

Volume 60, Issue 12
December 2021



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

I sit here typing this edition of “Prez Sez” while watching Rivalry Saturday (my excuse for any typos)! Turkey soup is on the burner, and we are starting to set up the trees!

I am very much looking forward to seeing a lot of you this Saturday at the Christmas Party. I just know it is going to be a great time!

Our next membership meeting will be the January membership meeting - January 26th at 1100 at The Summit Club. Our VIP Speaker has been confirmed – the Associate Director (Technical) for Marshall Space Flight Center. I am hoping for a record crowd for this one! We will start the RSVP process about mid-December.

Annual Dues are due! There are 50+ members with annual membership dues coming up on January 1st. A list of those due is in this Sentinel. A renewal form is included in the Sentinel and with the promulgating email. **Please don't put this off...** just fill out your name, any “changed” information, sign and forward with your check to the address on the form! Make it easy and renew for 3 years or contact John Fairlamb at fairlambjrf@comcast.net for a quote if you might be interested in a Life Membership and never have to worry about dues again! **No better deal anywhere!**

For those of you who haven't heard, our golf tournament raised a record amount for the Scholarship Fund. This is wonderful news considering that the pandemic was/is still impacting these types of events! For those needing a deserving fund to make some last minute 2021 donations for tax purposes, please consider this great cause!

Army – Navy. Big game coming up – 1400 on December 11th. **Go Navy! Beat Army!**

Merry Christmas and have a safe and Happy New Year!

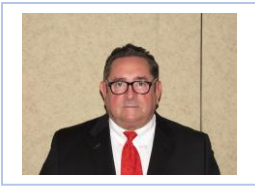
Rick

***There is no Member Meeting in December
See you at the Christmas Party!***

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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.”

Alabama lawmakers last month approved a congressional map expected to maintain the current partisan balance: the seven-member congressional delegation with six Republicans elected from heavily white districts and one Democrat elected from the only majority-black district. Governor Kay Ivey signed the new congressional, legislative and school board districts into law. Two lawsuits are challenging Alabama’s newly approved congressional map, arguing it unlawfully dilutes the voting strength of African Americans. The law suits contend that the plan violates the Voting Rights Act “because it strategically cracks and packs Alabama’s Black communities, diluting Black voting strength and confining Black voting power to one majority-Black district.”

The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure and Jobs Act was signed into law last month, so what does this mean for Alabama? Preliminary word is that over the next five years Alabama is expected to see \$5.2 billion for state highways and \$255 million for bridge repair and replacement; \$728 million to improve water infrastructure; \$400 million for public transportation; \$140 million for airport infrastructure; \$100 million to upgrade broadband coverage; \$79 million to expand electric vehicle charging; \$23 million to protect against wildfires; and \$19 million to protect against cyberattacks.

The October 2021 CPI is 271.552, 1.2 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for November is scheduled to be released 10 December 2021. The CPI baseline for FY 2022 is 268.421.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. There are two articles - one is about Bavaria Tax Collectors Going After American Base Personnel and the other concerns Military Treatment Facilities.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moaa.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.

2021-2022 GOVERNING BOARD

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1st Vice President: Vacant

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

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

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

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Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, juncamp@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

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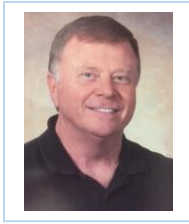
Webmaster: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandits.com (June 2024)

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

You only need to wear a mask on Redstone if you have not been vaccinated. They will not be asking you if you have. Workers have the option to wear a mask.

STAR card promotion: Receive 0% interest plus no payments* for 12 months on appliance purchases of \$499 or more with MILITARY STAR

Check every day for the Deal of the Day <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> – major discounts on items you will want.

Coupons, rebates, interactive ads, specialty stores, and super daily specials? Your Exchange has it all at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/savings-center/> If you have a Military Star Card, each time you use it through 31 Dec, you will automatically entered to win getting your Star Card bill paid in full!

At the gun shop – still very little ammo available. They also have fewer workers and often close early (I went at 4 when they were supposed to close at 5 and they had started closing at 3:30).

Computers, TV's all on sale at your exchange – clearance TV's during January.

You can buy Norton 360 with LifeLock – discounted 35% for individuals and 45% for families.

At this writing, the PX and Commissary did not know what their Christmas hours would be - so check their web sites. The Shopette usually retains their normal hours.

Shopette

Gluwein – almost sold out! Ice Wine (wine from grapes of the first freeze) – not yet in stock.

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

New! Jack Daniel's whiskey and Bailey's Irish Cream cakes. Compass Box Artist Blend and The Peat Monster scotch whiskies, Proper Twelve. Black Bush, and Tullamore Dew Irish whiskey. New Limited Time Specials – various Sake's, Buggy Whip Wheat, Barrell Dovetail, Jefferson's Ocean, Soldier Valley, Yella, Lead Slinger's, Howler Head, Brother's Bond, and

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@mchs-i.com

Navy/USMC Representative:
COL Raymond G. Regner
 256-851-5903,
raymond.regner@gmail.com

Air Force Representative:
Col Edward L. Uher
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biced992K@aol.com

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



TRICARE[®] OPEN SEASON
Mark your calendar!

TRICARE and Federal Benefits Open Season for enrollment or changes is: **Nov. 8 – Dec. 13**

If you want to stay in your current plan, you don't have to take any action.

I'm a/an...	I want to change my TRICARE Health Care Plan	I want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Vision Plan	I want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Dental Plan
Active Duty Service Member	While on active duty, you can only be TRICARE Prime [®] /TRICARE Prime Remote.	You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You'll continue to get care as you do now.	You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You'll continue to get care as you do now.
Active Duty Family Member	You can enroll in or change plans during the TRICARE Open Season .	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can purchase dental coverage through the TRICARE Dental Program. Visit www.tricare.mil/tdp .
Reserve Component Member or Family Member enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select [®] or TRICARE Retired Reserve	Not applicable. This doesn't apply to TRICARE Reserve Select [®] (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve [®] (TRR). You can enroll year round in TRR/TRS if your eligibility is in good standing.	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program. Visit www.tricare.mil/tdp .
Retired Service Member or Family Member	You can enroll in or change plans during the TRICARE Open Season .	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.
Retired Service Member or Family Member using TRICARE For Life	Not applicable. TRICARE Open Season doesn't apply to TRICARE For Life.	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason

Fox Army Health Center update:

- Masks continue to be required when receiving services at Fox in accordance with DoD mandate.
- Fox Army Health Center is continuing to offer the seasonal flu shot for enrolled beneficiaries by appointment during duty hours (0800–1500). The clinic is also offering an evening clinic on Tuesday, 07 December 2021 from 1630-1900 for flu vaccinations.
- Fox Army Health Center is now offering a single dose Moderna COVID-19 booster to eligible beneficiaries, including those who have already received a completed series of Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing. COVID-19 first, second, and booster doses are provided by appointment through the PCRS link <https://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/PCRS/Login>.
- TRICARE open season has officially begun and will remain open until Monday 13 December 2021 for eligible beneficiaries the option to choose which TRICARE benefit to receive.

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Huntsville, AL





Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

We did not meet in November due to bad weather.

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday 16 December, 11AM at
Ding How Restaurant, 4800 Whitesburg Drive in Huntsville. Phone: 256-883-1110.
Reservations are required. Everyone will be called. Please join us.

Surviving Spouse Corner: State-Level Military Benefits

Don't overlook these benefits available to eligible surviving spouses.

Many MOAA surviving spouses receive survivor benefits from DoD and the VA. Besides these benefits, state-level benefits are available to those who meet the criteria. State benefits are state-driven, unlike federal or VA benefits or entitlements.

Surviving spouses might not be aware of these state-level benefits because there is not a one-stop-shop website for military survivors.

Some states are more "military friendly" than others. The amount of benefits can vary from state to state; some offer as many as 60 and as few as 22 benefits to retired veterans, according to [the Center for a New America Security \(CNAS\)](#). The challenge is determining what benefits are passed on to the survivor after the veteran or servicemember dies. CNAS says military survivors receive less than 50% of what states offers to veterans.

To determine what state benefits are available to survivors, begin by looking at the individual state benefits for veterans using the [CNAS benefit finder](#). Next, locate the state you are targeting and then search for the "Beneficiary" category. It is important to verify eligibility, as many of the webpages might be outdated.

Some state benefits include (but, again, vary from state to state)

- Academic scholarships
- Property tax exemption or reduction of property tax (For example: Military surviving spouses who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes.)
- Survivor Benefit Plan tax exemption for state tax
- Free admission to national parks
- Free fishing and hunting license

Being aware of state-level benefits can also help surviving spouses determine whether they want to stay or relocate to optimize their benefits. Many independent variables need to be considered, such as cost of living and proximity to family support. Knowing the state-level benefits is a helpful tool in this decision-making process.



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: 340
Regular Members: 285
Surviving Spouses: 55

New this month: 4
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals: 5

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

COL Roger Matzkind, USA
CW2 Glen Snively, USA
LTC Johanna Mora, USA
CPT Bob Steward, USMC

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.

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Four Rose's whiskey. Also new – Yuengling Hershey's chocolate porter (It is well-hopped and dark in appearance due to brown malt. The name originated from its popularity with street and river porters).

Commissary

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

Christmas treats from all over the world – next to the bread isle – check it out!

Monday and Tuesday there were almost no turkey's left – plenty of hams. If you want a turkey for Christmas – buy early.

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

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

Chapter Happenings – Veterans Day Parade – 11 November



Chapter President Rick West drove in the parade and represented the Chapter well with his truck & trailer (Photo by Chapter member James Pointer)



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report October 2021

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

1. The October 2021 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are attached.
2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$13,967.62	\$16,522.30
Income	\$ 751.27	\$ 0.14
Expenses	\$ 383.10	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$14,335.79	\$16,522.44

3. Notable income: Proceeds from membership meeting meals, petty cash reimbursement, dues and our part of the Wells Fargo class action settlement.
4. Notable expenses: NAVFOC dues, office supplies, Zoom, and petty cash.
5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.
6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1,903.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019/2021 donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.
7. During the conduct of the FY21 financial audit of the Chapter's Operating Funds, a \$1.00 discrepancy between the Chapter's records and the Wells Fargo Statements was discovered. Efforts by the Treasurer and the Audit Team were able to narrow the error to the "Administrative" expenses category but could not discover the precise source of the error. The Chapter President directed that the \$1 discrepancy be annotated in the audit results (completed) and that no further time be invested in discovering the source of the error. The Treasurer and Audit Team concurred. The current Treasurer's Report and Bank Statement match and no further action is required on this matter.

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 or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible due to 501(c)(3) status. **If you are looking for a cause to donate to for the 2021 tax year, there aren't many better than this one! 100% of all donations go toward scholarships.** We can provide receipts and W-9s!

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

Total received for November:	\$0
Total received CY21:	\$8310



Army Scientists expect Initial Results this year on Vaccine Targeting all Coronaviruses

Human trials could start this summer Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, discusses a new COVID-19 vaccine the army has developed. He says human trials could start as early as this summer.

Army scientists working on a vaccine to target all coronaviruses, including mutations of the one causing COVID-19 and others that may emerge in the future, are finding data from early human trials promising and expect to publish the results by year-end. Researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research have been working since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic on a pan-coronavirus vaccine and are currently analyzing data from the Phase I clinical trial, which began in April with dozens of volunteers. They are following up with participants to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the new vaccine one month after each received their last dose. “Everything that we have been seeing from early stages of design of our vaccine and testing, in all different animal species, has really just been consistent and predictive of a very good response,” Kayvon Modjarrad, director of Walter Reed’s Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch, said in an interview with McClatchy on Tuesday. “Indications are that we are on that same pathway.”

The Walter Reed vaccine — called SpFN — may eventually be used by people who have already received other COVID-19 vaccines “as a bridge towards providing individuals continued, broad, long-term immunity for SARS-like viruses, whether they be variants that emerge in the future or new species of SARS viruses,” Modjarrad said. The SpFN vaccine deploys a soccer ball-shaped protein that can target the spikes of multiple coronavirus strains on its different faces. If the results of Phase I trials are positive, the Defense Department, the Biden administration and private industry partners will have to decide on a strategy to proceed with large-scale clinical trials and potential manufacturing, Modjarrad said. “When you get to the point of larger clinical trials, and larger manufacturing of vaccines, we have to partner with major industry,” he said. “So those are discussions we’re already having in anticipation of the results that we’ll be getting in the next couple of months.”

Modjarrad said that the same laboratories that carried out immune response tests for the vaccines that are currently available in the United States — produced by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson — are the same labs examining SpFN. “So we’ll be able to directly compare the results of our trial with those of other vaccines,” he said. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, told McClatchy earlier this week that the success of a vaccine like SpFN “would be an important advance.” “If it works and it’s effective, then you can get protection that would be good protection not only against variants of the given SARS-CoV-2, but you’d be protected against any other emergence of a coronavirus of pandemic potential,” Fauci said. “There’s a lot of important activity going on to develop a pan-coronavirus vaccine as well as a pan-influenza vaccine, and the need for those is clear,” he said. “We’re putting a lot of serious effort into it.”

Modjarrad said that the vaccine could also be of use in the ongoing fight against COVID-19. “There has been a lot of interest, a lot of momentum that’s been gaining in the investment and advancement of these broad platforms, to get ahead of the next epidemic,” he said. “I want to stress though that as much as I talk about this futuristic approach, we’re not anywhere near done with this pandemic.” Modjarrad said he fears the emergence of a variant worse than delta, the predominant strain of COVID-19 in the United States. “One of the nightmare scenarios that sometimes keeps us up at night in the scientific community is, what if you had delta marry and make a baby with beta? Beta’s the South African variant that was really good, probably the best, at escaping immunity elicited by the currently available vaccines,” he said. “Cases are waning in the U.S. in large part due to large portions of the population becoming vaccinated, but there are still large swathes of the world that remain very undervaccinated and that lack access,” he added. “Where there are large pockets of unvaccinated people, there is a high probability of variants emerging, and variants will quickly circumnavigate the world as we saw with the alpha variant and, most recently, the delta variant,” he said. “We don’t want to continue that cycle.”



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



Membership Application or Renewal

Yes - I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter!

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOAA National Membership Number

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

Attention Annual Members

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

A list of those members needing to renew is on the next page – don't get dropped from the rolls!

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.

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 annual memberships:

COL Tom L Albertson, USA
Lt Col Claude R Baldwin Jr, USMC
LTC Keith A Barshinger, USA
COL Gary L Bliss, USA
COL Darrell L Bright, USA
COL Robert A Brown, USA
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN
LTC Andre M Cota-Robles, USA
Col Frederick J Driesbach, USAF
LTC William K Emerson, USA
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
LTC LaVerne J Gehm, USA
CW2 Jerry A Haynes, USA
CDR John E Inman, USN
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA
Capt Melissa M Lacey, USAF
Col David W Lair, USAF
LTC John L Lewis, USA
Maj Autumn M Lorenz, USAF
LTC Mark D Lumb, USA
CAPT William P Nash, USN
Col Scott G Patton, USAF
MAJ Richard J Quinones, USA
CW4 Robert CSavage, USA
MAJ Curtis Smith, USA
Mrs. Travis Stewart
CW4 Jeffrey A Sumners, USA
LTC Harold E Walden, USA
MAJ Joe H Williams, USA
LCDR Frances K Witt, USN
CDR Timothy L Zane, USN

MAJ David R Arterburn, USA
Lt Col Barney F Barron, USAF
COL Lawrence J Becker, USA
LTC Johnnie L Bone Jr, USA
COL Douglas S Brouillette, USA
LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA
LTC Robert E Connors Jr, USA
RADM John E Crowley, USCG
Lt Col David L Dunlap, USAF
LTC Paul H Fall, USA
CPT Michael E Funderburg, USA
Col David C Hall, USAF
COL William A Holbrook, USA
COL Joshua S Kennedy, USA
COL Dale C Kuehl, USA
MAJ Mark H LaFlamme, USA
Mrs. Mary C Levaas
COL George E Lewis, USA
LTC Shaun S Lott, USA
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC
LTC Hector New, USA
Col Erin D Peterson, USAF
Col Adrian A Ritchie Jr, USAF
COL Kelsey A Smith, USA
MAJ James L Stanley, USMC
COL Ricki L Sullivan, USA
COL Matthew T Tedesco, USA
CDR Milton C Williams, USN
Mrs. Caroline H Wilson
CAPT Scott W Witt, USN

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Season's Greetings



Dale C Kuehl

Financial Advisor

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Save the Date – 26 January Member Meeting

Guest Speaker: Larry Leopard, Associate Director, Technical, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama

Larry Leopard provides expert advice in all facets of the Center's responsibilities by conducting special studies; provide authoritative advice and assistance in policy review; manage and report on Center-wide and directorate metrics and developing benchmarking strategies. He was appointed to the position in December 2020.

Leopard joined NASA and Marshall in 1990, supporting a variety of NASA programs and projects, including space shuttle propulsion elements; the Space Shuttle Main Engine Technology Test Bed; Rocket-Based Combined Cycle propulsion technology; Fastrac 60K engine; International Space Station payloads, International Space Station Environmental Control and Life Support Systems and research facilities; Small Satellite technology demonstrations; and multiple science instruments.

His aerospace engineering career began as a propulsion engineer at Martin Marietta in Huntsville, supporting Marshall's Propulsion Systems Laboratory from 1988 to 1990.

A native of Athens, Alabama, Leopard graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Leopard has received numerous NASA awards, including the Medal for Outstanding Leadership in 2007 and 2011; the Medal for Exceptional Achievement in 1997 for leading the Integrated Propulsion Technology Demonstrator team; multiple Center Director's Commendations; and numerous group achievement and special service awards. In 1993, he was awarded the Silver Snoopy, the NASA astronaut corps' award to those who have made significant contributions to the success of NASA's human spaceflight missions.

Leopard and his wife Shane live in Athens and have two children.



39 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
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
LTC Douglas L Oyler, 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
CW4 Samuel Smith, USA
Mrs. Edwina Morse
LCDR Chase D Ackerman, USN

Mrs. Travis Stewart
Maj William M Burke, USAF
Mrs. Billie K Jones
LTC Robert W Senn, 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
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
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
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 so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Governing Board Vacancies

The chapter either has, or will have, vacancies in several governing board positions. We need some dedicated volunteers to fill these positions and help the leadership team keep the chapter vibrant. Brief descriptions of the positions follow. If you think you may be able to fill one of the vacancies, or desire additional information, contact any board member.

1st Vice President: An important position. The 1st VP fills in for the President in his absence. He also supervises & assists the other board members & committees with their duties.

Membership: A key position. The chair maintains a roster of chapter members & keeps it in synch with MOAA National's online roster. Responsible for recruiting & retention of members.

Webmaster: Maintains the chapter's website & keeps it current. You can be as creative as you want. The position could be filled by a spouse, child or grandchild of a member.

Chaplain: Provides spiritual support to members in need. Provides prayers at chapter meetings. Provides a monthly newsletter article. You need not be a military chaplain or any type of priest or minister to fill the position.



TAPS

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

MAJ Ross Bennie Langston (USA-Ret) passed from this world on November 13, 2021 at age 96 years. He was born June 1, 1925 in Denver, Colorado to Ross Eamer Langston and Venda Mae (Disney) Langston. He was the youngest of four children.

He graduated from high school in Crescent, Oklahoma and attended University of Missouri and University of Maryland. MAJ Langston was extremely proud of his military service. He began his career May 4, 1943 with the United States Army and retired August 31, 1964. On September 2, 1964 he began a position with Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama where he retired on August 31, 1987.

He is preceded in death by his parents; first wife of 44 years, Abba Jean (Vanbebber) Langston; second wife of 21 years, Velda Mennie (Maynard-Davis) Langston; son, Richard Bennie Langston; brothers, Leonard Leo Langston and Melvin Herbert Langston; and sister Nina Leona (Langston) Cox.

He is survived by grandsons Richard B. Langston (wife Carol), Robert B. Langston (wife Krissi), Clinton Davis (wife Christina), Andrew Davis (wife Christel) and granddaughter, Bridget Davis Byerly (husband Steve); Great Grandchildren, Percy Langston, Zach Langston, Ross Davis, Noah Davis, Amelia Byerly, Liam Byerly, Lily Davis, Jacob Davis, Aaron Davis and Jorden Davis; Daughter-in-law, Judy Langston; and Special Nephew, Jakie Ray Vanbebber (wife Teresa).

Visitation was held Saturday November 20, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 at Valhalla Funeral Home, 698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, Alabama 35811, followed by a Funeral Service with Military Honors at 3:00pm. He will be entombed in Valhalla Memory Gardens. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.valhallafunerals.com for the Langston family.

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



News of the Weird

Creme de la Weird – It's back-to-school time all across the country, and in Kentucky, one district has an unexpected challenge in one of its high schools. WLKY-TV reported that high school students in the Meade County school district are attending school dressed as and acting like ... cats. One grandmother is upset because her two grandchildren don't want to go to school anymore. "Apparently, from what I understand, they're called 'furries,'" she said. "They identify with animals. These people will hiss at you or scratch at you if they don't like something you're doing. The students are told they can't wear hats or Budweiser shirts in school, but they can wear cat ears, cat tails, masks, leashes. It doesn't make sense." Superintendent Mark Martin says the problem is being handled on an individual basis, which he can't discuss

Suspicious Confirmed – Li Zhanying of Henan, China, is known in her community for having gone more than 40 years without sleeping at all. Her husband and neighbors confirmed her claims, saying that she stayed up all night to do chores and didn't ever nap. But recently, Li visited a Beijing medical center, where doctors used sensors to monitor her and discovered that Li does sleep -- with her eyes open and while talking to her husband. Doctors called it "sleep when awake," which is similar to sleepwalking. They said Li sometimes had "slow eyeballs and hollow eyes," indicating that she was resting.

Who Knew – When David Saunders, 98, died of COVID-19 in late August, his family donated his body to Med Ed Labs for medical and science research. But KING-TV in Portland, Oregon, reports that Med Ed sold the cadaver to Jeremy Ciliberto, the organizer of the Oddities and Curiosities Expo, which travels around the country and charges spectators \$500 to observe in person the autopsy and dissection of a human body. When investigators alerted Mike Clark, the funeral director in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who had prepared Saunders' body for donation, he was mortified: "I was totally horrified ... he and his family thought that his body was going for the advancement of medical students." Instead, it went to a Marriott ballroom, where participants were invited to examine and touch the body -- which might still have been infectious. Ciliberto says he can "guarantee" that the departed and his family knew what his body would be used for, but a Med Ed spokesman says the event organizer was "beyond dishonest."

Least Competent Criminals – In Winnipeg, Manitoba, a heist went wrong on Oct. 31 when thieves broke into a vacant house to steal a furnace. The Winnipeg Police Service told the CBC that neighbors reported smelling natural gas, and when officers responded, they saw two unconscious people inside the home. The thieves, who had been "overcome by the noxious gas fumes" after the gas line became dislodged, regained consciousness outside and were questioned, but, because this is Canada, were later released without charges.

Bright Idea -- Islamic police in Karo, Nigeria, arrested 26-year-old Aliyu Na Idris on Oct. 26 because he was trying to sell himself for 20 million nara, or about \$49,000, Oddity Central reported. He works as a tailor, but said, "The decision to sell myself was due to poverty. I plan to give my parents 10 million nara when I eventually get a buyer." Police said what he did was "forbidden in Islam," but he was released the day after his arrest and said the police only gave him advice.

Weapons of Choice -- Tahonee Fickes, 20, chose the closest weapon at hand to assault Kimberly Pittman, 52, inside a Walmart in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 7. A criminal complaint filed on Oct. 27 charges that Fickes "threw a cold chicken" at Pittman, striking her on the back of the head, according to The Smoking Gun. Fickes and Pittman are not related, and police have not determined a motive for the chicken hit. Fickes is facing an unrelated child endangerment charge as well.

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 340 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 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)
- 4 December – SEC Championship Game
- 4 December – Chapter Christmas Party – The Overlook - 1700**
- 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)
- 9 December – Monthly Board Meeting – 1000 - via Zoom**
- 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)
- 11 December – Army-Navy Game
- 13 December - New Zealand was discovered by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman (1642)
- 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

