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June 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 June and the start of another hot and wet summer! Another month has passed, and I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your families and friends safe and healthy.

Slowly we are 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. I urge all of you to continue to observe safe practices during this period! I understand the golf course is open and The Summit Club will possibly open late June. The status of our August meeting is still unknown – it will depend on how well the opening process goes! I continue to hope for good leadership and for good decisions regarding opening the economy. This is not something that needs to be taken lightly.

Regarding the Chapter, all HCMOAA meetings and events remain cancelled until further notice. This includes membership meetings, breakfasts, board meetings, and golf meetings.

I had the pleasure and honor of participating in the RSAMCC Merit Awards ceremony via Zoom. What a great bunch of awardees! The Chapter awarded 7 scholarships with values ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

I am still concerned about our ability to conduct a viable fund-raising golf tournament – based not only on availability of sponsors and donors in this trying economic time but also on the safety of the participants. The Golf Committee and the Governing Board will be looking at a variety of options for the event. I still would like for the Chapter to raise some significant scholarship funds this year – if anyone has ideas beyond the tournament and direct member donations, please let me know!

That is all for this month.

Do not let up on your safety endeavors and please listen to the advice, rules, and limits that our leaders and the experts are promulgating!

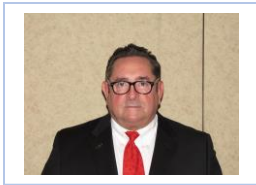
Rick

***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/>



“All politics is local.”

Alabama lawmakers began the 2020 legislative session with several big-ticket items before them, including a prison overhaul, a possible state lottery and medical marijuana legislation. Those issues fell by the wayside as the coronavirus outbreak interrupted the legislative session.

House Speaker Mac McCutcheon said it is “very possible” that the governor will call them into special session at some point to deal with prisons or other issues. The U.S. Department of Justice last year said that male inmates live in violent prisons that violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The Justice Department threatened to sue Alabama unless conditions improve.

Lawmakers used their abbreviated meeting time to focus on state budgets and passing a \$1.25 billion bond issue to fund school construction.

Here is a look at what passed and failed in the 2020 regular legislative session:

#### WHAT PASSED:

- 1. School Bond Issue:** Lawmakers approved a \$1.25 billion bond issue to fund capital projects at public K-12 schools, two-year colleges and universities. Every K-12 school system will be given at least \$400,000. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey proposed the bond issue in her State of the State address earlier this year.
- 2. State Budgets:** Lawmakers approved pared-down Education Trust Fund and General Fund budgets. Both budgets have spending increases, but lawmakers trimmed back planned increases including pay raises for teachers and state employees because of the expected hit to state revenue during the virus outbreak.
- 3. Occupational Tax Ban:** Alabama lawmakers swiftly approved a ban on cities implementing new occupational taxes without legislative approval. Lawmakers rushed passage of the bill as the city of Montgomery considered an occupational tax.

#### WHAT FAILED

- 1. Prison Policy Changes:** Lawmakers approved a funding increase for the Alabama Department of Corrections, but plans for a package of reform bills, including enhanced educational programs for inmates and making changes to mandatory sentencing laws, did not get the required votes.

*Continued on page 11*

#### 2019-2020 GOVERNING BOARD

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

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

2nd Vice President: LTC Gary R. Young, USA-Ret, 256-722-2134, [youngbikers@att.net](mailto:youngbikers@att.net)

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, [mbaron468@gmail.com](mailto:mbaron468@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, [ctcbama76@gmail.com](mailto:ctcbama76@gmail.com)

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, [jreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy Representative: CW4 Louis J. Kubik, USMC-Ret, 256-859-3054, [lkubik@mediacommbb.net](mailto:lkubik@mediacommbb.net)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Immediate Past President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov](mailto:gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov)

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

##### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, [cdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdowning@bellsouth.net)

Programs: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, [cdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdowning@bellsouth.net)

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

Personal Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, [jerry15@hiway.net](mailto:jerry15@hiway.net)

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, [janetecamp@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

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

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

ROTC/JROTC: LTC Gary R. Young, USA-Ret, 256-722-2134, [youngbikers@att.net](mailto:youngbikers@att.net)

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

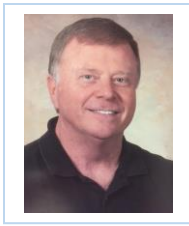
The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, [brucer76@knology.net](mailto:brucer76@knology.net)

##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

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

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



**PX / Commissary**  
**Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR**



**Main Exchange**

Redstone is now open for some. However, the Exchange, Commissary and Express all still require masks to shop. Once you leave your vehicle, you must wear a mask (or bandana). The Exchange and commissary continue to wipe down carts. Most of the businesses between the Exchange and commissary are now open. The barbershop continues to limit patrons entering to the number of barbers with those waiting for haircuts separated in the reduced area waiting area or the outside hallway. Hours for main exchange continue at 1000 – 1800 Mon – Sat and 1000 -1700 Sunday.

The latest sale brochure has vacuums, laptops, grills (with accessories) and appliances – on sale and no tax! Speaking of no tax - Plan for the Alabama Tax Free weekend! Alabama Sales Tax Holiday 2020 for school-related items is supposed to be in July – but the state has the wrong dates showing at two places on their web site. It plans on giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers and clothing free of state sales tax. Local sales tax may apply. <https://www.freetaxweekend.com/alabama-free-tax-weekend-back-to-school/> Make your list now and get ready to shop – once they figure out the correct dates to publish.

Speaking of shopping, 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! Start your list of purchases now. Plus, be sure to stop in you Exchange especially on Fridays. Often the manager has big sales on clearance items with even more off if you use your STAR card – where the more you buy the bigger the discount. Plus, always check of the deal of the day at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> or download the app!

Your Exchange ALWAYS has tax free – so be anticipating that you will be able to deduct the normal outside tax rate from your Exchange purchase for the eligible items. The Exchange will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary in late July (date TBD) but plan for that.

**Shopette**

New at the Express – High West Whiskey, Resurgens Rye Malt Whiskey, Hudson Whiskey Baby Bourbon, Old Soul Bourbon Whiskey, Ridge Reserve Black Label Bourbon Mase Whiskey, and TX Blended Whiskey. Also new is The Kraken limited edition Black Roast Coffee Rum and Beefeater London pink. For those with plenty to spend, Johnny Walker Blue Label Blended Scotch Whiskey at \$237.50.

Check out the movies at the Red Box machine outside – you can reserve your movies using the Red Box app and pick them up anytime that day.

*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](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy/USMC Representative:  
**CW4 Louis J. Kubik**  
 256-859-3054  
[lkubik@mediacombb.net](mailto:lkubik@mediacombb.net)

Air Force Representative:  
**Col Edward L. Uher**  
 256-882-6824,  
[biced992K@aol.com](mailto:biced992K@aol.com)

Personal Affairs Officer  
**Lt Col Gerald Haynes**  
 256-882-7857  
[jerry15@hiwaay.net](mailto: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**



**FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER**  
**SERVICES**  
**AS OF MAY 26, 2020**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**0800-1500**

**Color Key**

	Normal Operations
	Modified Services Utilizing Virtual/Limited F2F
	Limited Operations/Modified Hours
	Closed

	Wellness Clinic
	Behavioral Health (F2F: Urgent Only/Virtual by appointment only)
	EFMP
	Hearing Exams (As Part of Physical Exam Only)
	Immunizations (By appointment only)
	Laboratory (No walk-ins for COVID-19 testing)
	Medical Boards (IDES)
	Medical Records
	Nutrition (weight management, pre-diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol appt only)
	Occupational Health
	Optometry (Acute Only) (As Part of Physical Exam)
	Patient Administration
	Pediatrics (F2F: Acute and Well-baby Appointment/Virtual Care)
	Patient Advocate (call 256-876-8621)
	Pharmacy
	Physical Exams (No Special Schools/Readiness Only)
	Physical Therapy
	Primary Care (F2F: Acute Appointment/Virtual Care)
	Public Health (Mission Essential Employees Only)
	Radiology Services (Closed until mid to late June)
	Referral Management
	Release of Information
	Uniform Business Office/Third Party Billing
	Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator/Debt Collection Assistance Offices

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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: Navigating the Challenges of COVID-19**

**Members of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) share how they are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens to begin his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. This quote describes the current feelings of SSAC members, who represent a cross section of surviving spouses. Here is how they are navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic:

MOAA board member [Gail Joyce](#) has enjoyed being at home in her new house in Granbury, Texas. She has found yardwork and sitting on her patio watching the birds therapeutic. Her neighbors visit in the street while maintaining social distancing guidelines, and she and her daughter who lives close by share meals. Her church has a drive-in service on Sunday. She misses hugs.

SSAC member [Pat Farnsworth](#) is confined to her apartment in Patriots Colony Retirement Community in Williamsburg, Va. The biggest downer for her is no visitors are allowed on the property. Pat has Facetime calls with her children and grandchildren, and numerous telephone calls from friends throughout the country. All activities have been canceled, and meals are delivered to her apartment. Happily, the widows are offering to help each other if they need assistance with anything, such as laundry. She is disappointed her MOAA chapter luncheons have been canceled for April and May, and the Virginia Council of Chapters has canceled the annual congressional luncheon. She believes that when this ends, we will all be more appreciative of what we have. "Until then, it is chin up, chest out, and carry on."

[Micki Costello](#), SSAC member from Fredericksburg, Va., is coping with "9-11 on steroids" by trying not to dwell on the negative aspects of social distancing. She is attempting to maintain her normal routine of getting up at the same time, making her bed, showering, applying makeup, and getting dressed. She begins her day by attending the mass that the priests at her church stream live. Micki appreciates having time to paint, and she has a virtual lesson each Thursday morning with a teacher in California. She has lived alone in her house for 10 years, and her neighbors frequently go out on their porches in the evening to "see" each other. She has Facetime calls with her son and his family who are stationed in Asia and talks with her daughter and her family who live about 60 miles away. She also is making an effort to call friends. She wants to take advantage of this difficult time to refocus on those things in life that are really important, and she is heartened by the random acts of kindness that Americans are doing every day.

SSAC Member [Nancy Mullen](#) from Tennessee is working from home and keeping busy with trainings, webinars, and clients. She is thankful her company has committed to zero layoffs during this time. To keep from going stir

*Continued on page 9*





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

**TUNED IN**

**“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us,  
We have confidence toward God. (1 John 3:21, NKJV).”**

President Woodrow Wilson was approached one day by one of his secretaries, who Suggested he take off from his work to enjoy a particular diversion he enjoyed President Wilson replied, “My boss won’t let me do it.”

“Your boss?” the secretary asked, wondering who could be the boss of the chief executive of the United States.

“Yes,” said Wilson. “I have a conscience that is my boss. It drives me to the task, and Will not let me accept this tempting invitation.”

Our conscience should be one of our most prized possessions. It is through our conscience that we receive inner promptings from God which, when in agreement with our actions, will point us toward a save and eternal way.

It has been said, “A conscience is like a thermostat on an air conditioning unit—it kicks in when things are on the verge of getting too hot.”

It is possible to ignore our conscience and “follow the crowd,” but it is a sad waste of our lives. The conscience is the window to the soul through which we hear the voice of God, who always leads us to success and inner peace.

A person may sometimes have a clear conscience simply because his head is empty.



**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: 354  
Regular Members: 295  
Surviving Spouses: 59

New this month: 0  
Deaths this month: 0  
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.



crazy, she takes breaks to go outside with her pups, exercises, or sits in the sun for a bit. She is trying to stay away from snacking because she is bored. Her pups are thrilled with extra attention and treats. Nancy believes we all need to take care of ourselves. We can reach out to friends and family, enjoy the simple life, and try not to dwell on the negative. We need to do what we can do and not stress out about what we cannot control.


SSAC member [Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN \(Ret\)](#), who lives in Maryland, is currently in Seattle taking care of her daughter's 4-year-old twins. Her daughter, who is a major in the Army, has been studying for her recent exams for graduation from the Uniformed Services University with her PHD/NP. There are some unknowns about where she will work now and day care for the children. She believes the timing of being there is surely a fate from above. More joy came recently when her daughter's boyfriend called Kathy and asked to marry her daughter. Kathy believes coping involves treasuring time together, leaning on one's faith, and praying for all who are ill and working in this environment. Lastly, she believes that much like the time when her husband passed, the gloomy, stormy times eventually will pass, and then special graces will be felt.

[Barbara Smith](#), SSAC member who lives in Virginia Beach, Va., used to think if only she had a few days to stay home, she could accomplish so much. She has painted and cleaned out closets and has stacks of stuff ready for a yard sale. Her daughter and son-in-law have been living with her for the past year and a half, which has been a blessing especially at this time. They do grocery shopping, cooking, and yardwork. Her daughter and son-in-law also found out recently their first grandchild, a girl, will be born in November. This will be Barbara's 16th great-grandchild, and it's exciting for her to have this to look forward to. She is trying to stay in touch with the 52 surviving spouses in her chapter. Fortunately, most have family in the area.

Georgie Sutor, SSAC virtual member who lives in California, takes long walks each morning and afternoon with Tye and Sadie, her two Shih Tzu rescues. She gets errands done within current California rules that allow leaving home for essentials. Her community singing group has canceled all gigs, but they are continuing to practice by remote connecting so that they can "keep in tune" until they can practice in person again. Early on, she had to cancel a major fundraiser for a nonprofit organization that she serves as president. There were many online meetings to decide to postpone the event until spring 2021. Georgie believes we will get through this time "learning how good it feels to keep intentionally in touch with compassion, concern, and a bit of humor."

Cindy Bondi, SSAC virtual member from Iowa, feels like she has been preparing for the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing since her husband was diagnosed with stage-4 pancreatic cancer four years ago. She began then to prepare to be alone and self-sufficient and to think about what she needed to do to be safe and secure in the future. She began to wrap her head around the reality that her married children do not live nearby. She grew to appreciate that she had gotten to know most of her neighbors who have offered help and friendship through her loss. Now she really feels alone. When this is over, the world will go back to some kind of normal and, for her, the loneliness will continue. Recently, she has begun to play her violin again.

For me, the current challenge is navigating a new normal for staying at home in Alabama. My children and young neighbors have been grocery shopping for me, so I have only been out to take tax documents to my accountant. Planning meals, cooking, and freezing have become a challenge. I have lived alone in my house since my husband died eight years ago. I have coped by being very active and not being at home very much. I often have said I was not home long enough to clean out my house to prepare for downsizing. Well, I have been organizing and tossing. Leisurely telephone calls with family and friends have been blessings. Also, this has been a time of reflection on what normal will look like after the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to MOAA board chaplain Bob Certain's morning and evening prayers on Facebook, and my church has had numerous live-streaming services. The world has changed. We must reimagine ourselves in this new reality. I believe hope and resilience will enable us to never stop serving.

If you are a surviving spouse liaison or are otherwise interested in knowing more about resources supporting MOAA's surviving spouse members, visit [MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org). 



## **HCMOAA Treasurer's Report April 2020**

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

1. The April 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	\$ 8,391.03	\$ 8,004.49
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.07
Expenses	\$ 304.67	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,086.36	\$ 8,004.56

3. Notable income: None

4. Notable expenses: Payment to the Colonial Graphics for the April 2020 Sentinel hard copy and certificate holders for ROTC and JROTC awards

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 \$8,406.57. 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](mailto:rickw675@att.net) or 256.776.6901 for details.

#### **Scholarship Fund Donations Received During May 2020**

None

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



*Legislative – continued from page 2*

2. **Pay Raises:** Alabama lawmakers and the governor had hoped to give pay raises to public school employees and state employees. The raises were jettisoned as lawmakers scaled back spending because of the expected cuts to state revenue during the virus outbreak.

3. **Gambling:** Proposals to establish a state lottery and to allow the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to have casinos did not get floor votes. Even before the pandemic interrupted the session, the Republican Ivey attempted to press the pause button on gambling debate by creating a new work group to study gambling proposals and revenue projections.

4. **Medical Marijuana:** The Alabama Senate approved the bill that would have authorized the use of medical marijuana for certain conditions, but it did not get a vote in the House of Representatives. Proponents were optimistic about the bill's chances this year even though it has faced past opposition in the House.

5. **Pandemic Powers:** A bill would have limited the powers of the state health officer to order closures. It would require the governor to sign off on the state health officer's orders during a virus outbreak. The bill would have required legislative approval to extend any state of emergency issued by the governor beyond 14 days. Supporters said it put "checks and balances" in the process but opponents said it put politics over science in managing a public health emergency.

On the COLA front: The April 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) is 249.515, .3% below the FY 2020 CPI baseline.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. One posting is the policy regarding a DoD-wide ban on most travel for the next few months and the other is an article discussing the potential reinstatement of Captain Brett Crozier to a command billet.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. The National Headhunters of MOAA has outlined action items they think are important to active duty force as well as those who have served, including you. On the MOAA webpage each action item is presented in the following format: Who is Affected; The Issue; and The Remedy. ||||

*Commissary/PX – continued from page 3*

**Commissary:**

Commissary continues to wipe down carts and only allows patrons with ID cards and masks to enter. Hours continue at Monday – closed, Tuesday – Saturday 0900 – 1900 and Sunday 0900 – 1800. Limits on paper products (paper towels, toilet paper) continue but my visit there 21 May showed almost no selection (4 items of each). Limits on Beef (2 items), pork (1 item), chicken (1 item) and turkey (2 items) continues. Bacon and sausage limit two items. Club Pack Savings in the middle of the store has all your BBQ needs covered. Briquettes, starter fluid, sauces, condiments, buns, you name it.

<http://www.Mymilitarysavings.com> is celebrating 9 years of savings! Manager's specials include Kraft. Join at the web site to get updates, contests, hot deals, coupons, and recipes. Plus, don't forget to check out the deal of the week at <http://www.commissaries.com> Also check out <http://www.commissarysavings.com> additional savings, coupons, and recipes.

Check back often at your commissary since specials rotate depending on the season! 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 can save worldwide and it is an app at the Apple Appstore and Googleplay. ||||





Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1301 - Huntsville, AL 35807  
[www.huntsvillemoaa.org](http://www.huntsvillemoaa.org)



## Membership Application or Renewal

Yes - I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter!

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

\*New members joining after September 1<sup>st</sup> 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

_____ Active	_____ Retired	_____ NG	_____ Former Officer	_____ Reserve	_____ 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

## **Bennie Adkins**

Decades after the Vietnam War, retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins had a simple way of explaining how he survived mortar attacks and rifle bullets that killed so many people all around him. “It was not my day,” he’d say. Then the coronavirus found Adkins and felled its first Medal of Honor recipient on April 17.

Adkins, 86, was an Alabama war hero who returned home to become an accountant, teach night courses to adults trying to better themselves and launch a nonprofit foundation awarding scholarships to veterans. The resident of the small city of Opelika received the nation’s highest military honor from then-President Barack Obama during a 2014 White House ceremony. While deeply honored and humbled, Adkins deflected attention from his courageous actions fighting off waves of enemy attackers at a strategic point in South Vietnam.

“What I did is not heroic. What I did was ... that was my job. That was what I was trained for. That was I was paid for as a professional soldier and I was trying to do the job in a professional way,” Adkins said in an oral history project for the Library of Congress after the award ceremony.

Adkins died three weeks after being admitted to the same hospital where one of his five children, Dr. Keith Adkins, works as a surgeon. The son said his father was married for 60 years and gave back whatever he could around Opelika, an old railroad town of about 31,000 people near Auburn University, helping others not only in wartime but also at home.

“We want his legacy to be not just what he did in the military,” said Keith Adkins, who wasn’t involved in his father’s care. “We want to show that character that he had and what it led him to do when he was out of the military.”

Born on a farm in Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl drought that reduced much of the topsoil in the central U.S. to powder, Adkins was in the middle of seven children. “We learned to work, we learned to be conservative, and with a large family, we learned to share,” he said.

More interested in women than academics after entering college, Adkins dropped out and was soon drafted. He liked the idea of the military as a career but wanted more than an administrative position or regular infantry job. So, he applied for the Special Forces, made it through a lengthy training regimen and landed in Vietnam in 1963 for the first of three tours.

About three years later, at age 32, that Adkins fought the battle that brought him a lifetime of accolades. A sergeant first class at the time, Adkins was in charge of a mortar crew at a U.S. military camp in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam, near the border with Laos, when the Viet Cong opened fire on March 9, 1966. He ran through exploding mortar rounds to drag several troops to safety, according to his medal citation, and then exposed himself to sniper fire to carry wounded comrades to medical care.

The main attack came a day later. Though wounded and with most of his crew dead or wounded, Adkins fought off waves of attackers from a mortar pit and then killed many more enemy troops from a communications bunker. Adkins suffered 18 wounds – including to an eye and his torso – but killed at least 135 enemy troops.

During the battle, Adkins recounted, bullets hit and killed a wounded man he was carrying on his back to safety. At another point, Adkins, a one-time baseball catcher, snagged a North Vietnamese hand grenade in mid-air another time and hurled it back at the enemy.

*Continued on next page*

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Finally ordered to evacuate the camp, Adkins escaped with a few others into the jungle and they were rescued two days later by a helicopter. That ending might have been much different – but for a tiger that was also in the jungle. “This tiger could smell the blood on us, and surrounded us, and the North Vietnamese soldiers that had us surrounded was more afraid of the tiger than they were of us. They backed off and gave us room and we were gone again,” said Adkins, who co-authored a 2018 book about his wartime exploits titled “A Tiger Among Us.”

After retiring from the Army in 1978 after more than 20 years, Adkins earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and master’s degrees in management and education from Alabama’s Troy University while running an accounting firm in Auburn.

For years, Adkins taught night classes at two colleges and a jail for adults seeking their high school equivalency degrees. And in 2017, he established The Bennie Adkins Foundation, which has provided about 50 educational scholarships to Special Forces soldiers.

“He was really committed to help others advance themselves,” said Katie Lamar Jackson, who co-authored Adkins’ book. Adkins’ family plans for him to be buried beside his wife Mary, who died last year, at Arlington National Cemetery. IIII

## **Changes to Fox Army Health Center Operations.**

**\*\*As a reminder, you are required to wear a face mask when entering our facility. In accordance with Department of Defense memorandum signed 5 April 2020, DoD Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings: Effective immediately, all individuals on DoD property installations, and facilities will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers.\*\***

### **ALL OPERATIONS:**

Hours of Operation: 0800-1500

Beneficiaries will be screened prior to entering the facility. If you have an appointment, we ask that you limit the visit to only the individual with the appointment. If children have an appointment, we ask that only 1 parent escort the child inside the facility since we are limited on seating space to maintain social distancing.

We are making every effort possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and increase safety for our staff and patients.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** Please call to schedule an appointment for immunizations.

### **PHARMACY:**

Effective **Monday, 1 June 2020**, all new prescriptions and refills will be picked up inside at the pharmacy windows.

**New prescriptions** can be electronically submitted by your off post physician and the patient can call ahead to ensure the prescription is filled prior to arrival. Your electronic prescription will be available for pick-up 24 hours after the patient has called in.

If you are picking up medications for multiple family members, we ask that you limit it to one person coming inside the facility to pick up the medications as we have limited spacing to ensure social distancing standards are met. Please bring the ID’s or photocopies of the ID’s for those that you are picking up medication for.

Please check for updates on our website at <https://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/> under the FAHC COVID button and Facebook @Fox Army Health Center.





## 30 Birthdays in June

CPT Rene E Lemieux, USA  
LTC Stephen D Rice, USA  
MAJ Michael V Tallman, USA  
LTC Roderic Spencer Jr, USA  
CPT Vernon K Sutter, USA  
Mrs. Florence L Garman  
CW3 Lewis F Spencer Jr, USA  
Mrs. Lois J Wendt  
Col Charles R Rice, USAF  
LTC James M Ivy IV, USA  
Col Bernard S Morgan Jr, USAF  
LTC William L Brigadier, USA  
Lt Co Andrew J Grau, USAF  
LTC Gary R Young, USA

Mrs. Helen J Kolankiewicz  
LTC Dale M Stevens, USA  
LTC Johnnie L Bone Jr, USA  
CDR Rudolph M Ohme, USN  
COL Michael A Roddy, USA  
MAJ John F Wilson Jr, USA  
Capt Kenneth E Shepard, USAF  
COL Tom L Albertson, USA  
COL John A Olshefski, USA  
MAJ Sherrill T Chaffin, USA  
Mrs. Freddia K Scott  
Mrs. Nora Taylor  
CW4 William W Wright, USA  
COL Lee M Tonsmeire, 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](mailto:brucer76@knology.net) so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

## How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot

Coronavirus concerns have many people thinking about casting an absentee ballot in Alabama's upcoming primary runoff election. If you are one of these folks, the Alabama Secretary of State wants to make sure you have the information you need.

Here are the key dates:

- The runoff is Tuesday 14 July.
- The deadline to register to vote in this election is Monday, 29 June.
- The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application is Thursday, 9 July.
- The deadline to return an absentee ballot to the /absentee Election Manager is close of business on Monday, 13 July. That's also the last day an absentee ballot can be post-marked.

Absentee applications can be downloaded online or requested by visiting or calling the local Absentee Election Manager's office. Voters may also contact the Secretary of State's Election Division at 334-242-7210 to request an absentee ballot application.

Secretary of State John Merrill urged anyone who had concerns about spreading COVID-19 to cast an absentee ballot. Since Alabama law requires listing a reason for requesting an application, Merrill recommended people with coronavirus concerns to check the box that says "I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls."



**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.*



### **Is Your ID Card About to Expire?**

Is your ID card expiring soon? The Department of Defense (DoD) is temporarily allowing Uniformed Services ID cardholders to continue to present a card that expired on or after Jan. 1, 2020 to get care and fill your prescriptions.

This is part of DoD's ongoing effort to keep military and civilian personnel safe during the national health emergency due to the pandemic.

#### **Uniformed Services ID**

A Uniformed Services ID card is for military retirees or military family members. Uniformed Services ID card lets you access your TRICARE benefits. To continue using a card that expired on or after Jan. 1, 2020, you need to have an active affiliation to DoD and be eligible for benefits. You can continue using your Uniformed Services ID card with an expired date through Sept. 30.

If you're new to TRICARE and enrolling a family member or yourself for the first time, you can mail, fax, or email your paperwork to your nearest ID card issuing facility. You must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to access your TRICARE benefits. Remember to keep your information in DEERS up to date.

To learn more about DoD's response to COVID-19 and how it affects your ID cards, visit the [Coronavirus CAC page](#). To learn more about TRICARE coverage and options, visit the [Compare Plans](#) tool. Take command of your health and make sure you're getting the care you need.

## **A Friendly Reminder: Keep Your DEERS Info Updated**

Did you know that not keeping your family's information current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) could delay their access to health care? Errors can also cause delays with your claims and delivery of your prescriptions. Now is an important time to check your DEERS records. Whether you're new to TRICARE or a regular beneficiary, keeping your information up to date in DEERS is critical. Doing so means you can access your TRICARE benefits and get the care you need.

### **What is DEERS?**

DEERS is a database of active duty and retired service members, their family members, and others who are eligible for TRICARE. The database lists your military status, family status, contact information, TRICARE coverage plan, and more. You must show as registered in DEERS to access your TRICARE benefit. If you're a sponsor, you're automatically registered in DEERS, but you must register eligible family members. If both you and your spouse are service members and have a child, you should choose one parent to be listed as your child's sponsor.

### **When should I update DEERS?**

You should update your DEERS information whenever you experience a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). This could be a change in your sponsorship status, such as retiring or separating from active duty, which makes you ineligible for your existing coverage. Other QLEs include:

- Getting married or divorced
- Having a baby
- Activating
- Losing or gaining other health insurance
- Becoming eligible for Medicare
- Death of a sponsor or family member

A QLE may allow you and eligible family members to enroll in a new TRICARE health plan or change your current health plan coverage. So be sure to update your DEERS record if you experience one. You also want to make sure your contact information, like phone numbers and email addresses, stays current. If your contact information is out of date, you might miss vital communications.

### **How do I update my DEERS record?**

Changing your information in your DEERS record is easy, and you have a few options to do so. You can make changes online, by phone, fax, or mail, or in person at an ID card office. If you need to visit a local ID card office, be sure to call or check the website to see if operating hours or procedures for the ID card office have changed due to COVID-19. To update contact information, choose one of these other options:

- **Online:** Log in to [milConnect](#)
- **Phone:** Call the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) at 1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883)
- **Fax:** Fax updates to DMDC at 1-800-336-4416
- **Mail:** Mail updates to:  
Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attention: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771

To learn more about DEERS, visit [www.tricare.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.mil/deers). Take command of your health and maintain the accuracy of DEERS records for you and your family.



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## 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.

d. 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.

## Find Answers on TRICARE Coronavirus FAQ Page

Are you looking for COVID-19 resources? If so, TRICARE’s got you covered. Stay informed on the latest developments and get your questions answered with the [Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. Whether you’re a service member, family member, or a military retiree, you’ll be sure to find something useful.

Here’s a preview of what you can expect to see answers to:

- How much does a COVID-19 test cost?
- What’s the difference between allergies and COVID-19?
- What’s the difference between testing and screening for COVID-19?

With the new FAQ page, you can also find current information on face masks, elective surgeries, ways you can fill your prescriptions, and the most up-to-date guidelines on social distancing. It’s also user-friendly; at the top of the page, you can select the COVID-19 topics you’re most interested in, like TRICARE Benefit or Medical Care.

TRICARE is committed to providing you with resources to keep you and your family safe during this pandemic. The coronavirus FAQ page is frequently updated, so be sure to check back for new information. Don’t see an answer to your question? Contact TRICARE.

Remember to continue to practice social distancing and take command of your health. Together, military families and communities can slow the spread of COVID-19.

## **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](mailto:brucer76@knology.net) or 256-426-0525.

## **Important Dates in June**

3 June - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson (1937)  
4 June – Rome liberated by US 5<sup>th</sup> Army (1944)  
4 June - A train wreck in Jessore, Bangladesh, killed 76 and injured over 500 (1972)  
4 June – Chinese troops fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing (1989)  
5 June - Robert F Kennedy shot & mortally wounded (1968)  
6 June - D-Day (1944)  
6 June - California voters approved Proposition 13, severely limiting property tax rates (1978)  
8 June – Apache leader Cochise died (1874)  
9 June - The British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong (1898)  
11 June - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted (1991)  
11 June - The Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended (1994)  
12 June - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain (1898)  
12 June - Civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated (1963)  
13 June - *The New York Times* began publishing the Pentagon Papers (1971)  
14 June – Continental Army established (1775)  
14 June - Warren G. Harding became the first President to broadcast a message over the radio (1922)  
14 June - Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled (1951)  
17 June – Watergate burglary (1972)  
18 June – Battle of Waterloo (1815)  
18 June - Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space (1983)  
19 June - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed (1953)  
21 June – First day of summer  
21 June – Father's Day  
22 June – Hitler invaded Russia (1941)  
24 June – Berlin Blockade established (1948)  
25 June – Custer's last stand (1876)  
25 June – Korean War began (1950)  
26 June - The United Nations Charter was signed (1945)  
28 June – World War I ended (1919)  
28 June - Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo (1914)

