topics.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moa.org>. The National Headquarters 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. IIII

### *Commissary/PX- continued from page 3*

Limited time specials for those wanting to try something different – Wathen's, Koval, Kinsey, Daviss County, Heigold Whiskeys and Courage and Conviction Whisky's.

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

#### **Commissary**

Holiday Hours:

- Christmas: Open Monday 21 December, closes early 24 December at 1600. Closed Friday 25 December. Reopens Saturday 26 December regular hours.
- New Year's: Closes early 31 December at 1700. Closed Friday 1 January 2021. Reopens Saturday 2 January 2021 regular hours.

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!

Buy young tender turkeys by Shady Brook. Independent farmers that use no growth promoting antibiotics – breast and whole turkeys. Smoked turkeys available also!

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! IIII





## **HCMOAA Treasurer's Report October 2020**

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

1. The October 2020 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. It was virtually reviewed by the Governing Board and forwarded for membership approval at the next membership meeting.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$ 9,472.57	\$ 8,004.90
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.06
Expenses	\$ 455.34	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 9,017.23	\$ 8,004.96

3. Notable income: None.

4. Notable expenses: Payment to Colonial Graphics for printed version of the Sentinel, wreath sponsorship, office supplies, domain name and Zoom.

5. Chapter savings account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1403.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the 2019 RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019 donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

7. Our Certificate of Deposit (CD) with Wells Fargo Bank matured this month. We re-invested the funds with Wells-Fargo again, but the term is 5 months. The new CD was opened on 21 October 2020. The CD was opened with a balance of \$8,515.59 and the current balance is \$8,515.92. The CD matures in mid-March 2021. The funds represented by this CD are for reserve funding and advance dues payment protection.

### **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 students. Please consider donating to our program. Contact the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund Treasurer, Rick West, at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net) or 256.776.6901 for details.

Total received for November:	\$2905
Total received FY21 to date:	\$2905

*See list of donors on next page*



## Scholarship Fund Donations Received During November 2020

COL Mike Roddy III, USA (Ret.)  
Mrs. Stella Myers  
Lt Col Edward Gniadek, USAF (Ret.)  
CAPT Richard West, USN (Ret.)  
LTC James Roy, USA (Ret.)  
LTC Eugene & Mrs. Dorinda Marchetti, USA (Ret.)  
COL Michael Barron, USA (Ret.)  
LTC Peter Schofield, USA (Ret.)  
LTC Stephen Rice, USA (Ret.)  
CPT Rene Lemieux, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
1LT William Redmond, USA  
Mrs. Hedwig Cave  
CW3 Clarissa Lewis, USA (Ret.)  
Lt Col Andrew & Mrs. Deborah Grau, USAF (Ret.)  
Anonymous (3 donors)  
Banner Defense, Inc. – Corporate Donor (member obtained)

## National Park Pass Program

Veterans and Gold Star families will be given free lifetime entry into national parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands starting on Veterans Day, 11 November. Current rules state that only active-duty service members and their dependents, as well as veterans with 100% disability ratings through the Department of Veterans Affairs, are eligible for free entrance into all national parks. The change provides free entry to millions more veterans and families. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced the initiative 28 October 2020 during an event at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum in Des Moines. "With the utmost respect and gratitude, we are granting veterans and Gold Star Families free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect starting this Veterans Day and every single day thereafter," Bernhardt said.

While not all of the system's 2,000 public recreation areas charge entrance fees, many of the more popular destinations do, such as Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. The fees vary by location. Instead of paying individual entry fees, visitors can purchase an annual "America the Beautiful" pass for \$80. Seniors over age 65 can purchase a lifetime pass for \$80. Disabled veterans qualify for the Access Pass, which gives free admission and a 50% discount on some costs such as camping or boat launch fees. Other passholders pay out of pocket for those costs.

According to the Interior Department and for purposes of their directive SO 3387, veterans of the United States Armed Forces are those individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves. They must present some form of identification reflecting their veteran status to get free entry into national parks. This includes a Defense Department identification card, Veteran Health identification card (VHIC), VA identification card, or a U.S. driver's license that has a veteran designation. The new free-access rule for veterans does not extend to their immediate family members. That means that at parks where entrance fees are paid per vehicle, veterans and their families will be able to enter free using the veteran pass. At parks where admission is paid per person, however, only the veteran will be able to enter free.

The department is defining Gold Star families as the next of kin of a service member who lost his or her life in war, an international terrorist attack or a military operation outside of the United States. Ben Goldey, Interior Department press secretary, said Gold Star family members will not be required to produce proof of qualification -- at least for now. "For the time being, we will be using an honor system," Ben Goldey, a spokesman for Interior told Military.com in an email. "An individual who identifies themselves as a Gold Star family member at an entrance facility will be thanked for their service and sacrifice and admitted free of charge." For years, veterans and experts have praised experiences in nature as therapy for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. "Exposure to outdoor recreation can provide a wide range of mental health benefits, and given our nation's ongoing veteran suicide crisis, this is a welcome step forward using a whole of government approach to improve the lives of veterans," said Jeremy Butler, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.





Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1301 - Huntsville, AL 35807  
[www.huntsvillemoaa.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> will have their membership paid through following calendar year

\*\*If renewing just update any address or phone changes, verify e-mail address, and sign the form

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MOAA National Membership Number

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

## Attention Annual Members

It is 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

***Members who need to renew are listed on the next page  
Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls – renew now!***

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate  
Don't know when your membership expires? Contact MAJ Bruce Robinson at  
256-426-0525 or [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.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](mailto:fairlambjrf@comcast.net) for the details

## **The following annual members need to renew their memberships:**

COL James R Allred, USA  
Lt Col Brenda Armstrong, USAF  
COL Donald R Baker, USA  
MAJ Gordon M Brown, USA  
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN  
COL Nathanael P Causey, USA  
Mrs. Margot J Chabot  
LTC Joseph J Della Silva, USA  
LTC Earl A Freeman, USA  
COL Ronald N Funderburk, USA  
Mrs. Myrna G Griffiths  
Lt Col Gerald W Haynes, USAF  
Mrs. Carrie V Hightower  
COL William A Holbrook, USA  
LTC Norman P Hopkins, USA  
CDR Paul R Jensen, USN  
CW4 James E Keirstead, USA  
CPT Camden J Kent Jr, USA  
COL George S Laslo, USA  
Mrs. Mary C Levaas  
CW4 Michael H McIntosh, USA  
Maj Edward L Morfenski, USAF  
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA  
COL Jeffrey S Ogden, USA  
LTC David C O'Neil, USA  
Col Jon M Owings, USAF  
COL Norbert Patla, USA  
LT James L Pointer, USN  
MG Kenneth J Quinlan, USA  
CDR Robert P Rolf, USN  
CW4 Robert C Savage, USA  
MAJ Curtis Smith, USA  
LTC Roderic Spencer Jr, USA  
Maj Robert F Stierwalt, USAF  
CW3 Donald L Wagoner, USA  
Mrs. Josephine O Walsh  
LTC Glen W Williams, USA  
CAPT Scott W Witt, USN  
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC

LCDR James G Andrews, USN  
Col Stephen C Baker, USMC  
MAJ Theron Bowman, USA  
COL Robert A Brown, USA  
Mrs. Dalila Carrasquillo  
CPT Stephen E Cecil, USMC  
CW5 Charles A Covell, USA  
LTC James F Duttweiler, USA  
LCDR Aaron T Freymiller, USN  
LTC LaVerne J Gehm, USA  
MAJ Diana M Hansen, USA  
LTC Donnie L Henley, USA  
Lt Col James B Dooley, USAF  
LTC James O Holland, USA  
CDR John E Inman, USN  
COL George J Jobczynski, USA  
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA  
Col Donald F Kimminau, USAF  
Capt Steven E Lavender, USAF  
LTC Eugene A Marchetti, USA  
COL James E Moentmann, USA  
LTC Hector New, USA  
COL Robert M O'Donnell, USA  
CDR Rudolph M Ohme, USN  
COL Maurice A Ottinger, USA  
LTC Douglas L Oyle, USA  
COL Larry M Pigue, USA  
LTC David E Pray, USA  
Col Charles R Rice, USAF  
CPT Gary M Rose, USA  
LTC Douglas Schuetz, USA  
LTC Richard H Sorrell, USA  
LCDR Walter A Starkey, USN  
LCDR Emanuel M Tsikalas, USN  
COL Steven E Walburn, USA  
Col Dwayne B Wilhite, USAF  
LCDR Frances K Witt, USN  
LTC Gary R Young, USA

# We get to know you first, then your goals.



**Dale C Kuehl**  
Financial Advisor

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256-881-1583

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## Consider These Year-end Financial Moves

We're nearing the end of 2020 – and for many of us, it will be a relief to turn the calendar page on this challenging year. However, we've still got a few weeks left, which means you have time to make some year-end financial moves that may work in your favor.

Here are a few suggestions:

- *Add to your IRA.* For the 2020 tax year, you can put in up to \$6,000 to your traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. If you haven't reached this limit, consider adding some money. You actually have until April 15, 2021, to contribute to your IRA for 2020, but the sooner you put the money in, the quicker it can go to work for you. Plus, if you have to pay taxes in April, you'll be less likely to contribute to your IRA then.
- *Make an extra 401(k) payment.* If it's allowed by your employer, put in a little extra to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. And if your salary goes up next year, increase your regular contributions.
- *See your tax advisor.* It's possible that you could improve your tax situation by making some investment-related moves. For example, if you sold some investments whose value has increased, you could incur capital gains taxes. To offset these gains, you could sell other investments that have lost value, assuming these investments are no longer essential to your financial strategy. Your tax advisor can evaluate this type of move, along with others, to determine those that may be appropriate for your situation.
- *Review your investment mix.* As you consider your portfolio, think about the events of these past 12 months and how you responded to them. When COVID-19 hit early in the year, and the financial markets plunged, did you find yourself worrying constantly about the losses you were taking, even though they were just on "paper" at that point? Did you even sell investments to "cut your losses" without waiting for a market recovery? If so, you might want to consult with a financial professional to determine if your investment mix is still appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, or if you need to make some changes.
- *Evaluate your need for retirement plan withdrawals.* If you are 72 or older, you must start taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you must take these RMDs by December 31 every year. However, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act suspended, or waived, all RMDs due in 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.
- *Think about the future.* Are you saving enough for your children's college education? Are you still on track toward the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Or have your retirement plans changed as a result of the pandemic? All of these issues can affect your investment strategies, so you'll want to think carefully about what decisions you may need to make.

Looking back – and ahead – can help you make the moves to end 2020 on a positive note and start 2021 on the right foot.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.*





## 42 Birthdays in December

Mrs. Esther S Gober  
CW3 Donald L Wagoner, USA  
MAJ Francis W Thonus, USA  
COL Thomas M Devanney, USA  
CW4 Carl J Woida, USA  
LTC LaVerne J Gehm, USA  
LTC Eugene F Small, USA  
LTC William D Katholi, USA  
LTC Thomas E Means, USA  
LTC Gary W Flecker, 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  
Mrs. Dalila Carrasquillo  
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC  
Mrs. Rosemary Bundy  
CW4 Samuel Smith, USA  
Mrs. Edwina Morse

Mrs. Travis Stewart  
Maj William M Burke, USAF  
Mrs. Billie K Jones  
LTC Robert W Senn, USA  
Mrs. Stella R Myers  
COL Nathanael P Causey, USA  
LTC Kenneth V Barnwell, USA  
Lt Col Robert R Barnes Jr., USAF  
LTC Malcolm R Sams, USA  
MAJ William H Steele, 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  
Lt Col Charles W Zavadil, USAF  
COL Dahl J Cento, USA  
MAJ Mark H LaFlamme, USA  
Mrs. Gloria D Lewis  
CAPT George C Skezas, USN  
Lt Col Gerald W Haynes, USAF

If we missed your birthday, it's because we don't have it on file. Please e-mail your birth date to MAJ Bruce Robinson at [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net) so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.





## TAPS

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

**Elizabeth Tidwell Townsend**, 86, passed away peacefully Monday, November 9, 2020. Liz was born April 16, 1934 in Loretto, TN – Lawrence County. Then her family moved to Lauderdale County, AL and settled in Killen, AL. In 1953, Liz moved to Huntsville and worked at Redstone Arsenal for the Internal Audit Office starting in the secretarial field. She was promoted to various positions during her career with the Government. In December 1994, she retired as an Intelligence Analyst for Strategic Defense Command (SDC). Her community involvement included the Huntsville Women's Club focusing on fundraising for Meals on Wheels. She also volunteered and supported, with her husband, the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW).

Liz was preceded in death by her husband, LTC Lincoln H. Townsend; father, Walter Danley Tidwell; mother, Grace Ellen Moore Tidwell; and brothers and sisters, Kenneth 'Mack' Tidwell, Myra Katherine 'Kathy' Tidwell McDonel, Martha Ellen Tidwell Jones, and Walter Neal 'Buck' Tidwell. She is survived by a loving family, daughters, Elizabeth 'Beth' Townsend Mitchel and husband, Michael D. Mitchel, of Toney, and Mary Lou Townsend Russler of Huntsville; grandchildren, Emilia Grace 'Emmie' Russler of Huntsville, Stuart R. Russler and wife, Sydney Creekmore Russler, of Dunwoody, GA, Jennifer Mitchel and husband, Scott Ratterre, of New Orleans, Michael David Mitchel and wife, Cindy Mitchel, of Metairie, LA, Stephanie Mitchel Brown and husband, Shawn Brown, of Nashville; and great-grandchildren, Dalton Haydel, Gracelyn Haydel, Hannah Brown and Gabriel Brown. During the last four years of life her caregivers, Linda Lind, Florine Abernathy, Evelyn Nyangi, Betty Johnson, and Venite Michel, known as "Liz's Angels", became members of the family whom we want to thank for their compassion, love and friendship.

The funeral service was held at 2pm on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at Laughlin Service Funeral Home. Burial followed at Maple Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Leukemia And Lymphoma Society or to a charity of your choice in memory of Liz.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mabel Byrd** was born on May 10, 1926 and passed away on Thursday, January 3, 2019. Mabel was a resident of Toney, Alabama at the time of passing. She graduated from Hazel Green High School. Visitation was on Monday, January 7th at 10 am with the funeral to follow at 11 am. Both were held at Hazel Green Funeral Home. As expressions of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or to the American Cancer Society.

*Gone but not forgotten for their dedicated support and service to our Country.*

*We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.*



## Commissary Shortages

Increasing shortages of groceries have ramped up commissary officials' pleas to industry to help them supply commissary shelves and caused officials high-level Pentagon officials to consider implementing the Defense Production Act for grocery production. It would be the first time the act has been invoked for commissaries. The problems are wide ranging, affecting many categories, such as canned goods and frozen goods — not just sanitizing products. Concerns started in the summer and early fall, and are related to various issues around the pandemic, including reduced production.

The Defense Production Act authorizes the president to require industry to give preferential treatment to national defense programs, in order to meet current national defense and emergency preparedness program requirements. But this would be uncharted territory, said Steve Rossetti, president of the American Logistics Association, an organization of manufacturers and distributors selling products to commissaries and exchanges. "The existing regulations say that commercial items are not covered under the guidance, but then again, these are unusual times," Rossetti said. "In March, the Pentagon designated commissaries as 'mission critical' and said that extraordinary measures need to be taken to keep the stores open and products flowing." Rossetti said the ramped-up effort involving the Defense Production Act is being discussed and coordinated with several Pentagon offices.

DoD officials did not immediately comment on whether they were considering invoking this law to remedy the shortages. Defense and commissary officials are pursuing various options; Rossetti described it as a "full-court press to get commissary shelves filled." A 10 November 2020 meeting is scheduled between commissary officials and industry representatives to discuss the issues and options for addressing the empty shelves, Rossetti said. In addition, commissary officials have scheduled "listening sessions" with major manufacturers, he said, to strengthen partnership with industry. The Defense Commissary Agency's new director, Bill Moore, and other high-level commissary officials will be involved in the sessions.

The out-of-stock rate is "much higher than normal" in stateside commissaries, said Moore, 20 October 2020, during an ALA conference. "We need to figure out how to resolve that sooner rather than later," he said. The issue was brought up by numerous commissary and exchange officials during the conference. Berry Patrick, who works in the DoD Office of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Non-appropriated Fund Policy, also urged industry to help the military stores beef up their pipeline, particularly the allocations of products. He praised industry for working with military store officials to get products in the stores as the pandemic unfolded. "You were doing such a good job helping keep us supplied... we had dozens of phone calls from companies asking to get products from us," he said, during the conference. "We had to hold the line on that."

In some places, the empty shelves are driving customers away. A shopper at McGuire Commissary at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, said she's so frustrated with the empty shelves there that she doesn't know if she'll try shopping there again. "As it stands now, it's a waste of time," she said. The problem has persisted for months, she said, whether her visits are on pay day, before pay day, different days of the week and different times. The shelves were well-stocked with paper towels, toilet paper, baby items and personal care items the last time she shopped, but from there, the selections went downhill.

"Meat seemed to be stocked adequately but not as well as before. Yet sugar, spices, jarred pasta sauce, canned vegetables, frozen veggies, prepackaged lunch meat, bacon, sausage, paper plates, dish soap.... the list goes on... the shelves were bare," she said. But it does vary. The shopper said she's contacted friends who shop at other installations who are not having the same problems. And a retiree who shops each week at the Fort Belvoir, VA, commissary said he normally goes with a list and for the most part, finds what he's looking for. Some of the exceptions he noted are turkey cutlets, Presto products, and spices that sell out quickly.

From the beginning of the pandemic, Defense Commissary Agency leaders prioritized shipments for overseas stores in Europe and the Pacific because of the limited options some of those customers have outside the gate, and in many cases, customers weren't able to shop outside the gate. As products become available, the first priority is those overseas commissaries. The agency also arranged for multiple emergency air shipments as required. Commissary officials have also worked with suppliers within the overseas theaters to buy products offshore to supplement critical items that may

*Continued on next page*



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not be available from the U.S., said commissary agency spokesman Kevin Robinson. “As a result, DeCA’s overseas central distribution centers and meat processing plant have sustained outstanding in-stock rates throughout the pandemic,” he said.

That’s left stateside stores short. According to ALA’s Rossetti, the pipeline for some overseas commissaries is 55 days, “forcing distributors to fill overseas orders and leaving little, if any, product for stateside stores.” Robinson said DeCA leadership is working with industry to try to get as much of available product as possible, to include working on one-time buys and alternate items to help supplement regularly stocked items that may not be available.

But commissary officials are seeing indications that commissaries may not be getting their fair share of products, compared to stores outside the gate, said Chris Burns, DeCA’s executive director of sales, marketing and logistics, during the ALA conference. He said he’s starting to see industry data that indicates some brands and categories are growing in stores outside the gate, but not in commissaries and other stores in the military channel of business, and allocations of products are moving forward to other retail companies. “We want to be treated as the number one retailer in your company and we need that message to get up to your CEOs,” he told the industry representatives.

“If you say that the military channel is just another channel, then I would ask, is the military patron just another patron?” He urged industry representatives to talk to their company leaders about the military lifestyle and the sacrifices service members and their families make, and why commissaries exist. “We have a statutory requirement to provide savings, whether in the exchange or commissary, as a benefit, and we shouldn’t have to force them to go outside the military installation” because the products are not on the shelves, Burns said.

Military Times asked the Consumer Brands Association about concerns that the industry isn’t providing a fair share of products to military stores. “With COVID cases spiking around the country, winter on its way and uncertainty around the election, purchasing patterns have stabilized, but are far from normal,” said Tom Madreki, vice president of supply chain and logistics for the association. “While some segments are steadying, others— like cleaning and even more specifically, disinfecting products — continue to see record demand. “The industry is working around the clock to manufacture products and [is working] with its retail and distribution partners and [Defense Commissary Agency] leadership to get them in stores and on the shelves around the country,” he said, in an email response.

In some cases, manufacturers’ production rates on certain products are running at about 40 to 60 percent of what they were producing before the pandemic, said Tom Gordy, president of the Armed Forces Marketing Council, an organization of firms representing over 400 manufacturers who supply consumer products to military resale activities worldwide. “There’s extreme competition” for products, he said, and some of the largest retailers outside the gate are getting the larger allocations. All retailers are going to manufacturers asking for higher allocations of products, Gordy said. “It’s just a fierce environment right now.”

There are many factors affecting grocery stores and manufacturers in general, said Rossetti and Gordy, such as more demand as more people are eating at home during the pandemic; a nationwide shortage of truck drivers that started long before the pandemic; a nationwide shortage of aluminum; effects of COVID on manufacturers’ work forces. And the military channel is affected in different ways, as the number of customers increases and decreases as some bases have limited access to retirees and curtailed their commissary shopping. Between the manufacturer and the shelf there are many possible “points of failure” for that product, Gordy said, such as:

- The store not getting as much of a product as they ordered, or not getting the product at all.
- Backlogs on the part of the distributor causing delays in getting the product to the store.
- Stores ordering the wrong products, to include items that have are no longer being manufactured. Some companies have simply stopped producing certain products to focus on other products in higher demand.
- The product just doesn’t get ordered.
- Problems in getting the product on the shelf when it gets to the store. The commissary staff has to sort products in the back of the store. From there, contracted vendor stockers put it on the shelves. III

## Dimension Origins

Why are there 5,280 feet in a mile, and why are nautical miles different from the statute miles we use on land? Why do we buy milk and gasoline by the gallon? Where does the abbreviation "lb" come from? Let's take a look at the origins of a few units of measure we use every day.

**The Mile:** The basic concept of the mile originated in Roman times. The Romans used a unit of distance called the mille passum, which literally translated into "a thousand paces." Since each pace was considered to be five Roman feet—which were a bit shorter than our modern feet—the mile ended up being 5,000 Roman feet, or roughly 4,850 of our modern feet. If the mile originated with 5,000 Roman feet, how did we end up with a mile that is 5,280 feet? Blame the furlong. The furlong wasn't always just an arcane unit of measure that horseracing fans gabbed about; it once had significance as the length of the furrow a team of oxen could plow in a day. In 1592, Parliament set about determining the length of the mile and decided that each one should be made up of eight furlongs. Since a furlong was 660 feet, we ended up with a 5,280-foot mile.

**The Nautical Mile:** So, if the statute mile is the result of Roman influences and plowing oxen, where did the nautical mile get its start? Strap on your high school geometry helmet for this one. Each nautical mile originally referred to one minute of arc along a meridian around the Earth. Think of a meridian around the Earth as being made up of 360 degrees, and each of those degrees consists of 60 minutes of arc. Each of these minutes of arc is then 1/21,600th of the distance around the earth. Thus, a nautical mile is 6,076 feet.

**The Acre:** Like the mile, the acre owes its existence to the concept of the furlong. Remember that a furlong was considered to be the length of a furrow a team of oxen could plow in one day without resting. An acre—which gets its name from an Old English word meaning "open field"—was originally the amount of land that a single farmer with a single ox could plow in one day. Over time, the old Saxon inhabitants of England established that this area was equivalent to a long, thin strip of land one furlong in length and one chain—an old unit of length equivalent to 66 feet—wide. That's how we ended up with an acre that's equivalent to 43,560 square feet.

**The Foot:** As the name implies, scholars think that the foot was actually based on the length of the human foot. The Romans had a unit of measure called a pes that was made up of twelve smaller units called unciae. The Roman pes was a smidge shorter than our foot—it came in at around 11.6 inches—and similar Old English units based on the length of people's feet were also a bit shorter than our 12-inch foot. The 12-inch foot didn't become a common unit of measurement until the reign of Henry I of England during the early 12th century, which has led some scholars to believe it was standardized to correspond to the 12-inch foot of the king.

**The Gallon:** The gallon we use for our liquids comes from the Roman word galeta, which meant "a pailful." There have been a number of very different gallon units over the years, but the gallon we use in the United States is probably based on what was once known as the "wine gallon" or Queen Anne's gallon, which was named for the reigning monarch when it was standardized in 1707. The wine gallon corresponded to a vessel that was designed to hold exactly eight troy pounds of wine.

**The Pound:** Like several other units, the pound has Roman roots. It's descended from a roman unit called the libra. That explains the "lb" abbreviation for the pound, and the word "pound" itself comes from the Latin pondo, for "weight." The avoirdupois pounds we use today have been around since the early 14th century, when English merchants invented the measurement in order to sell goods by weight rather than volume. They based their new unit of measure as being equivalent to 7000 grains, an existing unit, and then divided each 7000-grain avoirdupois pound into 16 ounces.

**Horsepower:** Early 18th-century steam engine entrepreneurs needed a way to express how powerful their machines were, and the industrious James Watt hit on a funny idea for comparing engines to horses. Watt studied horses and found that the average harnessed equine worker could lift 550 pounds at a clip of roughly one foot per second, which equated to 33,000 foot-pounds of work per minute. Not all scholars believe that Watt arrived at his measurement so scientifically, though. One common story claims that Watt actually did his early tests with ponies, not horses. He found that ponies could do 22,000 foot-pounds of work per minute and figured that horses were half again stronger than ponies, so he got the ballpark figure of 33,000 foot-pounds of work per minute.

## **TRICARE Beneficiaries May Be Eligible for FEDVIP Vision**

When's the last time you and your family members had their eyes checked? Maintaining good health and wellness includes eye health. "Even if your eyes feel healthy, you could have a problem and not know it," according to the National Eye Institute. But a comprehensive eye exam can help your eye doctor check for common eye problems and detect diseases that can cause vision loss. Did you know that a Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) plan may help you get the eye care you need?

While your TRICARE health plan may include eye exam coverage and certain services to diagnose or treat eye conditions, FEDVIP offers more robust vision coverage. It may help you save money on glasses or contact lenses. And good news—you can enroll soon. The Federal Benefits Open Season is just a few days away.

### **Who's Eligible for FEDVIP?**

Your eligibility for FEDVIP vision coverage depends on your beneficiary status. You must also be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan. Those who may be eligible include:

- Active duty family members
- National Guard and Reserve members and their family members
- Retired service members and their eligible family members
- TRICARE For Life beneficiaries

Keep in mind, adult children enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Young Adult aren't eligible for FEDVIP. Active duty service members as well as service members and family members covered by the Transitional Assistance Management Program are also ineligible. You can learn more about eligibility on the BENEFEDS website.

### **What Does FEDVIP Cover?**

FEDVIP provides voluntary vision and dental coverage to eligible TRICARE beneficiaries and offers a choice among a number of FEDVIP dental and vision carriers. If you're eligible, you may choose from 23 dental plan options and 10 vision plan options. The FEDVIP plans vary in coverage and premium amounts. You may review your plan options using the Plan Compare Tool. The Plan Compare Tool supports side-by-side comparison of plan option features including premiums, coinsurance, deductibles, and annual maximums. You may also review plan details in the plan's Official Statement of Benefits.

With a FEDVIP vision plan, covered services may include:

- Routine eye exams
- Contact lenses
- Eyeglass frames and lenses
- Discounts on laser eye surgery

### **How Do I Enroll?**

You may enroll during the annual Federal Benefits Open Season. This is your chance to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP plan. This year, open season begins Nov. 9 and ends Dec. 14, midnight EST. If you enroll during this time, your FEDVIP coverage will be effective on Jan. 1, 2021.

Outside of open season, you can only enroll in or make changes to your existing coverage if you experience a FEDVIP qualifying life event (QLE). As stated in the *TRICARE Qualifying Life Events Fact Sheet*, FEDVIP QLEs may be different from TRICARE QLEs and follow different timelines for enrollment. For a list of FEDVIP QLEs, visit the FEDVIP QLEs page.

As you explore health plan options this fall, make sure to keep in mind your and your family's eye health. For more information about vision coverage, visit TRICARE Covered Services or go to the BENEFEDS website. Take command of your eye health by staying informed about your vision coverage options.



## **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 350 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 350+ 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](mailto: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)
- 1 December – Civil Air Patrol founded (1941)
- 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
- 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 – Army-Navy Game
- 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)
- 16 December – Battle of the Bulge began (1944)
- 17 December - Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flight (1903)
- 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)
- 25 December – Christmas Day
- 31 December - Thomas Edison demonstrated his electric incandescent lamp (1879)
- 31 December – New Year’s Eve

