

Volume 62, Issue 12
December 2023



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

I hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday. Felicia and I did, and now we are gearing up for ham and sugar cookies! By the way, what a great Iron Bowl!

As usual, November was a very slow month. Many members participated in activities for Heroes' Week / Veterans Day, but otherwise it was pretty quiet.

Just a reminder that our next meeting isn't scheduled until January – details will be provide later and in the January Sentinel. Our Christmas party is in a couple of days, and we have over 50 people attending! I am really looking forward to a great time. Thanks to all of you attending for making this a bigger and better event each year!

December is the final month of our annual scholarship drive. As you can see on page 10 of the Sentinel, we had a good month in November. We should be able to match or surpass our scholarship awards from last year. The Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and Chapter Governing Board will work on a recommended scholarships award donation which will be presented to membership at the January meeting for approval.

Membership Renewal! We have 43 members needing to renew – that is down from the 65 total that needed to renew at the start of our annual drive. If you aren't sure of your dues status, please see the list in the Sentinel on page 12 or contact Bruce Robinson or me.

Have a great December! Go Navy – Beat Army! Roll Tide!

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

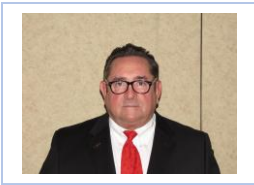
Stay warm and stay safe!!! Relax during the upcoming period!

Rick

There is no member meeting in December.

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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/>



It's going to be a wild primary election season in southern Alabama, from Montgomery to the southern corners of the state. Twenty-one candidates--eight Republicans and 13 Democrats have qualified to run for the newly redrawn and open Congressional District 2. They include sitting Alabama House members from around the state and as far north as Huntsville, a current and former state senator, and a former NFL defensive end.

The Alabama-2 Republican candidates are:

- **Sen. Greg Albritton** is an attorney in his third term in the Senate. He's chairman of the Senate General Fund committee. He currently has his primary residence just outside the district in Atmore, but also has a home in Conecuh County, within the district.
- **Dick Brewbaker** served two terms in the Alabama Senate until 2018 and recently sold his family's auto dealership in Montgomery. Early in his career, Brewbaker was an educator.
- **Caroleene Dobson** is a Montgomery resident and attorney practicing real estate law with the Maynard Nexsen law firm in Birmingham.
- **Karla DuPriest** is a caterer and small business owner from Mobile. She ran for the U.S. Senate in 2022.
- **Wallace Gilberry** is a Bay Minette native who spent nine seasons in the NFL as a tight end.
- **Hampton S. Harris** is a real estate agent from Pike Road in Montgomery County.
- **Belinda Thomas** is the co-director of the ALGOP Outreach Coalition and a member of the Newton City Council in Dale County.
- **Stacey T. Shepperson.**

The Alabama-2 Democratic candidates are:

- **James Averhard** served in the United States Marine Corps for 30 years until 2017. In 2020, Averhard won the Democratic primary election in the race for Alabama's First Congressional District but lost in the general election to now-incumbent Congressman Jerry Carl, a Republican.
- **Napoleon Bracy Jr.** is a former Prichard City Council member and current Alabama House representative for District 98, which includes Saraland, a seat he's held since 2010. Bracy Jr. has worked for Austal USA.

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

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

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

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

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

ROTC/JROTC: COL Gene Lesinski, USA-Ret, 845-725-3677, gene.lesinski@gmail.com

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2026)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2024)

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

So far exchange and commissary have not stated all holiday hours, expect the Exchange to be as prior years: Regular hours except closing early Christmas eve and closed 25 December.

Computers, TV's, laptops, tablets and I-pad's – be sure to ask about layaway without charge.

Remember the self-check-out lanes only take credit/debit and STAR cards. No cash back or tobacco sales and if it's a clearance item you usually have to take it to a regular register or customer service to get the correct price.

You always get 10% off (sometimes more during special promotions) your first day's purchases when you use your STAR card. Something to keep in mind for Spring and the eventual winter clearance items. Use your STAR card at the food court for 10% off your purchases and 10% off catering orders.

Shopette

Hours: Christmas Day closed. All other days expect regular hours 0600-2200.

New wines and beers – stop in to check out the selection. Gluhwein and a wide variety of holiday gift sets now available. Visit the Redstone Express for Holiday Party and Tailgating supplies. Various wine selections are on sale each month so stop in and see what varieties are on sale this month. Depending on selection and off the regular price, the Express usually offers 10% on a case wine (but not liquor) – be sure to ask!

Various specials around the store including gift sets for various liquors. Plus, many local and craft beers.

Always save 5 cents per gallon (usually more during holidays) at the gas pumps when you use your STAR card.

Commissary

Expect Christmas: Close early 24 December at 1600. Closed Monday 25 December, reopen Tuesday 26 December regular hours. Commissary now open Monday's same hours as Sunday 0900-1800. Tuesday – Saturday 0900-1900.

New Year's: Closed early 31 December at 1700. Closed Monday 1 January 2024, reopen Tuesday 2 January 2024 regular hours.

Continued on page 12

Need Addresses

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.

None this month

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:
LTC Nicholas M. Mikus
256-604-7767
nicholasmikus@comcast.net

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

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

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



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GERMI CLOUD,
NSSA, CRPC
VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
256-715-0094
germie@cloudfinancial.com



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



TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your health care coverage for the next year. Enrollment changes made during TRICARE Open Season will go into effect on the following January 1.

Mark Your Calendars

TRICARE Open Season is Nov. 13 through Dec. 12, 2023.

FEDVIP Open Season is Nov. 13 through Dec. 11, 2023.

Am I Eligible to Participate in TRICARE Open Season?

You're eligible to participate if you're currently enrolled in, or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option, including USFHP, or TRICARE Select.

Open season doesn't apply to active -duty service members. It doesn't apply to [TRICARE for Life](#)—coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and Part B. Open season also doesn't apply to premium-based plans.

If You're Eligible to Participate in TRICARE Open Season, You Have Three Options:

- Stay in your plan. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you don't have to re-enroll. You'll continue in your current health plan as long as you're eligible.
- Enroll in a plan. If you're eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can [enroll in a plan](#) during TRICARE Open Season.
- Change plans. If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

How Can I Enroll in a Health Plan?

You can enroll by:

- Enrolling online on [milConnect](#)
- Calling your regional contractor or designated provider:
- Submitting an enrollment form by mail or fax

Federal Benefits Open Season

TRICARE beneficiaries may also be eligible for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), managed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Your eligibility depends on your beneficiary status. You'll need to have coverage in a TRICARE health plan to be eligible for vision coverage.

Visit [BENEFEDS.com](#) to check eligibility, compare FEDVIP plans and rates, enroll in a plan, and more.

Making Enrollment Changes Outside of Open Season

Outside of TRICARE Open Season, you can enroll in or change enrollment to a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select following a [Qualifying Life Event](#) (QLE). A QLE is a certain change in your life, such as marriage, birth of a child, or retirement from active duty, which may mean different TRICARE health plans are available to you and your family members.

Outside of the Federal Benefits Open Season, you can only enroll in FEDVIP or make changes to your existing FEDVIP plan if you experience a FEDVIP QLE. Remember, FEDVIP QLEs may be different from the TRICARE QLEs. To learn more, visit [BENEFEDS.com](#).

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PHONE: 615.591.3937
TOLL-FREE: 888.468.9672
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Edward Jones

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

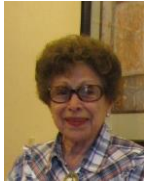
Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

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

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

The group will not meet in December.

Our luncheons will resume in January. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Kansas Chapter Member Honored for Guiding Surviving Spouses

Lt. Col. Roy Yenchesky, USA (Ret), has been married for 47 years, yet offered to serve as surviving spouse liaison — a position often held by a widow or widower — when the Wichita (Kan.) Chapter of MOAA needed him nearly five years ago.

“I had been a financial advisor for eight years and helped several of my clients through the death of a loved one,” he said. When the longtime chapter surviving spouse liaison moved and after many months of not being able to find a replacement, Yenchesky spoke up and said, “I can do that.”

A Life Member of MOAA, he is driven to help by “the knowledge that our surviving spouses may need guidance through the maze of benefits they are entitled to. ... It is a very complex journey, and even after five years, I am still learning.”

Using checklists, he approaches survivors in a low-key manner and takes them through what needs to be done. “Everyone deals with grief differently,” he said.

For his dedication in assisting surviving spouses in small and large ways, Yenchesky has been named chapter-level recipient of MOAA's 2023 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award.

Appreciation for him comes from both MOAA leaders and spouses, such as Sue Tanner, The Retired Officers Wives Club president and MOAA member, who benefited from his help after her husband died.

“It seems that Roy is always searching for more ways to simplify things for spouses as they are trying to navigate the military system alone once they have lost their spouse,” Tanner said. “He has made things so much easier for not only me but also many of the other spouses.”

Lt. Col. Michael R. George, USAF (Ret), president of the Wichita Chapter, agreed.

“Roy contacts surviving spouses and families of deceased members and assists them in contacting the applicable support agencies so that benefits are not interrupted or missed. ... When engaging members in conversation, his emphasis is that *now* is the time to take care of personal affairs. He beseeches members not to wait until there is a death to address these critical issues.”

Continued on page 16



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' (Luke 1: 26-33)

Under His wings you shall find refuge (Psalm 91:4)



As we enter the Christmas season, let us take time to think about Mary and her visit with the Angel who brought her the news that she would be giving birth to Jesus, the Christ child. Biblical times can be seen as very barbaric. A young unmarried woman giving birth would certainly draw the ire of her community. Mary, who by all accounts was a young child, was being told to not be afraid. So, Mary probably was quite disconcerted and scared. Yet, the angel told her not to be afraid, in that she had found favor with God. The angel went on to tell her about the power Christ would yield.

I see many people afraid today. It appears the world has gone crazy and people express fears of world events, the climate, finances, and the list could go on. With the world gone awry, we can find refuge under the wings of Jesus, the Christ, who Mary ushered into the world over 2,000 years ago. How might you find refuge under His wings? First and foremost, you have to acknowledge Christ, and ask him into your life. If you're already a Christian, you can strengthen your relationship by prayer, going to church, Bible studies, and even listening to Christian music.

Continued on page 14

Memorials

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to: Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 313
Regular Members: 264
Surviving Spouses: 49

New this month: 0
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 13

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


- **Merika Coleman** is a lawyer by trade and a member of the Alabama Senate representing District 19 in Jefferson County. She previously served in the Alabama House.
- **Anthony Daniels** is a former teacher, current member of the Alabama House representing District 53, and has served as the House minority leader since 2017. Daniels has a dental practice in Huntsville.
- **Shomari Figures** is the son of Alabama Sen. Vivian Figures of Mobile and was an aide to President Barack Obama. Figures was also the former deputy chief of staff to Attorney General Merrick Garland.
- **Brian Gary** is a surgeon at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, and a graduate of Tuskegee University.
- **Juandalynn Givan** is a lawyer in her professional life and a member of the Alabama House representing District 60 in Birmingham, a seat she’s held since 2010.
- **Jeremy Gray** is a small business owner and member of the Alabama House representing District 83, which includes Opelika. Gray has been the Democratic minority whip in the House since 2019.
- **Phyllis Harvey-Hall** is a graduate of Alabama State and Troy universities, and the president of several educational organizations, including Educational Services Inc. and Teaching Transformations, LLC.
- **Vimal Patel** is a graduate of Auburn University, a realtor in Enterprise, and is a resident in Dothan. In 2022, Patel ran for Alabama Second Congressional District, but lost in the Democratic primary election to Phyllis Harvey-Hall.
- **Darryl Sinkfield** is the assistant executive director for field services with the Alabama Education Association.
- **Larry Darnell Simpson.**
- **Willie Lenard.**

The District 2 seat has drawn a crowded field that includes several members who live outside it, but that’s allowed under federal law. And the fact that several of the candidates live outside the boundaries might lessen it as an attack tactic in campaigns.

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville said he’s open to negotiating an end to his blockade of almost 400 military nominees after meeting with fellow Republican senators, signaling a shift after he has dug in on his protest of a Pentagon abortion policy for more than nine months.

The Senate has traditionally approved large groups of military nominations by voice vote, but just one senator’s objection can upend that process.

Tuberville said he would work with other senators on possible options, and “hopefully we can start moving forward.” That was a contrast to last week, when he said there was “zero chance” he would lift the holds, absent a change in policy.

The October 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released 14 November, was 302.071, 0.3% above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. The next CPI-W release is set for 12 December. 



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report October 2023

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

1. The October 2023 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$19,823.19	\$ 1,702.86
Income	\$ 840.00	\$.22
Expenses	\$ 1,773.29	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$18,889.90	\$ 1,703.08

3. Notable income: Membership meeting meals, petty cash, and dues.

4. Notable expenses: Payment for the RAD lunch, payment to Summit Club for September’s luncheon, petty cash, and certificate frames.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$15,000 from Wells Fargo on 8 June 2023. The CD was for 5 months at an interest rate of 4.4%. To date the interest earned is \$222.21. The CD matured on 8 November 2023.

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

Scholarship Fund Donations

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

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year basis. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible - 501(c)(3). **100% of all donations go toward scholarships.**

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

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During November 2023

Col & Mrs. William McKinney, USAF (Ret.)
Lt Col Edward J. Gniadek, USAF (Ret.)
Anonymous (2)

Total received for November: \$1100.00
Total received CY23: **\$2040.00**





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



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

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

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

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

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

_____ MOAA National Membership Number

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

Attention Annual Members

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

Those annual members who need to renew are listed on the following page

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 brobinso1976@gmail.com.

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 annual members need to renew their memberships:

LCDR Chase D Ackerman, USN
Col Stephen C Baker, USMC
LT William G Byrd, USN
MAJ Lewis M Davidson, USA
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
COL Donald B Harmon, ARNG
MAJ Paul A Horn, USA
CDR Paul R Jensen, USN
Col Donald F Kimminau, USAF
COL George E Lewis, USA
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC
COL James E Moentmann, USA
LTC Mark L O'Brien, USA
CDR Rudolph M Ohme, USN
LCDR Neftali Pagan, USN
LTC Audrey Ransom, USA
CW4 Robert C Savage, USA
LtCol Brian J Smith, USAF
Maj Robert F Stierwalt, USAF
COL Robert J Thomas, USA
LCDR Emanuel M Tsikalas, USN
CDR Milton C Williams, USN


LTC Robert Archer, USA
MAJ Gordon M Brown, USA
COL Nathanael P Causey, USA
LTC James L Fairchild, USA
Mrs. Myrna Griffiths
LTC Donnie L Henley, USA
LCDR Charles A Jennings, US
LTC Edwin L Kennedy, USA
COL Barton Lawrence Jr, USA
COL Roger S Matzkind, USA
Mrs. Elaine Miner
LTC Johanna L Mora, USA
COL Jeffrey S Ogden, USA
Col Jon M Owings, USAF
Mrs. Gwen V Parks
CW3 Christopher C Ridenour,
LTC Douglas Schuetz, USA
MAJ William H Steele, USA
Col Drew R Taylor, USAF
CDR James O Travis, USN
LTC Michael K Wegler, USA

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

If you want organic fruits/vegetables check out the first sales area on your right as you enter the commissary. Plenty of turkeys and hams available. Hopefully the 69 cents a pound turkeys are brought back – and smoked turkeys continue to be available. Last time I was there the salads were very sparse.

Near the registers – chocolate and treats from around the world to celebrate your Christmas! Check out the long aisle of sweets and goodies that are good for giving and for treating yourself.

Check out the center of the store where warehouse pricing is in effect! Plus, additional holiday chocolates and candies from around the world. Throughout your commissary you will find specials that will make your Holidays the best yet!

Your Bakery and Deli can create Meat and Cheese trays or/and Sandwich trays. Please call 256-876-3517 and please give a 24-hour notice. Remember the Sushi Bar located by self-checkout. 



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**Merry
 Christmas**

Governing Board Vacancies

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

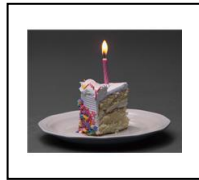
Surviving Spouse Liaison – responsible for keeping the surviving spouses of the Chapter informed & look out for their welfare – you do not have to be a surviving spouse to serve

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

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

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

Contact any board member if you are interested in filling one of these positions, or if you want additional information.



35 Birthdays in December

Mrs. Travis Stewart
MAJ Francis W Thonus, USA
COL Thomas M Devanney, USA
CW4 Carl J Woida, USA
COL Nathanael P Causey, USA
LTC William D Katholi, USA
LTC Thomas E Means, USA
LTC Gary W Flecker, USA
Maj Robert F Stierwalt, USAF
MAJ Bruce T Robinson, USA
LCDR Chase D Ackerman, USN
COL David L Wyatt, USA
Lt Col Charles W Zavadil, USAF
COL Dahl J Cento, USA
MAJ Paul A Horn, USA
Mrs. Rosemary Bundy
CAPT George C Skezas, USN
Lt Col Gerald W Haynes, USAF

CW3 Donald L Wagoner, USA
Mrs. Billie K Jones
LTC Robert W Senn, USA
LTC LaVerne J Gehm, USA
LTC Kenneth V Barnwell, USA
Lt Col Robert R Barnes Jr., USAF
LTC Malcolm R Sams, USA
MAJ William H Steele, USA
BG Leslie L Fuller, USA
MAJ Chester Williams Jr, USA
LTC Richard W Levan, USMC
CAPT Thomas L Jones, USN
Mrs. Dalila Carrasquillo
MAJ Michael C Maynard Jr, USMC
LCDR Daniel F Stayton, USN
Lt Col Joshua Soblasky, USAF
Mrs. Edwina Morse

If we missed your birthday, it's because we don't have it on file. Please e-mail your birth date to MAJ Bruce Robinson at brobinso1976@gmail.com so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

As we celebrate Christ's birth, remember the blessings you've been given and share them with others. There are many people we see every day who may not have the blessings you have. If you start getting stressed out, remember to seek refuge under His wings.

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

Blessings, Dave





TAPS

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

None this month

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Simplify Your Life by Joining the Chapter Life Member Trust (LMT)

Tired of forgetting to renew your Chapter annual membership? Want to make one more item in life simpler? We have a solution – become a Chapter Life Member!

The upfront cost is probably less than you think. We use your current age and the Social Security Administration Actuarial Table to figure the buy-in cost. For example, if you are a male and currently 55, depending on your exact birthday, the fee is \$271.00; 67, the fee is \$184.00; 70, the fee is \$163.00; and 75, the fee is \$117.00. Costs are slightly more for our female members due to enhanced longevity. If you are currently paid in advance, we'll give you credit for the years paid beyond 2023 which reduces the buy-in cost.

The LMT will pay your dues every January, so you can forget about keeping up with a payment. Help yourself and the Chapter by reducing the administrative burden for all of us and the postage cost to send in annual dues and to send out reminders.

To join the LMT or to find out your upfront cost, contact the LMT Board Chairman, COL John Fairlamb, USA (Ret.) at fairlambjrf@comcast.net.

Surviving Spouse Corner – continued from page 7

Yenchesky served in the Army for 26 years and commanded units in Korea, Germany, and the U.S. He did a combat tour in Vietnam and trained future officers at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and in ROTC assignments. He started Junior ROTC in Wichita, now available in eight area high schools and 11 middle schools. He is treasurer and membership chair for the Badger State All Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association and a member of the 173rd Airborne Association, AMVETS, and the American Legion.

Yenchesky centers his weekday schedule around babysitting his granddaughters, ages 6 and 3. “We play outside, build stuff with blocks, paint, color, do crafts, play family ... and do a lot of reading.”

His advice for his granddaughters? Exactly what he practices as a MOAA volunteer: “Be kind.” III

Army-Navy Game

The **Army–Navy Game** is an American college football rivalry game between the Army Black Knights of the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York, and the Navy Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy (USNA) at Annapolis, Maryland. The Black Knights, or Cadets, and Midshipmen each represent their service's oldest officer commissioning sources. As such, the game has come to embody the spirit of the interservice rivalry of the United States Armed Forces. The game marks the end of the college football regular season and the third and final game of the season's Commander-in-Chief's Trophy series, which also includes the Air Force Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFSA) near Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The first game between Army and Navy was on November 29, 1890. Since 1890, the two academies have played annually with the exception of five years and have played in consecutive annual games every season since 1930. Throughout its history, the game has been played in several neutral locations, including New York City and Baltimore, but it is most commonly played in Philadelphia, which is roughly equidistant from the two academies. Historically played on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (a date on which most other major college football teams end their regular seasons), the game is now played on the second Saturday in December and is traditionally the last regular-season game played in NCAA Division I football.

The Army–Navy game is one of the most traditional and enduring rivalries in college football. It has been frequently attended by sitting U.S. presidents. The game has been nationally televised each year since 1945 on either ABC, CBS, or NBC. CBS has televised the game since 1996 and has the rights to the broadcast through 2028. With the exception of 2022, ESPN's College GameDay has been televised from the game site on a yearly basis since 2014. Instant replay made its American debut in the 1963 Army–Navy game. Since 2009, the game has been held on the second Saturday of December and following FBS conference championship weekend.

The game is primarily played in Philadelphia, but the game has also been held in multiple locations including Chicago in 1926 and Pasadena, California in 1983. After Philadelphia, the New York area and the Baltimore–Washington area have most frequently hosted the game.

The series has been uninterrupted since 1930. Through the 2022 meeting, Navy leads the series 62–54–7.

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

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

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

Attention Members

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

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

Important Dates in 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)
- 2 December – Chapter Christmas Party – The Overlook - 1700**
- 2 December – SEC Championship Game
- 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)
- 9 December – Army-Navy Game
- 11 December - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi (1901)
- 11 December - King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England (1936)
- 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

