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July 2024



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

Welcome to the heat wave that is summer in Alabama! Please be extra careful out there in this weather!

Remember – no membership meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 28th at the Summit Club with Meet and Greet starting at 1030. Our guest speaker will be **Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle**. With all the changes going on in the Tennessee Valley this should be a very interesting meeting. Please save this date on your calendars – RSVPs are now open. Send them to **John Vanderbleek at jvbleek78@gmail.com or 256.893.1565**. Family and guests are always welcome.

On June 15th, several Chapter members participated in the BBQ for the Vets at Tut Fann Veterans Home (see pictures in this Sentinel). I would like to thank members Sam Scruggs, John Fairlamb, Dave Dunlap, Ken Lawing, Marisha Findley, and Ed (and Chris) Kennedy who helped serve the residents and who socialized with a great group of people who have served our country in the past! Thanks all!

As many of you know, our fund-raising cycle has begun in earnest. Our 2024 Scholarship Fund golf tournament is scheduled for September 6th at The Links at Redstone. The Golf Committee is fully engaged in seeking sponsors and donations for the tournament and the silent Auction.

I know that many of you, due to work conflicts, summer commitments and just plain demographics, can't participate in the committee or the tournament. No problem! We know and understand and appreciate your situation. One way that you can still help is to send donations to HCMOASF at our P.O. Box. Please indicate that the donation is for the fund and whether you wish to remain anonymous or not as a donor.

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

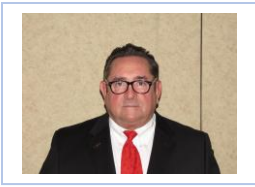
Have a happy and safe 4th of July! Happy birthday to our great country!

Rick

There are no member meetings in June and July

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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/>



In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world:

- He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

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2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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Navy Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret, 256-851-5903, rregner58@gmail.com

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Second Past President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, ctcbama76@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinsol1976@gmail.com

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

Chapter Hospitality: Vacant

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

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

Commissary & Post Exchange: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, avataxmax@gmail.com

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2027)

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Plan for the Alabama Back to School Tax Free weekend! This year it begins at 12:01 am on July 19th and ends at midnight on July 21st. Books priced \$30 or less, clothing priced \$100 or less, computers, computer software, and school computer supplies priced \$750 or less, and school supplies priced \$50 or less. Alabama tax-free weekends apply to state sales tax. Your Exchange is ALWAYS tax free – so the Exchange often deducts the normal outside tax rate from your Exchange purchase for the eligible items. Plus, everything your college student requires for the new dorm. Also, check out all the items (big screen TV for example) you can put into the now vacant room to make a man or woman cave.

Speaking of big screen TV’s—now is the time to gear up for all the college games! From desktop to wall filling, your Exchange has the TV for you! You can save even more by signing up for the Exchange STAR card! The first day you use it – ALL your purchases are 10% off on your bill!

Check out your Exchange on Facebook for a FREE Friday drawing, go to shopmyexchange.com to enter sweepstakes, and download Digital Garrison from the app store for more updates.

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

Your food court stores will cater your event – and give you 10% off with your STAR card! The Home Depot now partners with the Exchange offering free delivery, no sales tax, price match, financing, and protection plans.

In the walking area between the Exchange and the Commissary the UPS Store is still planning to open but date is unknown. The Tactical Store is now open.

Shopette

Stop in and see what the spirit of the month is! Next to that we have the clearance specials and the accessories for all your imbibing requirements. Also check out limited time specials.

Commissary

Commissary CLICK2GO is one tap away for savings and convenient online shopping. Download the mobile app and start shopping for the items you love! Then schedule free curbside pickup from your desktop or mobile devices.

Continued on page 9

Need Addresses

We have lost track of the below members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 to update their personal information.

COL Peter Luther, USA

Concerns

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

Mrs. Carrie Hightower

Persons to contact are:

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

Navy/USMC Representative:
COL Raymond G. Regner
256-851-5903
rgregner58@gmail.com

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

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

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FAX: 615.591.3932

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CONTACT:

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



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



FAHC is still accepting enrollment of current TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who do not have their primary care at Fox but have providers out in the community.

We are starting a monthly Patient Town Hall series – the Community Care Connection – a Health Care Forum for the Redstone Community. The first session will be on July 17 at 2 pm. Beneficiaries will have the opportunity to hear our new commander, LTC Deepak Mathew, speak about happenings at Fox and they will be able to ask questions as well. Location will be the Fox Den in the basement of FAHC and it will be available on Facebook live on the Fox Army Health Center Facebook page.



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

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



Dale C Kuehl, AAMSTM™
Financial Advisor
2045 Cecil Ashburn Drive S E
Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

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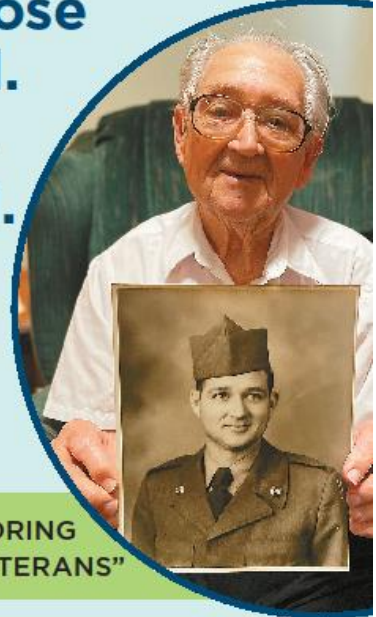
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5PM- 11PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 5PM- 6:30PM

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A point to live well, love well, BE well.



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Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Bonnie Treadway
256-859-1484

Our next luncheon will be held on Thursday, 18 July,
at Ol' Heidelberg Cafe, 6125 University Drive.
Phone: (256) 922-0556. We meet at 11AM.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Engaging Surviving Spouses for Membership Growth

Unfortunately, MOAA chapters lose members due to death. It is essential to recognize that for Life members of MOAA, their membership transfers to their spouse upon their death. But surviving spouses of military officers can also join MOAA on their own. The advantages of surviving spouses joining MOAA include:

- A MOAA surviving spouse membership unlocks unique benefits. These include a robust support network tailored to their needs, dedicated advocacy on issues directly impacting surviving spouses, and a wealth of resources designed to guide them through life's challenges after loss. Encouraging a surviving spouse to join MOAA is an excellent source for maintaining and growing chapter membership.
- As MOAA members, surviving spouses are welcomed into a community of peers who understand their unique journey. They receive updates on benefits and programs, participate in interpersonal and group activities, and find support and commitment. Joining MOAA bridges the knowledge gap that often follows the loss of a military spouse, ensuring all aspects are addressed. It is important to note that many surviving spouses might not know they can join MOAA, even if their military spouses were not members.
- MOAA surviving spouses gain access to various communication and support channels tailored to their membership level. These include telephone, email, magazines, websites, social media, virtual meetings, and webinars. This comprehensive range of options ensures they can always contact MOAA for assistance regardless of location or specific needs.
- Research published in [Jeffrey Saltzman's blog](#) indicates age does not influence why one should join an organization. People join because they seek similarity, regardless of generation gaps. The [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group](#) is an example. The group includes military survivors from different war eras, all joined for a common goal. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses can relate to like members with similar backgrounds and be associated with the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. The [MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) caters to surviving spouses with monthly Zoom meetings and, every other month, a guest presenter. Email MSSVC02@gmail.com to request membership or for more information.
- Surviving spouses can also join their local geographic chapter of MOAA, connecting them with other MOAA members and their spouses.

MOAA has over 360,000 members, with surviving spouses comprising 13% of MOAA's total membership. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. Membership benefits vary depending on the level of membership. Learn more [at this link](#).

Joining MOAA provides surviving spouses with advocacy, community, resources, and practical support, helping them navigate the complexities of life after loss. Speak with a surviving spouse in your network about [joining MOAA today](#), then encourage them to join the MOAA Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter.



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Romans 12: 2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)



Change! That seems to be the word of the day. I've watched my previous denomination change, it seems like they are chasing the culture, or as Paul might say, conforming to this world. The military as we know it has changed, whether or not we agree that the changes were good. Even our families have changed, especially as we watched our children and grandchildren grow up.

Change is an important aspect of our lives. We often find ourselves hoping and praying for someone to change from their unsavory ways, change from a bad habit such as smoking, or even start attending church or family gatherings.

Yet, if we aren't careful, change will conform us to the culture we live in. Paul encouraged us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind so that we can prove what is good and acceptable to the Lord.

So, how do we go about renewing our mind so that we can prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God? Regularly studying the Bible is one important aspect. Studying can come in different ways. There are Bible apps that will not only let you search but will also read the Scripture aloud. Knowing Scripture will help you test and approve the change coming into your life. Another way to renew your mind is through prayer. Spend time talking with God, making sure to take time to listen to Him. Yes, God does still speak to us, we just need to take time to listen for that voice that at times may seem distant.

Continued on page 13

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: 288
Regular Members: 242
Surviving Spouses: 46

New this month: 0
Deaths this month: 1
Renewals:0

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

None this month

Recruiting

You are our best recruiter. If you have a friend, colleague or co-worker who is eligible to join MOAA, or who already belongs to MOAA National – bring him/her to a Chapter meeting. You would be doing both them and the Chapter a favor.

Legislative – continued from page 2

- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
- He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
- He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
- He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
- He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- He has erected a multitude of New Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people and eat out their substance.
- He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

Continued on page 15


PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

At the entrance of your Commissary, you will find an opportunity to give back to your community. Pre-packaged bags for the Feds Feeds Families food drive. A wide variety of items bagged and convenient.

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!

You can also check out all the food recalls on the commissary web site. There are still supply issues with some salads and breakfast foods.

Follow the commissary on Facebook or on Twitter @YourCommissary. Also, while entering the Commissary check out the table of coupons and sales flyers. You will be sure to find something on sale to get great savings.

Your Commissary has you covered with extensive canning supplies located near the bread and self-checkout lanes. Plus check out the collection of MRE's. 



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report May 2024

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

1. The May 2024 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Saving
Starting Balance	\$18,733.07	\$ 1,703.59
Income	\$ 1,445.00	\$.02
Expenses	\$ 690.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$19,488.07	\$ 1,703.61

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

4. Notable expenses: Payments to web site services and petty cash.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$15,279.00 from Wells Fargo on 8 November 2023. The term of the CD is 11 months at an interest rate of 4.88%. The current value is \$15,655.53. The CD matures on 8 October 2024.

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

Scholarship Fund Donations

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

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

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

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During June 2024

Anonymous (2) \$140.00

Total received for June: \$140.00

Total received CY24: **\$140.00**





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



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

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

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

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

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

_____ **MOAA National Membership Number**

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

Recruiting

You are the best recruiting tool the Chapter has. Tell your eligible friends & associates about our Chapter – the best in Alabama. We have the lowest membership rate in the country at \$10. One can also sign up for multiple years.

Direct questions to MAJ Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 or brobinso1976@gmail.com.

We also offer a Chapter Life Membership – COL John Fairlamb - 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net - has the details.

Spread the word!

2024 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

It's that time again. The golf committee will have its next planning meeting on **17 July**, 12 noon, at the Links. Come early for lunch.

As always, we need volunteers to make the tournament successful.

You don't need to know anything about golf to help.

Some areas where we need volunteers include:

- Contacting local golf courses for donations of free rounds of golf
- Contacting local businesses to be hole sponsors or to donate goods & services
- If you are still working, getting your company to be a sponsor
- Filling one of the numerous staff positions on tournament day
- If a golfer, playing in the tournament & advertising it to others

Governing Board Vacancies

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

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

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

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

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



26 Birthdays in July

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CW5 Harry L Hobbs, USA | LTC Paul H Fall, USA |
| LTC Paul L Hoffman, USA | Mrs. Opal E Otto |
| CW2 Noel G Snivley, USA | LTC Gregg M Dellert, USA |
| COL Matthew T Tedesco, USA | LT William G Byrd, USN |
| COL Mary S Hall-Van Bebber, USA | Mrs. Carol P Worsham |
| LTC Daniel A Cutshall, USA | COL Louis R Durnya, USA |
| Col Stephen C Baker, USMC | Col James M Kendall, USAF |
| COL Dennis Patrick, USA | MG John A Leide, USA |
| COL Raymond G Regner, USMC | LTC William K Emerson, USA |
| COL Norbert Patla, USA | MAJ Jean M Downs, USA |
| LTC Steven R Palmer, USA | COL George E Lewis, USA |
| LTC James D Pepper Jr, USA | LTC Robert Archer, USA |
| Maj Edward L Morfenski, USAF | LTC Eugene A Marchetti, 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 brobinso1976@gmail.com so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

Change will always be with us. It's our duty to keep renewing our minds so that we can test and approve what God's will is so that we are not conformed to the culture we find ourselves part of.

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

Blessings, Dave





TAPS

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

COL Melvin Jackson McLemore, USA-Ret - 85 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at Huntsville Hospital. Col. McLemore was born on October 29th, 1938, in Athens, to Grady and Ruby Pugh McLemore.

His 30-year military career as an US Active Duty Officer consists of time in the Signal, Aviation, and Air Traffic Control Services. His civilian service following military retirement includes 15 years with Defense Industry with Allied Signal and SAIC. He also served approximately 10 years as Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 511 Treasurer. In this capacity, his service was recognized by the National Vietnam War Museum in 2024.

Col. McLemore is survived by his wife of 63 years, Wanda Crow McLemore; daughters Stormy Sandi McLemore Ripley (Jim) and Deborah Ann McLemore McClendon (Bryan); and grandchildren Shane, Christina, Brandon, and Catherine.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Ruby McLemore.

Funeral services for Col. McLemore were held Friday, June 14th, 2024, at 2:00pm at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. Visitation was held Friday from 12:00-1:50pm at the funeral home. Burial was at Roselawn Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jim Ripley, Bryan McClendon, Shane Ripley, James Burch, Austin Crews, and Jack Massengill. Following the burial, a reception dinner with the family was held at the Alabama Veteran's Museum. The family requests patriotic colors be worn for the service.

Families can either send flowers to Limestone Chapel Funeral Home for the service or make donations in Col. McLemore's memory to the Alabama Veteran's Museum, located at 114 Pryor Street, Athens AL 35611.

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



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- For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
- For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
- For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
- For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences
- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
- He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
- He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
- He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.
- He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
- He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. 

Beware of Vacation Scams this Summer

Overview

Vacation scams target people trying to unwind, often using low prices — or even free trips — as bait to steal your money or personal information.

When booking your next vacation, steer clear of any deals that seem too good to be true, high-pressure sales tactics (especially those for a timeshare or vacation membership), or companies that require you to pay using wire transfer, gift card, or peer-to-peer payment app.

Everyone dreams of a relaxing vacation, but it's important not to let visions of a sunny summer cloud your judgment when it comes to spotting a scam.

According to the [Federal Trade Commission's \(FTC\)](#), more than 55,000 cases of travel, vacation, and timeshare scams were reported that year, draining \$122 million from victims, and earning a spot among the top 10 types of fraud reported in 2023.

Types of vacation scams

Vacation scams come in all shapes and sizes. Some prey on people's desire to get away for some rest and relaxation, luring victims in with irresistible deals that prove to be too good to be true. Others take advantage of vacationers' lowered guard while they're unplugged from daily life.

Stay safe from clever schemes like these by planning your next getaway with these common types of vacation and travel scams in mind.

Free vacation scams

Imagine receiving an email, flyer in the mail, or text saying "Congratulations! You're eligible for a free all-inclusive trip to Hawaii."

While it might seem like it's your lucky day unfortunately, it's more likely that you're the target of a potential scam than the winner of an epic deal.

In some cases, a fraudster uses the promise of a free trip to steal your money outright. They may say you need to send a small one-time fee to cover travel expenses or taxes to claim the prize — money that you won't get back.

Alternatively, they may say that the vacation will be yours once you fill out a form with your [personal information](#) which they can then use to commit [identity theft](#).

In other scams, the cruise or vacation may be legit but there are a host of undisclosed fees that the recipient gets roped into paying once accepting the offer.

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Chapter Happenings – June Annual Tut Fann BBQ for the Vets!



Chapter members: Sam Scruggs, John Fairlamb, Dave Dunlap, SGM Patrick (SMA), Rick West, Ken Lawing, Marisha Findley, Ed (and Chris) Kennedy



Uncle Sam (Dave Dunlap) performs for the Vets!



Chapter members line up to serve the Vets



A great time was had by all!

Vacation Scams – continued from page 16

Red flags of “free” vacation scams:

- You’re told you won a sweepstakes for a trip you didn’t enter to win.
- You receive an unsolicited offer for a vacation deal from a company you’ve never heard of.
- You’re told you must “act now” to claim the offer.
- The offer doesn’t include important details like that it’s with a “five-star” cruise line but not the company name.

Fake rental scams

Home-share websites like Airbnb and Vrbo have may have changed the travel game but they’re unfortunately not immune to scammers.

These sites — as well as Craigslist and even websites for fake rental agencies — may list phony rentals priced “too good to be true” low. In some cases, the listing information is stolen from a [legitimate website](#); in others, it’s completely fabricated.

Regardless, the goal is to collect your money for a rental that doesn’t exist or isn’t available when you think it will be.

Red flags of fake rental scams:

- The rental’s price is substantially lower than any other rentals in the area.
- You’re pressured to pay on the side.
- You can’t pay with your credit card.
- You can’t find reviews about the renter or rental company.

Travel document scams

Travel document scams target people gearing up for international travel. A bad actor may advertise expedited delivery of travel documents like a passport or visa, or just offer passport application services for a fee higher than you’d pay through the [U.S. Department of State](#).

It could also involve international driving permits, allowing you to drive in foreign countries using your U.S.-issued driver’s license. A fraudster may provide the document, but at a higher fee than you’d need to pay going through an official government agency. Alternatively, they might pocket your money then provide a phony document, putting you at risk for trouble with foreign law enforcement.

These scams are often advertised online, appearing when you perform a web search like “Where do I get a passport?” or “How to get an international driver’s permit?”

They’re especially risky because if you disclose personal information, like your [Social Security number](#), when applying for travel documents, a scammer could use that information commit identity theft and/or [financial fraud](#).

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Red flags of travel document scams:

- You're applying through a third-party provider; The U.S. Department of State is the safest and most secure place to obtain travel documents. You can also safely acquire international driving permits through the American Automobile Association (AAA).
- The company charges fees higher than what you'd pay going through a federal agency like the U.S. Department of State.
- You're asked to pay using a risky method, such as a wire transfer or peer-to-peer payment app.

Timeshare and timeshare exit scams

Though timeshares aren't illegal, they can sometimes hit you and your bank account as hard as a full-fledged scam.

In some cases, a person shells out thousands of dollars to sign up for a timeshare — or “vacation club” or “travel club membership” — only to find out that the properties are never available or aren't of the quality they were promised.

Timeshare owners are also often blindsided by the amount of money they have to sink into “maintenance fees” every year, as well as by how difficult it is to terminate a contract for a timeshare. In fact, timeshare *exit* scams have emerged in recent years to prey on how notoriously difficult timeshares are to get out of. In these scams, a company promises to end a timeshare contract, oftentimes easing your doubts with a “money-back guarantee.” They may charge thousands of dollars upfront for the service then cut correspondence entirely or never follow through, leaving you out the money you paid — and still with timeshare ownership.

Though not all timeshares or travel club memberships are a scam, many come with fees that aren't disclosed during the sales process, which can be fast moving and pressure filled.


If you're considering investing in a timeshare, take your time and make sure you fully understand the financial commitment you'd be making if you were to invest in one.

Red flags of a timeshare scam:

- You're pressured while on vacation.
- You're promised a “money-back guarantee.”
- You're required to pay for timeshare exit assistance upfront.

How to avoid vacation scams

In general, keep in mind that planning a vacation takes research. When you're booking a trip, use reputable websites and companies and take time to verify that they're legitimate by checking reviews and ratings.

Be suspicious of any major discounts and never pay for a vacation — or for travel documents — using a payment method that doesn't offer fraud protection. 

MHS GENESIS Secure Messaging: A Direct Line to Your Military Health Care Team

Have you ever left your doctor's office and then realized you forgot to ask an important question? Or had a question about your medication that couldn't wait for your next appointment?

If you get care at a military hospital or clinic, you don't need to wait until your next appointment to ask these questions. That's because the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#) lets you speak to your military health care team at your military hospital or clinic through secure messaging. This makes managing your health care easier and more efficient.

How secure messaging works

Functionally, secure messaging works similarly to other text-based messaging systems, with the added benefit of encryption. Only you and your military health care team can access these conversations.

Secure messaging doesn't involve the exchange of traditional emails. But you'll get an email whenever you get a new message.

When to use secure messaging

You can use this feature to:

- Ask health-related questions and get non-emergency health advice.
- Request [referrals](#) to specialists. (Certain health care services may require referrals, as described in the [TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook](#).)
- Ask your doctor to [renew your prescriptions](#) when you're out of refills.

Just like the scenarios mentioned earlier, secure messaging will help if you remember that question *after* your appointment or need to clarify instructions uploaded to the Clinical Notes section of your health record.

How to use secure messaging

It's easy to use secure messaging. Just follow these steps.

- Log in to the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#). You'll need a Common Access Card (CAC), a DS Logon account, or Personal Identity Verification (PIV) to log in
- After you click "Login," you'll be asked to verify your contact information and accept the conditions of using the patient portal. Then you'll be redirected to the patient portal homepage.
- Click the "Messaging" button on the menu located across the top of the page. This will bring you to your secure messaging inbox. You can also scroll to the "Messages" widget on the homepage.
- Click the "Send a message" button to start your message.
- Fill out the required fields. You also have the option to attach files.
- Write your message.
- Click the "Send" button.

You can watch this [video tutorial](#) for a full demonstration.

Additional portal features

The MHS GENESIS Patient Portal is more than just a messaging platform. It also allows you to:

- View and schedule appointments at your military hospital or clinic.
- Access your medical records, including lab and radiology results.
- View current medications and [order refills](#).

The MHS GENESIS Patient Portal can help you streamline your health care management. By using secure messaging, you can ensure that your health care needs are met promptly and effectively. For more information, check out tricare.mil/PatientPortal.

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 300 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 300+ members each month. All they can say is “no”.

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

Important Dates in 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 – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 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)

