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July 2020



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

Welcome to July! Has it been rainy enough for you? My lawn is a jungle – cannot mow because it is so wet – however, it grows like crazy with the heat and rain!

We are slowly seeing businesses, services, and the Arsenal open. Many people are going back to work and back to using businesses that have been closed for some time. Not many have returned to normal and probably will not for a long time. Again, I urge all of you to continue to observe safe practices during this period!

With an average membership age in the 70s, I do not feel comfortable with any type of meetings for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we will continue not to hold any group meetings, including our monthly breakfasts.

In addition, as many of you already know, I have cancelled the 2020 Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. We thought about holding a simple event, but many of our members/volunteers/players and their families are in risk groups and this pandemic is FAR from over. We will still try to raise scholarship money via other means, including member donations and soliciting sponsors.

Retiree Appreciation Day – I have still not heard any decision from Redstone Arsenal about holding the event. I do know they are looking at many options. Regardless of the decision, our chapter will not be supporting the briefings, hosting the free lunch, nor manning a vendor table this year. I will update you on the status when something is heard.

Census – If you have not completed the 2020 Census, please do so! It is especially important to our country and our state. For more information, see: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

That is all for this month. **Stay Safe!**

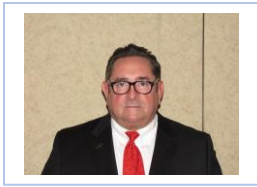
Rick

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

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



Charles is on hiatus this month with his legislative column. He will be back next month.

The following is a synopsis of the Alabama Legislature's activity on the final day of the legislative session:

The Alabama Legislature has accepted Gov. Kay Ivey's [executive amendment](#) that broadly details how federal coronavirus relief funds should be used.

The amendment deposits the money into several broad categories such as \$300 million to reimburse state agencies for coronavirus expenses and \$250 million to local governments.

Legislative leaders will get advance notice of large expenditures but have no power to stop it. The money can only be shifted to different categories with approval of a committee of legislative leaders.

Alabama lawmakers met for the final day of the legislative session amid a dispute with Ivey over the use of the \$1.8 billion. The Republican governor and Republican-controlled Legislature have been in a tug-of-war over the funds.

"I commend the Alabama Legislature for their cooperation by supporting my Executive Amendment to SB161. This friendly amendment ensures the CARES Act money will be immediately available to the people of Alabama and put to use under the intent of the U.S. Congress and President Trump," Ivey said in a statement after the House and Senate votes.

Ivey signed the General Fund budget, the Education Trust Fund and the PSCA bond bill that afternoon.

If you want to read President Trump's remarks at this year's US Military Academy graduation ceremony, here is the link:

<http://huntsvillemoaa.org/docs/POTUS%20Address%20to%202020%20USMA%20Graduating%20Class.pdf>

2019-2020 GOVERNING BOARD

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

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

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

Programs: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, csdowning@bellsouth.net

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@hiway.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

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

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

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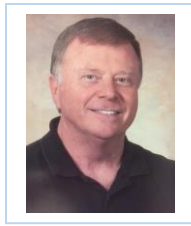
The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2020)

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

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Hours: M-Sat 1000-1800, Sun 1000-1700. Masks are still required at Redstone and the Exchange, Commissary, and Express will not allow you to shop without a mask.

Barber Shop M-F 0800-1600, Sat 0900-1700, Sun 1000-1600.

Don't forget the 2020 Sales Tax Holiday - Alabama Tax Free weekend!
 Alabama Sales Tax Holiday 2020 for school-related items begins at 12:01 a.m. **Friday, July 17th, 2019**, and ends at midnight **Sunday July 19th, 2019**, giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, books and clothing free of the state's four percent sales or use tax. <https://revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/sales-tax-holidays/>. Make your list now and get ready to shop! Your Exchange has a huge supply of back to school items—all tax free!

All honorably discharged Veterans will have access to shop military exchanges online (but not in store). Go to <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>

With the current COVID-19 situation on-line shopping is preferred. Don't forget to check the Deal of the Day! Your STAR card offers 10% your first day's purchases and you can apply online.

We continue to seek feedback from our customers and would love to hear from you. We hope to achieve 30 surveys during August, and we would love for you to help us find ways to provide better service to our customers! Our survey is online and easy to use. Please take a few moments after your next shopping trip to fill out our Customer Satisfaction Survey. The link information is on your receipt or go to <https://surveymonkey.com/s/MyExchSurvey>

Shopette

Hours M-F 0600-2000 and Sat-Sun 0700-2000. Stop in and see what the spirit of the month is! Next to that are the clearance specials and the accessories for all your imbibing requirements. Lunazul Tequila in Reposado and Blanco, Murder Creek -- Alabama Apple Pie, Peach Cobbler, and Dixie Dizzy Pickle (with pickles) Moonshine grain spirits - Ole Smoky Tennessee Moonshine pickles and salty caramel, Mango Habanero, Salty watermelon, and Peach whiskeys. Also, Baileys Almond milk liqueur, Jackson Morgan Banana Pudding Cream liqueur, Hoodoo Chicory liqueur, and various beers on sale.

While there stop at the Redbox outside and take in a movie night! Download the Redbox app and get specials!

Continued on page 11

Need Addresses

None this month

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

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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



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



TRICARE FAQs: COVID-19 and Face Masks

The following are some of the most frequently asked questions about face masks or coverings and COVID-19:

Question: When should I wear a mask?

Answer: Whenever you're out in public, like at your local grocery store or pharmacy, where it's difficult to maintain 6 feet of social distance, you should wear a cloth face covering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the coronavirus and help those who are unaware they have the virus from transmitting it to others.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is closely following guidance from the CDC as well. In an April memo on the use of face masks and coverings, the Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper explained the DoD policy, "Effective immediately, to the extent practical, all individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain 6 feet of social distance in public areas or work centers." You can learn more about DoD's directive by going to the [Face Masks](#) FAQ topic.

Question: I don't have a mask. Where can I get one?

Answer: You can make a simple face cloth covering using common household items. It's easy and cost effective—all you need is some cotton fabric, two strings, scissors, and a sewing machine. Don't have a sewing machine? Use an old T-shirt or a bandana and a pair of scissors. You can [read step-by-step instructions](#) from CDC or [watch the U.S. surgeon general's tutorial](#) on how to make cloth face coverings. Cloth face coverings aren't surgical or N95 respiratory masks. Those masks should be reserved for health care workers and medical first responders.

Question: Are cloth face coverings safe for children?

Answer: Depending on your child's age and health, he or she shouldn't use a cloth face covering. The CDC states, "Children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance," shouldn't use cloth face coverings. All other adults and children should wear cloth face coverings whenever they're in a public setting and can't maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Question: How do I wear a cloth face covering?

Answer: Wearing a cloth face covering properly helps protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms. When you need to wear yours, follow these tips recommended by the CDC:

- Wash your hands before putting on your cloth face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

When you remove your cloth face covering, be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Remember to wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water are unavailable, CDC recommends using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

You can find more information on face coverings, including how to wash your cloth face covering on the [CDC website](#).

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John D. Stover, LUTCF, Certified Financial Planner™, Certified Kingdom Advisor®

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Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

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

Everyone will be called when we resume the luncheons.

Surviving Spouse Corner: The Benefits of a Canine Companion

Dogs not only are loving members of their families, but they also provide needed therapy, comfort, and joy during difficult times.

By Georgie Suitor, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

"For me, a house or an apartment becomes a home when you add one set of four legs, a happy tail, and that indescribable measure of love we call a dog," said Roger Caras, president emeritus of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I couldn't agree more. Dogs truly are loving, protective, understanding canine members of our families. Science tells us dogs feel our moods and bring comfort when needed, as well as great amounts of humor and wonder.

For seriously wounded members of the military, a dedicated companion dog can help with the healing and recovery process. Because each of these specially trained canines is able to read human body language, there is a dedication to meeting physical and emotional needs, while forming trusted relationships and achieving a sense of human independence.

As a strong advocate of rescued pet adoption, for the past three years, I have had the joy of having Shih Tzu rescue brother and sister, Tye and Sadie, as members of my family. While sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tye and Sadie have kept me active with four walks a day and laughing, and I think they are quite happy to have me at home — most of the time.





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

Are You Really Free?

John 8:31-47

During World War II, June 1, 1945, the crew on a B-29 suffered a direct hit for a flak shell from Tokyo. Half of the big plane's nose was shot away. The pilot strapped in his seat, was dead. The co-pilot, his left arm hanging uselessly and blood streaming over his body, tried to control the aircraft. All of the gauges were inoperable. He did not know his speed direction or altitude. He was flying blind. To bail out, with the enemy below, meant sure death. When the situation seemed hopeless, two American P--61 Black Widow Night Fighters suddenly appeared on the horizon. They flew alongside the badly damaged bomber and nudged it back safely to Iwo Jima.

In 1984 almost forty years later, the crews of the planes met for a reunion in Long Beach, California. They recalled the day when death seemed so near and comrades in arms came along beside them and delivered them to safety.

There is spiritual truth in this story. Persons without the Lord are flying blind, with Death as their destination. We must come alongside them and guide to safety.



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: 356
Regular Members: 297
Surviving Spouses: 59

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

**Welcome New Members to
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

MAJ Michael Maynard Jr, USMC
MAJ Wesley Sparks, USA

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.

Want to Quit Tobacco? TRICARE Can Help

You just threw out a pack of cigarettes. You've vowed never to smoke again. You know that using products, like cigarettes, vapes, and smokeless tobacco can be harmful to your health over time. Now what?

If you're worried about a relapse, you're not alone. According to the National Cancer Institute's Smokefree.gov, quitting tobacco can be hard, and it may take several quit attempts before you reach your goal. But you've made a great decision. With TRICARE, you have access to a number of resources to help you quit tobacco, stay quit, and get your health back on track.

Tobacco Cessation Program

Tobacco cessation services are available to you as a TRICARE beneficiary. You can get covered prescription and over-the-counter products. In order to be eligible for these products, you must:

- Have a prescription from a TRICARE-authorized provider, including when getting a covered over-the-counter product
- Be age 18 or older and not eligible for Medicare
- Be an active duty service member or active duty family member enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Program Prime if you live overseas

You can get covered tobacco cessation products at your local military pharmacy or with TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. By using the home delivery option, you won't have to leave your home to get your prescription or product. TRICARE doesn't cover tobacco cessation products from retail network pharmacies.

Tobacco counseling services from a TRICARE-authorized provider are also covered, but only in the U.S. Learn more about covered products and services by downloading the [*TRICARE Tobacco Cessation Program Fact Sheet*](#).

YouCanQuit2 Tobacco Education Campaign

YouCanQuit2, a Department of Defense program, is a tobacco education campaign for the military. The campaign helps service members quit tobacco—for themselves and their loved ones. With YouCanQuit2, you can find tips on sleeping better without nicotine, see how to quit if you live with a tobacco user, and use a calculator to see how much you can save by going tobacco free. The campaign also offers 24/7 live chat support from coaches.

"Those who want to quit tobacco, including TRICARE beneficiaries, don't have to go it alone," said U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Kimberly Elenberg, chief of the Total Force Fitness branch at the Defense Health Agency.

"YouCanQuit2 gives service members the information, motivation, and support to stay or become tobacco free for themselves, their families, and their units. Service members can start their tobacco-free journey today by visiting ycq2.org to access resources and chat with a live coach."

Health Effects of Smoking

Smoking cigarettes can cause severe damage to your lungs and make you susceptible to respiratory diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people who may be immunocompromised from smoking or vaping may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Staying Mentally Fit

The constant news of the coronavirus can be stressful. But how you choose to respond can make a huge difference for your mental health. Avoid using tobacco as a stress reliever. Instead, talk to someone you trust if you feel anxious or worried. There are a number of tips the CDC recommends for supporting your mental health, which include exercising and limiting news consumption. You also have health options to choose from while you practice social distancing. TRICARE covers telehealth services like therapy to help you avoid tobacco use and cope during the national health emergency due to the pandemic. Be sure to talk to your provider if you have questions about telehealth services.

TRICARE is committed to helping you succeed in your attempt to quit tobacco. To learn more about tobacco cessation and available resources, you can check out the [*Military Health System Tobacco-Free Living*](#) page. Stay strong and remember you can quit tobacco.



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report May 2020

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

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

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$ 8,086.36	\$ 8,004.56
Income	\$ 580.00	\$ 0.07
Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,666.36	\$ 8,004.63

3. Notable income: Edward Jones paid for a quarter-page advertisement in the Sentinel for one year and MOAA National sent us a retention bonus.

4. Notable expenses: None.

5. Chapter savings account activity was limited to interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1403.07 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the 2019 RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from 2019 donations and will be applied to the 2020 RAD luncheon or similar event.

7. The Chapter re-invested funds into an 18-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) with Wells Fargo Bank on 19 March 2019. The CD was opened for \$8,174.85 and the current balance is \$8,424.35. The funds represented by this CD are for reserve funding and advance dues payment protection.

Scholarship Fund Donations

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

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During June 2020

None

Total received for June:	\$0
Total received FY20 to date:	\$50



Commissary:

Hours: Sun 0900-1800, Mon- closed, T-Sat 0900-1900.

I was at the commissary and the paper products are still limited 1 per person, but there are starting to be more items in stock instead of the totally bare shelves.

Rachel Ray Super Premium dry dog food (coupons at the entrance of the store), Breyers. Magnum, and Talenti ice cream and gelato on sale (also with coupons). Plus Club Pack discounts at the center of the store.

At <http://www.commissaries.com> you can check out the latest commissary sales flyer, recipes/coupons and sign up for the commissary rewards card. You will want to download all the football recipes!

Limits on Fresh Beef – 4 items, Fresh Pork – 3 items, Fresh Chicken – 1 item, Fresh turkey – 2 items, Fresh hamburger – 4 items per person, Breakfast bacon and sausage – 2 packs per family. IIII

Cancellation of the 2020 Golf Tournament.

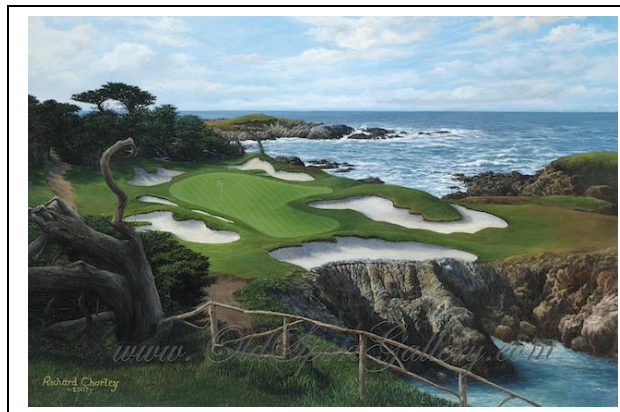
The Governing Board has decided to cancel this year's golf tournament. This decision was based on two issues:

1. Many of the players and volunteers for the tournament fall into high risk groups and COVID is not going away any time soon. We considered a simple golf-only tourney without an auction or meals and that just didn't make sense. We are pretty sure that participation would be very limited, and the effort and risk were just not worth it.
2. With the issues with the economy, we felt it was not appropriate to pressure sponsors and donors – at least for this type of event.

This action will have a SIGNIFICANT impact on our ability to provide scholarship funds. We still intend to do so at some level and will be working other fund-raising efforts over the next few months.

This is obviously not the preferred situation, but we all have to work through it.

Updates will be provided as things evolve.





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	

Governing Board Vacancies

The Chapter has the following board positions vacant:

- Programs – coordinates speakers for our monthly member meetings
- Publicity – gets the word out about Chapter events – especially the golf tournament
- Chaplain – provides prayers for Chapter meetings – provides support for Chapter members in need – writes a monthly article for the newsletter (you don't need to be a priest or minister to fill this position)

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Chapter President Rick West

Fourth of July – Independence Day

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2020 is on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

A History of Independence Day

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet “Common Sense,” published by Thomas Paine in early 1776. On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies’ independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee’s resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other.”

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Early Fourth of July Celebrations

Continued on next page

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In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.


Fourth of July Fireworks

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship's cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* reported: "at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

Fourth of July Becomes a Federal Holiday

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States. 



35 Birthdays in July

LTC Clifford T Flanigan, USA
LTC John L Lewis, USA
COL Maurice A Ottinger, USA
LTC James D Pepper Jr, USA
CW5 Charles A Covell, USA
LTC Robert E Connors Jr, USA
LTC William K Emerson, USA
CWO Howard R Raymond, USA
COL Dennis Patrick, USA
Col Stephen C Baker, USMC
LTC Daniel A Cutshall, USA
COL Mary S Hall, USA
MAJ Diana M Hansen, USA
MAJ Wesley R Sparks, USA
Mrs. Opal E Otto
LTC Paul H Fall, USA
COL James E Moentmann, USA
Col Erin D Peterson, USAF

Maj Edward L Morfenski, USAF
LTC Eugene A Marchetti, USA
LTC Robert Archer, USA
COL George E Lewis, USA
LTC Steven R Palmer, USA
COL Norbert Patla, USA
COL Raymond G Regner, USMC
MG John A Leide, USA
LTC Douglas Schuetz, USA
COL Louis R Durnya, USA
COL George S Laslo, USA
LT William G Byrd, USN
CDR Timothy L Zane, USN
Col Daniel J Krenzel, USAF
LTC Paul L Hoffman, USA
CH (LTC) Bert E Wiggers, USA
CW5 Harry L Hobbs, USA

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

MOAA National Legislative Update

The folks at MOAA National have not been able to support any Retiree Appreciation Days since February. All have been cancelled due to the coronavirus.

Therefore, they decided to do a virtual MOAA Legislative Update on Wednesday July 15th at 2 PM (Eastern).

The registration link is: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4126090414253786379>

Their software platform tops out at 3000 attendees.

Anyone who registers but can't attend will get an email after the webinar with a link to a recording to watch at their leisure.

Don't miss this opportunity to get the most current legislative information from our National leadership.



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.*



Election of Chapter Officers

This is an election year for Chapter Officers. Per the Constitution & By Laws, regular elections of officers will be held biannually on even numbered years. The Chapter President has appointed a nominating committee to identify Chapter members who would be interested in serving.

Officer positions up for election are: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary, Army Rep, Navy/Marine Rep, and Air Force Rep.

The nominating committee chairman or his representative will present the names of proposed candidates at the September membership meeting. Names of the nominees will be published in the October edition (electronic and printed) of *The Sentinel*.

Officers are elected at the October membership by those Chapter members in attendance. In the event that the coronavirus prevents an October membership meeting from being held, the Chapter President may call for a virtual election of the officers by polling the membership via e-mail.

If any of you are interested in running for one of the officer positions, or desire additional information on the duties and responsibilities of any of the positions, please contact the nominating committee chairman, Gerald Maxwell, at 256-606-5282 or gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov.

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5PM- 11PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 5PM- 6:30PM

Amazon Smile

We have registered the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund with the Amazon Smile program. This program distributes money to various registered IRS(c)(3) charities.

If you are an Amazon user, you can help our Fund by using Amazon Smile. Here is how:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>
- Sign into your Amazon account.
- Look for the “Supporting: _____” in the top left section of the page. Select the down arrow and you can search for a charity to support. All you have to type in the space is HCMOAA and it will find the Scholarship Fund. Select it and you are done.
- Vice using “amazon.com”, use <https://smile.amazon.com> for your Amazon shopping – it has the same items and prices as the regular page and is still Amazon Prime. In other words, it is no different than amazon.com. If you have a shortcut for Amazon on your browser or desktop, delete it and replace it with a shortcut to Amazon Smile.
- If you have any problems registering, drop me an email or give me a call! My info is on page 2 of the newsletter. So far, only one person has had a problem and that was an Amazon issue that cleared up quickly.

The Scholarship Fund will receive .5% of the purchase price of any eligible item. How do you tell if the item is eligible? It will say “Eligible for  donation” in the item description area. I don’t know what items aren’t eligible - I have yet to find one that wasn’t eligible. I polled the Governing Board and they hadn’t either!

So far, a lot of people have registered our Scholarship Fund – we need to get that number over 100! If you shop Amazon and don’t have a charity already designated, **please give it a shot and help the Fund!** The fundraising potential is huge!

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

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

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have over 350 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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

Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our 350+ members each month. All they can say is “no”.

If they are interested or desire more information, please let Bruce Robinson know, and he will follow up with them. His contact information is brucer76@knology.net or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in July

- 1 July – Internal Revenue Service established (1862)
- 1 July – Battle of Gettysburg began (1863)
- 1 July – President Grover Cleveland underwent secret cancer surgery (1893)
- 2 July – US Constitution ratified (1788)
- 2 July – President James Garfield shot & mortally wounded (1881)
- 2 July – Civil Rights Act signed into law (1964)
- 3 July – Raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda (1976)
- 4 July – Independence Day
- 6 July - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation (1885)
- 7 July – The US annexed Hawaii (1898)
- 8 July – The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence (1776)
- 10 July - The Allied invasion of Italy began (1943)
- 10 July - The Bahamas gained their independence (1973)
- 14 July - The fall of the Bastille (1789)
- 16 July - San Diego was founded (1769)
- 16 July – First atomic bomb detonated in the New Mexico desert (1945)
- 16 July – John F. Kennedy Jr. died in a plane crash near Martha’s Vineyard (1999)
- 17 July – Czar Nicholas II & his family assassinated by Bolsheviks (1918)
- 17 July – TWA flight 800 crashed off the coast of Long Island killing 229 (1996)
- 20 July – Neil Armstrong became first man to walk on the moon (1969)
- 21 July - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain (1898)
- 22 July - John Dillinger was shot and killed by FBI agents in Chicago (1934)
- 25 July - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico (1898)
- 25 July – The Italian luxury liner *Andrea Doria* sank - 1,634 people were rescued (1956)
- 26 July – The USS Indianapolis delivered the atomic bomb to the Japanese theater (1945)
- 27 July - The Korean War ended (1953)
- 28 July - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, DC (1932)
- 30 July - Former Teamsters Union leader James Hoffa disappeared (1975)
- 31 July - The US Patent Office first opened its doors (1790)

