

Volume 56, Issue 2
February 2017



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Dear Members –

Why did you decide to serve? It may have been to make your country better. You can continue serving and improving your community and country by serving the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officer's Association (MOAA)!

We currently have chaplain, historian, and public affairs officer positions available so you can demonstrate your talents! We welcome the opportunity for you to make us better!

Your Huntsville Chapter of MOAA also needs more advertisers for our newsletter. Advertisements are an easy way to generate revenue. Each time you visit a local merchant be sure to ask them about advertising in *The Sentinel*. On your next visit to your lawyer, realtor, financial advisor, tax preparer, mechanic, home repair person – tell them it is a great way to reach several hundred military officers. You can also send me their contact information and I'll contact them. Of course be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ad in *The Sentinel* so they continue their patronage.

Please see page 15 for a list of members who need to renew their memberships. If you are on the list, send your renewal in ASAP. Don't get dropped from the rolls!

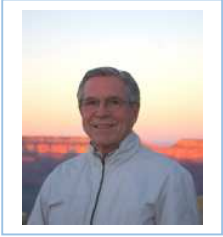
Continue to check out *The Sentinel* and our website at huntsvillemoaa.org for our meeting dates, opportunities for camaraderie, and many opportunities where you can make the Huntsville Chapter of MOAA seen serving in your community.

Gerald Maxwell

Get Involved!

<u>In This Issue</u>			
President's Message	1	Legislative (continued)	9
Legislative Corner	2	Membership Statistics	10
Concerns	3	Membership Renewal Notice	11
PX/Commissary	3	Birthdays	12
Fox Army Health Clinic	5	TAPS	12
Widow's Activities	6	Chapter Happenings	13-14
PX/Commissary (continued)	6	Members needing to Renew	15
Chaplain's Corner	7	Legislative (continued)	17
New Members	7	Surviving Spouse Corner	18
Treasurer's Report	7	Chapter Objectives	19
Guest Speaker	8	Important Dates	20

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



Legislative Corner

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



Take
Action

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

- **Ending 'concurrent receipt' of retirement and disability pays would save billions, federal agency says**

Editorial Note: I do not claim to be an expert on this subject at any level I but thought it important enough to bring to the attention of the chapter membership. But, as I understand this subject, it should not be confused with the 'concurrent receipt' concept of allowing receipt of benefit dollars via the Veterans Administration based on a percentage of disability, without reducing one's regular military service retirement dollars by the same amount. I believe this would apply to any level of "disability" validated by the appropriate authority, which to my knowledge would be the VA. There have been bills to bring this concept of 'concurrent receipt' introduced by members of both houses of Congress most every year since I began to have an interest in the subject, BUT without any success in passing subject legislation.)

Congressional researchers say that eliminating the ability of nearly 600,000 military veterans to collect retirement pay and disability compensation simultaneously could save billions and contribute to deficit reduction. Our old "friends" at the Congressional Budget Office, a federal agency that provides lawmakers with budgetary and economic information, say doing so could save the government \$139 billion between 2018 and 2026. The CBO's report was published online 8 Dec. 2016 as part of a series of options for reducing the federal deficit from 2017 and 2026. You may notice from one of the words in this office's name "budget" what their main objectives might be. You may review the report at: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/2016/521777>

The practice they are talking about eliminating is also referred to here as "concurrent receipt." (Again, this 'concurrent receipt' refers to veterans who meet specific criteria based on combat related injuries/ailments and has only been in effect since 2003 as I understand it.) By law, veterans are eligible to collect both sets of pay if they meet specific criteria. Vets who sustained career-ending combat injuries are eligible for combat-related special compensation, while those veterans who received a disability rating of 50 percent or more after at least 20 years of service are eligible for what is termed concurrent retirement and disability pay.

In its argument for eliminating concurrent receipt, the GAO states, "Disabled veterans would no longer be compensated twice for their service, reflecting the reasoning underlying the creation of the VA offset. However, military

Continued on page 9

2017-2018 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

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

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, higed992K@aol.com

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

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

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

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

Audit: Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

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

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

FTD flowers on sale at your Exchange – shop online. Stop in and pick up your copy of the Valentine's Day sales suggestions. While at your PX you can also pick up the new fragrance sales catalog with new ideas for Valentine's Day! While there remember to stop by the jewelry counter and check out the Valentine's Day sale items.

Plus, the new sales ads are available both at your PX and on-line. Big screen TV's and sound bars are on sale so you can watch and hear the game almost like you are there! Computers, boots, kid's clothes, furniture – it's all on sale at your PX!

If your New Year's resolution was to get in shape – your Exchange has you covered! Weights, clothing and equipment – all on sale at the PX!

Always be sure to check the super daily special on line and check the Friday frenzy deal every Friday!

Download the Exchange app for your smart phone and get the latest sales and the Exchange Extra app to scan items, get coupons, join the coffee club, get life style/fitness tips and receive the latest Exchange sale promotions – from anywhere in the world!

As always shop early for best selection.

Shoppette

Stop by and see the latest sales plus stock up for the big game! Your Shoppette has all the drinks, mixers, snacks and other party items you need for the big celebration when your team wins!

Plus, while you are at your Shoppette, always check for the latest sign up and win contest. It's your chance to win!

After shopping, don't forget to visit the Red Box and get your favorite movies to rent. Plus, download the Red Box app on your smart phone and sign up for text alerts for additional information, sales, plus free movie rentals.

Continued on page 6

Need Addresses

None at this time

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

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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



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

**CONDITIONED AIR
SOLUTIONS**
heating • cooling

AL #040131

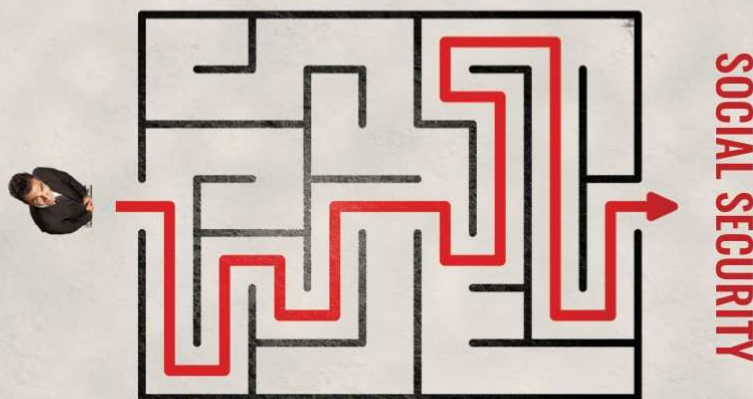
recognized by the
Employer Support for Guard and Reserves
as a Patriotic Employer



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

ConditionedAirSolutions.com

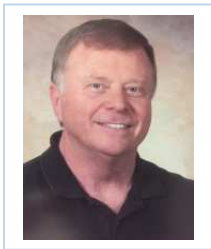
Do you know how the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset may affect the direction of your Social Security?



CLOUD
INVESTMENTS, LLC

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

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



Fox Army Health Center Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



New Patient Portal Secure Messaging Access

Since 2009 Military Health System patients who receive care at military hospitals or clinics have had access to a robust messaging capability allowing authorized patients the ability to securely communicate with their health care team. Known by different names such as Air Force MiCare, Army Medicine Secure Messaging and RelayHealth, Patient Portal Secure Messaging is accessible at this new link: <https://mil.relayhealth.com>.

All the same capabilities that users have come to appreciate continue to be available. Patient Portal Secure Messaging, powered by RelayHealth, is the same patient centric secure messaging platform that enables patients to directly communicate securely via the internet with their primary care provider team to receive advice on minor medical issues, chronic disease management, test results, appointment requests, medication refills and other health care needs.

Patient Portal Secure Messaging allows patients to communicate with their health care team at their convenience, whenever they want and wherever they are. Patients can easily access Patient Portal Secure Messaging from any device, e.g., smart phone, tablet, or desktop computer. It is a valuable service that helps save time and money by eliminating trips to the military hospital or clinic. Patients can reduce unnecessary appointments and stress by communicating virtually and directly with their health care team.

Talk with your provider or care team to enroll or if you are one of the 1.6 million Military Health System beneficiaries that have an existing Patient Portal Secure Messaging account, bookmark <https://mil.relayhealth.com> in your browser to continue communicating securely with your healthcare teams. You can learn more about this change at <http://sites.mckesson.com/milpatients/>.

We care what you think!

We are honored that you entrust us with your health. That's why we are driven to bring the best health care experience possible. In just a few minutes, you can provide information that helps us to better understand your needs.

The Joint Outpatient Experience Survey (JOES) asks beneficiaries across military medicine about the care they receive. From provider knowledgeability and communication, to services received at the pharmacy, radiology or lab, to the courtesy you receive here at Fox Army Health Center.

So, tell us how we did. You'll get a JOES survey by mail or email. It's completely confidential, and when you fill it out you're helping us serve you better. We're monitoring the outpatient experience of beneficiaries because we believe there is no higher calling than serving those who serve.

Your opinion matters to us!



Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Due to illness, bad weather and other factors we have experienced poor attendance for the last few months. Hopefully this will change.

This month's luncheon will be on Friday, 10 February, at City Café, 2003 Drake Avenue, Huntsville. Phone 256-715-1863. We will meet at 11 AM. Please come.

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

PX – continued from page 3


Commissary

Make your New Year a healthy one! At <http://commissaries.com> you can download the Nutrition Guide Program. A dietitian approved guide where the nutrition work is done for you! You will review educational material that includes frequently asked questions and over 600 items to help you build a healthy shopping basket. While on line check out the recipes, cooking tips, and coupons! Also, sign up for your commissary connection to make the most of your commissary benefit. You will receive the latest commissary news, promotions, events, and news about your local commissary.

Is your fridge ready for the big game? Shop your commissary to save on food for your football party. Save on chicken wings, veggie/meat trays, pizzas, soda, water, snacks and everything else you need for that perfect party. Also, check out the center of your commissary where many of the items you are looking for to celebrate the big game are featured and are on sale.

Also, don't forget to get your commissary rewards card! With your Commissary Rewards Card, you can redeem coupons electronically at the commissary checkout. After you pick up your card at your local commissary, just [register](#) it online and log in to your account to load coupons on the card before you shop.

Along with specially-selected coupons, we are continuing to work with our industry partners to identify additional rewards that could be offered through the card, such as targeted savings, promotion alerts and loyalty incentives.

Patrons can also download digital coupons to the Commissary Rewards Card from [Smart Source](#) "[direct to card](#)". 



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

Loving Our Enemies

The story is told about a wounded Scottish Highlander, stroking a German spiked helmet, as he lay upon a cot in a London Hospital.

A nurse quizzed him, "I suppose you killed your man?"

"No, indeed." was the reply. "It was like this: He lay on the field badly wounded and bleeding. I was in the same condition. I crawled to him and bound up his wounds. In return he bound up my wounds. He knew no English, and I knew no German. Therefore, I thanked him by just smiling. He thanked me by smiling back. By way of a token I handed him my cap, while he handed me his helmet. Then, lying side by side, we suffered together in silence till we were picked up by the ambulance squad. No, I didn't kill my man."

"But I say to you who hear; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."... "But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High for He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:27, 35-36, NKJV)



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO
HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

LTC Douglas Oyler, USA
LTC James Leary, USA
Mrs Nora Taylor

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

Scholarships

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

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Richard West for details.



Treasurer's Report

CAPT Richard West, USN

For the Month of December 2016

Beginning Balance	\$7444.79
Credits	2253.00
Debits	2172.17

Ending Balance	\$7525.62
----------------	-----------



Membership Meeting
22 February 2017
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker

Mr. Charlie Harriman, Cloud Financial

Charlie Harriman thrives on serving clients as their family Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to help build a comprehensive plan that accounts for all critical areas of their financial lives, including investments, income, retirement and financial planning. Charlie enjoys the financial planning process and helping clients of all ages take the steps necessary to achieve their long-term financial goals. He earned both his bachelor's degree in finance and his Master of Business Administration with a focus in finance from Auburn University. Beginning his career in personal finance in 2010, Charlie holds a Certified Estate Planner (CEP®) designation, along with his Series 65, life and health insurance licenses issued by the state of Alabama. He is currently in the process of earning his Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) designation.

Education is a key value that Charlie enjoys sharing with clients as well. Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, he shares a deep connection with the community, giving back through educational opportunities and client service. He aims to empower others with the knowledge to make informed financial decisions through workshops and college classes, as well as the personal financial planning process. He has also been sourced for his experience by Cheatsheet.com, Grow Magazine and Netquote.com.

Prior to joining Cloud Investments, LLC, Charlie worked in the healthcare and banking industries. These experiences, coupled with his formal education and designations, provide him with a distinctive perspective when providing financial planning. In addition to investment and income planning strategies, he can provide targeted advice for small business owners and younger families on topics such as personal finance, investing, insurance, estate preservation and similar. As a CEP®, Harriman provides proactive planning to help reduce taxes, fees and stress of estate transfer along with charitable gifting and legacy maximizing strategies. Charlie, and his wife, Hollie, are the proud parents to Hudson and Maggie. In his free time, Charlie enjoys golf and vacationing with his family.

Menu: Baked chicken, BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, coleslaw, strawberry cobbler & assorted beverages

Cost: \$15 for Chapter members and their guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

RSVP: CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, csgiving@bellsouth.net, NLT 18 February 2017

retirees who receive VA disability payments would still receive higher after-tax payments than would non-disabled retirees who have the same retirement annuity because VA disability benefits are not taxed." But many veterans' groups have long argued that the two payments should be completely uncoupled.

According to national MOAA, until 2003, disabled veterans had to select either their full retirement compensation from the Department of Defense or their disability benefit from Veterans Affairs with a reduced retirement annuity. This penalty became known as the "VA offset." "For decades, [the Military Officers Association of America] has sought legislation providing full relief from the 19th-century law that required a dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay for VA disability compensation," wrote retired Air Force Col. Mike Hayden, then MOAA's director of government relations, in 2015. "MOAA's position is that career service members earn their retired pay by service alone and those unfortunate enough to suffer a service-caused disability in the process should have any VA disability compensation from the VA added to, not subtracted from, their service-earned military retired pay."

Hopefully this has not been too confusing and hopefully it gives you some incentive to make your voices heard in the new Congress as the constant drumbeat to reduce costs of defending our country "from all enemies, foreign and domestic....."

• **Military Update: Avalanche of Enacted TRICARE Changes Poses Challenges**

This particular subject perhaps belongs in the Fox Army Health Center section of the Sentinel, but as I've stated previously, two of my main reasons for participating in MOAA are preservation of our benefits as US veterans and specifically preservation of the medical benefits that we were "promised" upon taking the oaths that we took when entering the various services. So, I have taken a particular interest in the ever changing picture of Medicare and TRICARE and how they are threatened by our various members of the US Congress as time goes by. Thus, once again, I address this subject here.

As I had indicated earlier, the National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 114-328), signed into law 23 Dec 2016, orders an avalanche of changes to the TRICARE health care benefit used by servicemembers, retirees, and their families. And it makes sweeping reforms to how the military direct-care system is organized and operates. The sheer number of changes and additional studies being mandated, filling 40 sections and 150 pages of the act, is more impressive than any short list of highlights we might be able to review here.

"There's a lot of good stuff in there. There's a lot of stuff we're still puzzling over," said Dr. Karen S. Guice, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. (She will likely have stepped down by the time you read this because of the change in administration), and the Trump administration will have assumed responsibility for the \$50-billion-a-year military health care system and a beneficiary population of 9.6 million. Guice emphasized many new provisions to modernize TRICARE and improve access will only accelerate reforms that the department already has been piloting or planning to adopt, though perhaps not at the speed Congress desired. The department's guide has been recommendations of the 2014 Military Healthcare System Review, which then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered to take a hard look at performance and outcomes at military facilities and through civilian purchased care networks, Guice said.

Beneficiaries have started to see the fruits of that effort in greater access to care and a nurse advice line. They will see more when the new generation of TRICARE purchased care contracts takes effect this year, and also with gradual rollout of MHS Genesis, the new electronic health records system. And all this is before many of the new defense bill initiatives kick in in 2018 and the years beyond. **Associations advocating for beneficiaries wonder how many changes the health system can implement before chaos rules.**

Continued on page 17

We just lost an advertiser

His ad was in this spot. We need to replace it with a new advertiser.

Do you work for a company who might be interested in advertising?

Do you run your own business and would like to make that known to Chapter members?

You all have many vendors and businesses that you work with. A hairdresser or barber. A mechanic. A contractor. Favorite restaurant. Car dealer. And on and on ...

Provide their contact information to Bruce Robinson – he will reach out to them for advertising.

YOU are the best source of referrals.

An ad in the Sentinel is an easy source of revenue for the Chapter. Every little ad helps.

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 363
Surviving Spouses: 65

New this month: 3
Deaths this month: 3
Renewals: 37

JON M. OWINGS, MD, FACS
specializing in facial aesthetics

Botox, Xeomin, Juvederm, Radiesse, Voluma
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
jomotn@knology.net

7693 Highway 72 W
Madison, AL 35758

256-325-1062
www.botoxclinichuntsvilleal.com

Our Sincere Condolences

CW4 Aniceto Bagley, USA-Ret, past Chapter President, Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, and pretty much whatever else needed doing, lost his wife Trudy of many years recently.

Please keep this great American in your thoughts and prayers.

ROOSTERS
MEN'S GROOMING CENTER

alroosters.com

2710 Carl T. Jones Dr. 256.270.7197

475 Providence Main St. 256.489.0886

Mon-Fri 9-7 Sat 9-4

Menu of Services

Roosters Club Cut...Precision cut, shampoo, hot towel and style...	\$26.00
Hot Towel Shave...Our special seven step process.....	\$22.00
Gentlemen's Choice...Club cut AND hot towel shave.....	\$45.00
Hero Cut...Club cut for active duty servicemen, police and firemen.....	\$22.00
Head Shave...Same special seven step process as the face.....	\$22.00
Beard Trim.....	\$12.00
Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline.....	\$18.00
Littlemen...Age 10 and under.....	\$18.00



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



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

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

Attention Annual Members

It is past time to renew your membership for next year



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

Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls - see page 15 for a list of those members who need to renew!

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

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

Don't want to worry about renewing ever again - consider becoming a Chapter Life Member –
contact COL John Fairlamb at 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net for the details

22 Birthdays in February Happy Birthday!



TAPS

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

**CDR Richard Taylor, USN
Lt Col Howard Carlton, USAF
CWO Bennie Robison, USA**

COL Douglas Brouillette, USA	COL Patrick Stone, USA
COL Don Stotser, USA	COL George Jobczynski, USA
MAJ Craig Ailles, USA	COL Alfred Paddock, USA
LTC Ruby Lardent-Davis, USAR	LTC James McWhorter Jr, USA
CDR Christine Downing, USN	COL Ricki Sullivan, USA
CDR Roger Berg, USN	Mrs Ouida Ann Turner
COL Dean Bekken, USA	COL Jeffrey Ogden, USA
LtCol Patricia Schuessler, USAF	COL Frederick Bisch, USA
Mrs Gwen Parks	LTC Lowell Twitchell, USA
MAJ Houston Yarbrough, USA	CW3 Ernest Williams, USA
CW4 Robert McCall, USA	LTC Glen Williams, USA

MEMORIALS

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

In memory of:

By:

Fox Army Health Clinic Pharmacy Dispensing Policies

- Maintenance medications: A quantity of up to a 90-day supply may be dispensed by Pharmacy. The prescription with refills may be filled for up to 12 months.
- Requests for exceptions to this policy may be brought to the attention of the Chief, Pharmacy Services.
- Prescriptions expire after 1 year from the original date of dispensing, except for controlled substances as described herein.
- The original number of refills will be annotated on the PRESCRIPTION LABEL. For example, 0 of 2 refills means there are zero refills left out of 2 refills prescribed.
- Controlled substances, schedule II, III, IV, & V: A maximum of a 30-day supply may be dispensed by the Pharmacy.
- Exception: Ritalin, Adderall, and Concerta may be dispensed for up to a 60-day supply, for Attention Deficit Disorder. Federal Law prohibits refills on Schedule II controlled substances.
- Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances: a maximum of a 30-day supply may be dispensed with a maximum of 5 refills.
- Dye free products are not stocked and are not available for order at this pharmacy.
- Controlled substances expire 6 months from the original date it was written by the provider.
- Keep the original package for refills.
- Controlled substance prescriptions must be hand delivered on the original prescription form from the provider with an ink signature.

Chapter Happenings



January Member Meeting – Guest
Speaker LTC Rich Ruffin



January Member Meeting – Newly elected Chapter
Officers sworn in by CAPT Tom Jones, USN-Ret

Chapter Happenings



Chapter gift basket for the
Community Women's Club
Fundraiser – courtesy of Chris
Downing



Christmas Gift
Wrapping at the PX

**The following Chapter members need to renew their memberships.
Please fill out the form on page 11 and send it in with your check.
Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls!**

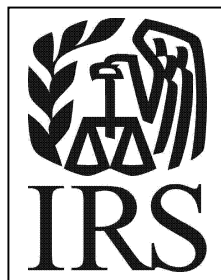
LTC	Melville	Adams	USA	LTC	Ruby	Lardent-Davis	USAR
COL	Mark	Arn	USA	COL	George	Laslo	USA
LTC	Philip	Bradley	USA	Col	James	Lee	USAF
CPT	Paula	Brown	USA	LTC	Charles	Long	USA
CW3	Braxton	Butler	USA	LTC	Robert	Mackintosh	USA
LTC	Richard	Carter	USA	LTC	Thomas	Means	USA
LTC	Patrick	Conner	USA	BG	Daniel	Montgomery	USA
LTC	Andre	Cota-Robles	USA	Col	Millard	Moon	USAF
COL	Edmund	Dowling	USA	CAPT	David	Newberry	USN
MAJ	Charles	Drake	USMC	LTC	Albert	Parmentier	USA
LTC	John	Fain	USA	COL	David	Pemberton	USA
BG	Leslie	Fullen	USA	CPT	Steven	Raymond	USA
COL	Ronald	Funderburk	USA	MAJ	Lilian	Richardson	USA
LTC	Robert	Hearon	USA	LTC	Malcolm	Sams	USA
LTC	James	Holland	USA	LTC	Samuel	Scruggs	USA
Col	Charles	Hummer	USAF	LTC	Harold	Walden	USA
COL	George	Jobczynski	USA	CPT	Arthur	Werkheiser	USA
LTC	Charles	Joyner	USA	LTC	Glen	Williams	USA
Col	Alvin	Kemmet Jr	USAF	MAJ	Houston	Yarbrough	USA
LTC	Edwin	Kennedy	USA	CDR	Timothy	Zane	USN
Mrs	Helen	Kolankiewicz					

Please direct any questions to CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, csdowning@bellsouth.net

Redstone Arsenal Tax Center

The Redstone Tax Center has moved from Bldg. 3489 Ajax Road to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Honest John Road, Bldg 3439, which is across the street from Pagona Gym. The grand opening was on for 23 January 2017. Individuals who qualify (Active and retired military members and their dependents if they have an ID, card as well as reserve and national guard members) to have their tax returns prepared at the Redstone Tax Center can call 842-1040 to make an appointment.

April 15th !



REDSTONE ARSENAL COMMUNITY WOMEN'S CLUB
presents at the SUMMIT



MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

10 February 2017

6:00 pm - 11:30 pm

Tickets: \$50 per person

includes \$5000 in casino bucks,
Mardi Gras cuisine, Roulette wheel, Blackjack, etc
for more information contact us at rsacwcsecretary@gmail.com



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

Legislative – continued from page 9

The Senate version of the defense bill had called for dismantling the medical headquarters of the Army, Navy, and Air Force surgeons' general. The enacted law is a compromise that directs a shift of key management functions done by the services to the Defense Health Agency, leaving the surgeons general to recruit, educate, and train their military and civilian health care providers and to advise DHA on medical readiness issues. Congress has staggered deadlines in the law across a span of years.

There are some gems in the law for families seeking more timely care. One provision ends a requirement that TRICARE Prime users get referrals from primary care providers before using a neighborhood urgent care facility. Another provision mandates that military treatment facilities with urgent care clinics keep them open daily until at least 11 p.m.

Those “are both wins for families,” according to Brooke Goldberg, deputy director of government relations for family issues at Military Officers Association of America. Other law highlights she noted require:

- Adoption of a standardized appointment scheduling system across all of military health care and also first-call resolution of appointments.
- New TRICARE contracts incentives to improve beneficiary access, care outcomes, and enhanced beneficiary experiences.
- Adoption of new productivity standards for care providers in military treatment facilities, which should mean more on-base appointments.
- Military providers' performance reports to include measures of accountability for patient access, quality of care, outcomes, and safety.

Military families will be eligible by 2018 to buy vision coverage through federal employee health programs, explained Karen Ruediseuli, government relations deputy director for National Military Family Association. Retirees and dependents will be eligible for both dental and vision programs.

As the new features are implemented, some are real and some are basically changes in terminology and name. For example, current TRICARE provider networks include those who participate in Prime and agree to take a discount from the normal Medicare-based payment. But many providers willing to see Standard patients for its allowable fee will not see Prime patients with its lower fee. “Will those providers be considered preferred providers under TRICARE Select, or will the Select network only include those who participate as part of the Prime network? If the former is true, then the transition likely will be smooth. If the latter is true, many more people could be hit with out-of-network charges, to the extent they aren't grandfathered,” said Goldberg.

Adding some confusion is language that grandfathers current generations of military families and retirees from a new schedule of higher fees to hit those who enter service on or after Jan. 1, 2018. But the law will require current beneficiaries to enroll in Select, as they do with Prime, and enrollment will carry a fee for retirees under age 65, beginning in 2020, if a government audit confirms improvements in quality care and patient access.

Dr. Guice took exception to one senator's characterization of the new law as a “first step in the evolution” of military health care from “an under-performing, disjointed health system into a high-performing, integrated” one. She noted a recent National Academy of Medicine study on military trauma care that found that over a decade of war the U.S. military had made unprecedented gains in survivability rates from battlefield wounds. “I don't think that's reflective of an underperforming system at all,” Guice said. “The people who created that learning system of care are the same people who provide the in-garrison care. That is evidence we really do value constant performance improvement.” ■■■

Surviving Spouse Corner: 2016 Year in Review

Last year was a time of change and new challenges. We began 2016 with a new name — the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) — one the committee felt brought a better understanding of who we are.

In April, we participated in Storming the Hill in Washington, D.C., with 160 MOAA members, visiting our elected representatives to discuss important legislation that would affect the military and their families, including the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. We asked that the offset be fully repealed, but if sufficient funds could not be found, that the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) be extended and increased to continue phasing out the offset completely.

Even though our work on a full repeal of the offset continues, in the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Act, the SSIA has been extended through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate. This will give us a chance to push Congress this year to increase and further extend the allowance or eliminate the offset in its entirety.

Our efforts to increase the number of surviving spouse liaisons at the council and chapter level continue as well. The number of surviving spouse liaisons has increased by 145. However, that number only represents a little more than half of the total chapters. We will continue to promote the importance and benefits of a surviving spouse liaison. Our goal remains 100-percent participation.

In October during MOAA's 2016 annual meeting, we honored two highly qualified and deserving surviving spouses with the Surviving Spouse Excellence Award: Paula Muth of the Heartland (Neb.) Chapter and Barbara Smith of the Hampton Roads (Va.) Chapter.

We also had two very productive committee meetings in 2016, during which we made decisions to:

- increase the member term limit from three years to four years, with an option to extend for up to two more years if a member is willing and able. This should provide more continuity and improve productivity;
- change the start date for new SSAC members from April to October to coincide with the orientation/installation of new members of MOAA's board of directors. New SSAC members can participate in the board of directors' orientation and be better informed about MOAA;
- increase the committee from six members to eight members on a trial basis. Two new members will be "virtual members," with no expectation of attending SSAC meetings in person. This might help bring in younger surviving spouses who are unable to travel for extended periods because of jobs, children, or aging parents; and
- find new ways to recruit and engage surviving spouses by:
 - using *Military Officer* magazine and social media to reach a younger demographic and
 - reaching out to and involving other organizations, such as the Retired Officers Wives Association, the Society of Military Widows, the Survivor Outreach Services, etcetera.

Because of the decisions made in 2016, we will be a stronger committee in 2017 and the years to come.

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

- Promote the aims of the national MOAA organization
- Further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA through grassroots activity
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services
- Maintain liaison and a positive relationship with the Redstone Arsenal Garrison and other military commands in the Northern Alabama area
- Provide a social venue for members to meet periodically and enjoy fellowship with people of similar interests and backgrounds
- Promote and assist worthy community activities
- Provide useful services and information for members and their dependents and survivors
- Provide representation to the Alabama Council of Chapters of MOAA
- Provide representation to the Northern Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition
- Protect the rights and interests of service retirees and active duty military members in matters of state legislation through the Alabama Council of Chapters

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have about 450 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us, and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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

Board Positions Open

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

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

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

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

Important Dates in February

- 1 February – Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart over Texas (2003)
- 2 February – Groundhog Day
- 3 February – The Day the Music Died (1959)
- 3 February – 15th Amendment ratified – right to vote (1870)
- 3 February – 16th Amendment ratified – income tax (1913)
- 4 February – Charles Lindbergh born (1902)
- 5 February – Super Bowl LI
- 6 February – Ronald Reagan born (1911)
- 8 February – Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)
- 9 February – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café**
- 10 February – Women’s Club Mardi Gras night – Summit Club
- 11 February – Monthly Breakfast – Royal Rose Café**
- 11 February – Vatican City granted political independence (1929)
- 12 February – Abraham Lincoln born (1809)
- 14 February – Valentine’s Day
- 15 February – Battleship Maine blown up in Havana (1898)
- 20 February – Presidents Day
- 20 February – John Glenn becomes first American to orbit the earth (1962)
- 21 February – Malcolm X assassinated (1965)
- 21 February – CIA Agent Aldrich Ames arrested for spying (1994)
- 22 February – George Washington born (1732)
- 22 February – Monthly Member Meeting - Summit Club – Charlie Harriman (Cloud Financial)**
- 26 February – “Buffalo Bill” Cody born (1846)
- 27 February – 22nd Amendment ratified – Presidential term limits (1950)

