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January 2017



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Dear Members –

Another year is almost over. I hope it was good for you and 2017 is even better! Charles has left a lot for me to try and live up to and with your help WE will.

Our Christmas Party on 17 December was fantastic! YOU should have been there! Entertainment was provided by the Moondust Big Band. It is a traditional, 17-piece jazz band that featured an amazing vocalist and they played the American songbook with energy, style, and class. We also had a door prizes and all of them you would want to win. You need to start thinking about reserving a spot for next year!

January means that it is time for annual members to renew their membership in our award-winning chapter. A renewal form is inside.

The end of the year brings the terms of our current elected officers to a close, and their replacements will be sworn in in January and provide chapter leadership for the next 2 years. We welcome anyone who is interested to attend our member meetings. If any of you are interested in stepping up and helping out, please let me know.

Our Chapter has several exciting events planned throughout the year. Some are trips you can sign up for and every month there are interesting and engaging speakers planned for our membership meetings.

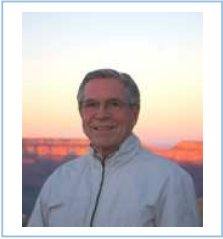
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gerald Maxwell

Get Involved!

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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/>

• **Military Update: Costs Kill Big Veteran Gains; Reserve Retirees Win Veteran Status –**

(This month's Legislative Corner will be somewhat of a summary of the year's progress (or lack of) in Congressional efforts on behalf of the services and the country's veterans. It is based on fresh off-the-press input from national MOAA, published on 23 December 2016)

For a while, it seemed 2016 would be the year Congress phased in a \$3 billion plan to give older generations of severely injured veterans the same caregiver benefits enacted six years ago for post-9/11 injured veterans. It also seemed like Congress would modernize the VA's archaic appeals process for veteran claims, and would impose stiff new accountability requirements on incompetent or misbehaving VA employees. It even seemed possible this year lawmakers would strengthen the Veterans Choice program by establishing prompt payment standards and streamlining requirements for community medical care providers to enter into service agreements with the VA. But, early election-year cheers of real progress on these issues by leaders of the House and Senate veteran affairs committees became mere whispers by year's end, due to fiscal realities and disagreements over reform priorities. The major veterans' bill passed in the 114th Congress, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016 (H.R. 6416), is named as such to honor the retiring chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the ranking Democrat on the Senate committee who will step from that position in the next Congress. Signed into law Dec. 16, it is long on ordering more studies of VA issues, and on tweaking current programs, but fails to make truly significant - and costly - program improvements. For proof, follow the money.

The Congressional Budget Office projects H.R. 6416 will raise VA appropriations by only \$33 million over the next five years. A third of spending is for "reports, studies, and surveys." Over the next decade, the new law is projected to lower VA direct spending by \$40 million. From the perspective of major veteran service organizations, the roadblock to critical reforms of benefits and services are budget controls the veteran committees must operate under. "Either the House or the Senate passed nearly everything that we, as an organization, felt needed to be accomplished in the 114th Congress," says Raymond C. Kelley, director of National Legislative Service for Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Except they couldn't get it to the finish line - passed by both chambers and onto the president - because of the

Continued on page 9

2017-2018 GOVERNING BOARD

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

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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

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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

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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

January is the month for after holiday shopping and upcoming Valentine deals!

Your AAFES store has a new manager reporting in December! In the food court, Popeye's is replacing Church's Chicken. As I reported last month, the Firestone store is closing on December 30th. Shortly thereafter, the new NAPA store will be opening – offering even more auto services.

AAFES is also moving closer to something they call "Parity". One of the things I've always said that if an item is offered in any Exchange it should also be available on-line. AAFES is moving toward that point. Right now it's at about 40%, and plans are under way to increase that number! Also, the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit (VOSB) is being implemented. This is a program that allows veterans who did not serve long enough to retire the ability to shop AAFES – online ONLY. The program is awaiting the Secretary of Defense signature for the go ahead. With decreasing budgets and MWR funds linked to AAFES monies, this will enable AAFES to grow and assist MWR activities even more.

Shopette

The Redstone Express will be open for your shopping convenience on New Year's Day. Reduced hours of 1000-1800 will be observed on January 1st and 2nd. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.

To really celebrate – Dom Perignon is available! Less pricy Korbel, Proseco, and Moscato are also available for your New Year's (or any time) celebrations.

Commissary

Look for after holiday sales on meats and Christmas items. You can also give the gift of groceries with a commissary gift card!

Plan your Valentine's Day shopping at your commissary with upcoming candies and Valentines gifts!

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:

Mrs. Liz Townsend

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

COL James D. Treadway

256-859-1484

jtreadway51@mchsi.com

Navy/USMC Representative:

CW4 Louis J. Kubik

256-859-3054

lkubik@mediacombb.net

Air Force Representative:

Col 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**

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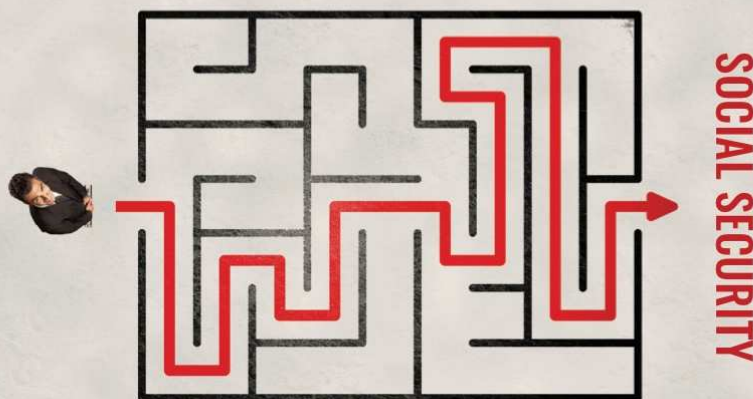
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who returned recently
from a year of
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Fox Army Health Center

Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Ready for Winter? Safety Tips for the Season

For many, the winter season brings family, merriment and holiday parties. It's easy to forget that winter weather can be dangerous. Don't let the season's severe storms, light dustings of snow or cold temperatures catch you unprepared. Make sure you and your families know how to safeguard yourselves from dangerous winter weather.

Snow, sleet and high winds can knock out heat, power and communication services to your home or office. Get prepared for weather-related emergencies, and follow these steps from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to prepare your home.

- Check your heating systems and have them professionally serviced.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Install both carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors. Check batteries regularly.
- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit.

Don't forget that during the cold weather months our bodies need extra protection. It's best to layer light, warm clothing, gloves, scarves, hats and waterproof boots for wetter weather. Work slowly when doing outside chores, and take a friend and an emergency kit when participating in outdoor recreation. And, don't forget to drink water. Even though you may not feel as thirsty in the cold weather as you do in the summer months, staying hydrated is just as important.

During the holiday season, some spend a lot of time traveling, but many don't think to winterize their cars. Have your radiator serviced and check antifreeze levels. Check your tire tread, and if necessary, replace your tires with all-weather or snow tires. You should keep your gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines, and use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

It is also smart to prepare a winter emergency kit for your car. Pack blankets, non-perishable foods, water and plastic bags for sanitation. You should also include booster cables, flares, a tire pump, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a first aid kit. If an accident does occur, with these essentials, you should have enough materials to keep you safe and warm until help arrives. It is also important to check on family and neighbors who are at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you can't bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink.

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous for all, but if you plan ahead, you can stay safe and healthy! Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more tips, resources and winter safety ideas.



Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

The December luncheon was cancelled due to numerous people being ill.

This month's luncheon will be on Thursday, 19 January, at Logan's Roadhouse. The address is 4249 Balmoral Drive in Huntsville. We will meet at 11 AM.

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

Managing Mental Health over the Holidays

Holidays are a time when families come together to eat good food and spend quality time. They also can be a time of stress whether you are worried about having enough money, hosting the largest family get-together of the year, or traveling long distances.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), it is important to give yourself a break from holiday stress from time to time to keep from feeling overwhelmed.

The [American Psychological Association](#) also has helpful tips for making it through the holidays with your mental health intact.

First, even though you feel pressured to be everything to everyone, you can't do everything alone. Everyone will benefit from you taking some time for self-care. Your break can be as simple as taking a walk, getting a massage, or taking time to read a new book. Make sure to get a full night's rest as often as possible. Slowing down will actually give you more energy.

You should also have realistic expectations because no holiday celebration is perfect. Use a lopsided tree or burned dinner as an opportunity to show how resilient and flexible you are. Mistakes are often what make memories. Make sure to also remind your children that holidays aren't about expensive gifts, especially if their wish lists are outside your budget.

Remember that you are celebrating your holidays with your loved ones, and that is what makes holidays special. You don't need elaborate decorations or gourmet food to create a cherished memory.

Finally, if you are feeling anxious, talk to your friends and family. Open and honest communication will help you figure out your feelings and find a solution for your stress. You may also want to consider seeing a psychologist or other trained mental health professional if holiday stress is getting you down.

If you have a mental health emergency, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911.



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

COMPLAINTS

Steve Dorner created the Endora e-mail system that in 1997 was used by 18 million people. To know that so many people are benefiting from his labor has to make a programmer feel good. Surely, millions can't thank Dorner enough for using sweat and knowledge to make computer easier. However, not all feel that way, and Dorner hears about it, because he now works for the company that owns the program.

Jo Thomas writes about in the *New York Times*:
He gets about 100 e-mails a day and says that having 18 million users "is very gratifying, but it can also make me feel a little hunted sometimes."

"I'm the one who has to, in the final analysis, deal with every single problem, and I tend to concentrate on what's wrong." He said,
"There are days when I think that every one of those 18 million people thinks I'm wrong, stupid, and out to get them."

God must feel something like this computer programmer. As the Creator He takes all kinds of blame from people who don't like His program for their lives. Often these people blame Him for their own mistakes. They blame Him for situations that are for the best often, but they cannot begin to understand.

Worst of all, people think God is out to get them when in fact the opposite is true. God has employed his infinite genius to program goodness into every person's life.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

COL Dennis Patrick, USA
CDR Andre Coleman, USN
COL Gary Bliss, USA

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 scholarship 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 November 2016

Beginning Balance	\$7918.36
Credits	1140.00
Debits	1613.57

Ending Balance	\$7444.79
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Membership Meeting

25 January 2017
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: LTC Richard J. Ruffin, USA - Ret

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Richard J. Ruffin is currently serving as a GS Government Employee for the United States Army ROTC Cadet Command where he serves as ROTC Recruiting Operations Officer for Alabama A&M University, University Alabama Huntsville (UAH) and for Athens State University. He is a US Army (Retired) Lieutenant Colonel with 22 Years of Active Duty Service and 15 Years as Army ROTC Instructor and Recruiting Officer.

He visits over 70 High Schools each year throughout the state of Alabama, Georgia & Mississippi, where he recruits hundreds of High Schools Students each year to attend Alabama A&M University and UAH. He provides dedicated support to Huntsville Cyber Summit, Huntsville Robotics Conference, and Parent/Student Sessions on “How to pay for a College Education”.

Lieutenant Colonel Ruffin recruits Active Duty Soldiers for college through the Green to Gold Program, recruits members of Army National Guard, US Army Reserves and Prior Service Soldiers to attend college through the SMP Program or Simultaneous Membership Program. Lieutenant Colonel Ruffin recruited and awarded over \$2 Million Dollars in Army ROTC Scholarships to 31 college recruits during the 2015/2016 School Year.

He is a proud graduate of Alabama A&M University where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and received his commission as an officer through the Alabama A&M University ROTC Bulldog Battalion and received his MBA from Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a Graduate of United States Army Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas and the Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced Courses.

He Served (2) Combat Tours of Duty in Middle East, (3) Overseas Tours of Duty in Korea & Germany. He served stateside at Ft Benning, Ga, Ft Stewart Ga, Ft Bragg, NC, Redstone Arsenal, Al, Ft Lewis, Washington and his last and most memorable active duty assignment was with USCENTCOM, MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, under the command of Gen Anthony Zinni and Gen Tommy Franks.

Lieutenant Colonel Ruffin was awarded Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Numerous Meritorious Service Medals, Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabia Defense Medals. He is most proud of his 32 Years of Marriage to his wife Alisha and very proud of his children, Jessica a Graduate of Auburn University in Medical Technology and Kevin is an Engineer with Tennessee Valley Authority.

Lieutenant Colonel Ruffin says there were many that helped and supported him throughout his military career and now he is in a position and has helped many achieve success in college and in life.

Menu: Chicken parmesan, baked ziti, seasoned whole green beans, tossed salad with Italian dressing, garlic toast, cannoli & 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, csdowning@bellsouth.net, NLT 21 January 2017

inability to fund it.” VFW and other vet groups “continue to beat the drum for ending [budget] sequestration, realigning budget caps to meet need, and [lifting] most other budgetary triggers pressing on Congress. The authorizers know what needs to be done,” continues Kelley. But until caps are removed, Congress can only approve major new benefits by making cuts to existing programs.

The Senate committee's much-touted Veterans First Act, which a bipartisan majority approved in May, had a host of substantive initiatives. The centerpiece was expanding the VA caregiver benefit to families of older generations of severely injured veterans from conflicts as far back as World War II. The price tag was \$3 billion, which the committee proposed to cover by raising interest rates on veterans reusing their home-loan benefit, rounding down disability compensation payments, and dampening the housing allowance stipend for the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit. Lawmakers know those are hard tradeoffs for veteran groups to accept. “As a veteran service organization, we cannot allow Congress to pay for one benefit with another benefit,” says Kelley. “We just can't go down that road” even though VFW eagerly supports expanding caregiver eligibility. Another Senate initiative - to consolidate outside provider payments to improve access to community health care - would cost \$34 billion over 10 years, an impossible expense to absorb with existing budget caps.

On the House side, Miller, a champion for forcing the VA to punish wrongdoers among its workforce, linked reform of the VA claims appeal process to tougher employee accountability rules, which federal employee unions vehemently opposed and senators rejected. So ultimately, the final catchall Miller-Blumenthal package had no truly major reforms to tout. Arguably the most welcomed provision bestows honorary “veteran” status on many Reserve and National Guard retirees who, until now, have not been recognized as such. The new law specifically states no added benefits will flow from the recognition, so there's no budgetary impact. Affected retirees spent careers in reserve components, attending monthly and annual drills, but had never completed a qualifying period of active duty service under Title 10 to meet the legal definition of “veteran” and receive a DD-214 “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.” Today, however, they are able to be called - and call themselves - veterans.

Other provisions take steps to narrowly improve access to health care, disability, and education benefits and assistance to the homeless. Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), chairman of the Senate committee, called H.R. 6416 a “down payment on the debt” owed to veterans. “Though H.R. 6416 reflects just a fraction of our collaborative efforts, it nonetheless contains many important provisions,” Miller told colleagues. Blumenthal noted that among the 76 separate provisions passed, some allow hiring of more mental health counselors and emergency room doctors, while others expand eligibility for homelessness-prevention programs and extend some education benefits. The latter refers to a provision extending the deadline for using the full 36-month Fry Scholarship for surviving spouses who lost service members early in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. They will have until Jan. 1, 2021 (instead of April 1, 2017) to obtain their educations using the benefit. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the added cost at \$16 million.

The original Fry Scholarship program gave full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Congress extended it to surviving spouses in 2014. And other highlights of H.R. 6416 will:

- Require the VA to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine to conduct an assessment on scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals exposed to toxins including Agent Orange. The estimated cost is \$16 million over five years

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: 364
Surviving Spouses: 65

New this month: 3
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals: 16

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Help the Chapter Recruit New Members

**Do you know someone who is eligible
to be a Chapter member?**

**Bring him/her to the next membership
meeting as your guest**

**If they join the Chapter, lunch is on us
at the next meeting**

You are the Chapter's best recruiters

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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's not too early to renew your membership for next year – why wait until the last minute

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

You can't even get lunch for \$10 these days!

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 csdowning@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

**20 Birthdays in January
Happy Birthday!**



TAPS

Our deepest sympathy to the
families of our departed friends

CW4 Lavon Messervy, 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:

Reminder - Revised TRICARE Pharmacy Network began December 1st, 2016

Walgreens pharmacies join the TRICARE retail pharmacy network on Dec. 1, 2016. CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, will leave the network on the same day. The revised network will have more than 57,000 locations, and still ensures timely access to retail pharmacies for TRICARE beneficiaries.

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) manages the TRICARE retail pharmacy network under a contract with the Department of Defense. ESI reached a new network agreement with Walgreens, but not CVS.

Most [pharmacy locations](#) in the network aren't changing, including other major chains like Rite Aid and Walmart, grocery stores, and thousands of community pharmacies around the country. About 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries still have a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home.

If you fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, it will be a [non-network pharmacy](#). This means you will have to pay the full cost of the medication upfront, and [file a claim](#) for partial reimbursement. Starting on Dec. 1, you can transfer your prescription to Walgreens, or any other pharmacy in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#) and [military pharmacies](#) may also be lower cost choices for some beneficiaries.

The [ESI website](#) has more information on the revised network, and can help you find a new retail pharmacy location near you, or call ESI at 855-778-1417.

Chapter Happenings



**Christmas
Party at the
Overlook**

**7th Annual
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Hosted by
Army Space Professional Association/
Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation**

14 January 2017

Serving time: 0700-1000

**Location: Applebee's located on Hughes
302 Hughes Rd, Madison, AL 35758**

Gratefully accept \$5 Donations per person



**Proceeds will support programs for the
Veterans, Deployed Soldiers, and Inspiring
America's Future Leaders**

**POCs: Phillis Reid, 256-225-3062 phillisgreid@gmail.com
KC Bertling, 256-541-0450 KCBertling@yahoo.com**

REDSTONE ARSENAL COMMUNITY WOMEN'S CLUB
presents at the SUMMIT

A vibrant poster for a Mardi Gras Casino Night Fundraiser. The background is dark blue with green and purple streamers and yellow stars. At the top, a large, ornate Mardi Gras mask is centered. Below it, the text 'MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT' is written in large, stylized, yellow-outlined letters. 'MARDI' and 'GRAS' are in a serif font, while 'CASINO' and 'NIGHT' are in a more playful, rounded font. Below this, the word 'FUNDRAISER' is written in a bold, yellow-outlined serif font. Two playing cards, the Ace of Spades and the Ace of Hearts, are positioned on either side of the word 'FUNDRAISER'.

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

DERRICK WILLIAMS
GRAPHIC DESIGNS


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

Legislative – continued from page 9

- Relax a rule that VA staff physicians can't work more than 80 hours in any two-week period, which has handcuffed the department in using its full-time doctors more efficiently.
 - Direct the VA to provide, in lieu of a headstone or marker, a medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone or marker of an individual, signifying their status as a veteran, if they served in the armed forces on or after April 6, 1917. The estimated cost is \$5 million over the next decade.
 - Require the VA to arrange for an independent assessment of the exams it gives individuals seeking disability compensation for traumatic brain injury. The estimated cost is \$2 million over five years.
 - Authorize contract physicians to conduct compensation and pension examinations at any location in any state as long as exams are within the scope of the authorized duties under the contract.
 - Expand the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims from seven judges to nine through 2020 to help address a backlog of claim appeals. The estimated cost is \$3 million.
- **Former Secretary of Defense Gates Highly Absolutely Recommends the Confirmation of James Mattis, Gen, USMC (retired) for New Administration SECDEF.**



Former Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates recommended Mattis for some key leadership positions while he was running the Pentagon. Mattis served as the head of two different combatant commands in that time - experience Gates says makes the retired four-star an excellent pick to serve as the next defense secretary.

As budgets tighten amid ongoing global uncertainty, Mattis could face many of the same challenges Gates did when he was defense secretary. 

Editor Needed – Member Spotlight Column

After over a year of providing thoughtful, and sometimes humorous, articles on Chapter members each month in *The Sentinel*, Chris Downing is taking a hiatus. The “Member Spotlight” column ceased with the December issue. We need a volunteer to take her place. All you have to do is contact one of our members each month, and have them tell you their “story”. If interested, please contact Bruce Robinson, 256-450-3191 or brobinso@mitre.org.

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 January

- 1 January – New Year's Day
- 1 January – Ellis Island opened in New York City (1892)
- 1 January – Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba (1959)
- 3 January – Alaska becomes 49th state (1959)
- 8 January – Battle of New Orleans (1815)
- 9 January – College Football Championship – Roll Tide!
- 11 January – Alabama seceded from the Union (1861)
- 12 January – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café**
- 14 January – Monthly Breakfast – Royal Rose Cafe**
- 16 January – Martin Luther King Day
- 16 January – Iraq war begins (1991)
- 20 January – Inauguration Day
- 21 January – Concorde supersonic airline began passenger service (1976)
- 23 January – USS Pueblo seized by North Korea (1968)
- 24 January – California gold rush begins (1848)
- 24 January – Hawaii annexed by the US (1895)
- 25 January – Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club**
- 25 January – First transcontinental airline flight (1959)
- 27 January – Vietnam War ends (1973)
- 28 January – US Coast Guard established (1915)
- 28 January – Space shuttle Challenger explodes (1986)
- 30 January – Adolph Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany (1933)
- 30 January – Mahatma Gandhi assassinated (1948)
- 30 January – Tet Offensive begins (1968)

