

Volume 63, Issue 6
June 2024



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings all!

Rain and cicadas...will they ever stop? At least the rain keeps the pollen down!

Congratulations are in order! For those of you that haven't heard, the Chapter was awarded the **Five Star Level of Excellence Award** and **Five Star Harris Communications Awards** for both our outstanding newsletter (Editor: Bruce Robinson) and our website. Another clean sweep for HCMOAA!!!

Just a reminder – there are no luncheons in June or July. Our next luncheon is **August 28th**, and the guest speaker is scheduled to be **Mayor Tommy Battle**. Please save that date now! RSVPs will open up sometime in July.

On May 14th, I was honored to present **6 scholarships** in the Chapter's name to area high school and college students. It is always a great experience – the backgrounds of the awardees never cease to amaze this small-town high school graduate. For your information, we presented awards in the amounts of 2 x \$4000, 2 x \$3000, and 2 x \$2000.

Spring is always a busy time for the Chapter with the scholarship awards, the ROTC/JROTC awards, and golf tournament planning. The first two are complete. Now it is time to concentrate on the tournament and the scholarship fund.

You will see more information regarding the tournament and the scholarship fund from me over the next couple of weeks. As most of you probably already know, last year we once again raised the bar for our tournament results and the amount of quality scholarships we were able to offer. It will take some doing to make it happen again this year and I will need the help of all of you! More later...

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

Have a great AND safe summer!

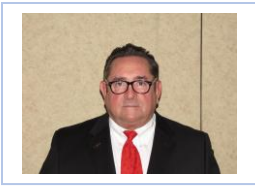
Rick

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/>



“All politics is local.”

The regular session of the Alabama Legislature for 2024 adjourned, Sine Die, on 9 May. The session produced 1228 bills, resolutions, and amendments of which 627 were signed into law. There were 301 bills, 326 resolutions and zero amendments.

One surprise was HB197 and the identical SB135 which were passed by the House and Senate on 30 April. Then it was enacted by Governor Ivey on 17 May 2024. It establishes and operates a statewide integrated health care system dedicated to Alabama veterans’ and their immediate family members. It adds a chapter to require the Alabama Department of Mental Health to work collaboratively with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive plan to address Alabama veterans’ behavioral health needs and to provide funding of certain programs addressing specific behavioral health needs.

Also passing this session were:

Some IVF providers in the state paused services because of a court ruling that equated frozen embryos to children. Lawmakers faced public pressure to get IVF services restarted and approved lawsuit protections to address the liability concerns raised by the ruling. However, lawmakers sidestepped the broader issue of whether frozen embryos should be considered people.

The CHOOSE Act is school choice program like school vouchers that will provide eligible families with as much as \$7,000 to help pay for private school and \$2,000 for homeschooling expenses. Gov. Kay Ivey had championed the measure in her State of the State address.

Another new law criminalizes certain types of assistance with absentee ballot applications. It is a misdemeanor to return another person’s absentee ballot application and a felony to pay someone to distribute or collect applications. A lawsuit was filed challenging the new law.

The law DEI that takes effect 1 October bans diversity, equity and inclusion programs at public schools, universities and state agencies and prohibits the teaching of “divisive concepts” including that someone should feel guilty because of their race or gender. The legislation was part of a national wave of Republican proposals taking aim at DEI programs.

Lawmakers approved a series of bills aimed at addressing a worker shortage. The measures include legislation that would provide tax credits to business that help

Continued on page 9

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

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, m.barron468@gmail.com

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biced992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, avatarmax@gmail.com

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership (Acting): MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@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: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

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, avatarmax@gmail.com

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

The *SENTINEL* Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2024)

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 a.m. on the third Friday in July (19th) and ends at midnight on the following Sunday (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.

Father’s Day special - 10% off ALL guns AND another 5% off with your STAR card. And take advantage of 0% interest and no payments for 12 months on firearm purchases of \$999 or more from May 24 - June 20.

You can save even more by signing up for the Exchange STAR card! The first day you use it – ALL your purchases (including clearance items) are 10% off on your bill (with occasionally 15% off)! Start your list of purchases now.

Your Exchange always has a variety of televisions on sale many in the store and many more available on-line at: <http://shopmyexchange.com>. During the end of June and into July your Exchange usually has exercise clothing, outdoor furniture and grills on sale! Bike, toys, appliances and gun safes also!

The New Tactical Store is now open in the hallway outside the Exchange. The Subway in the Food Court is closed.

Download the Exchange Extra app for your smart phone – ads, specials, coupons, and the super daily special!

Shopette

Stop in every month to see the wine and spirit specials! Plus, check out the Spirits of the Month shelves. New and not so new spirits—most on sale! Use your STAR card for 5 cents off at the gas pumps.

Commissary

CLICK2GO is one tap away for savings and convenient online shopping. Schedule free curbside pickup from your desktop or mobile devices while shopping online. Download the My Military Savings app on your smart phone to keep up with all the new savings, recipes, and other shopping tips.

Check out the military lifestyle podcast Off Duty Happy Hour, where all things military lifestyle are discussed and so much more [Off Duty Happy Hour • A podcast on Spotify for Podcasters](#)

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.

None this Month

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:
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
jged992K@aol.com

Personal Affairs Officer
Lt Col Gerald Haynes
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CONTACT:

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



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



Fox Army Health Center is still offering enrollment for **TRICARE Prime** beneficiaries (they cannot be TRICARE Select) who are currently seeing providers in the community and who want to come back to Fox for their primary care. Call Humana at 800-444-5445 to enroll. Call the Fox Enrollment Champion at 256-955-8888 extension 1162 for questions. The original announcement follows:

Fox Army Health Center is pleased to announce the opening of limited enrollment for new patients seeking healthcare services.

To be eligible, you must be a TRICARE Prime beneficiary.

Enrolling at Fox is easy! Just call Humana at 800-444-5445 and ask to enroll at Fox Army Health Center. You will be assigned a Fox care provider and be able to call to make an appointment immediately. Please be aware: if you are aged 62-64, we encourage you to remain with your current healthcare provider, as you will have to transition out of FAHC again at age 65.

"We are excited to open our doors to new patients and provide them with the exceptional care and attention they deserve," said Colonel Wendy Gray, FAHC Commander. "By offering this limited enrollment opportunity, we aim to prioritize patient satisfaction and ensure timely access to our comprehensive range of medical services. Striving to be your premiere medical facility of choice!"

This opportunity is part of our commitment to providing high-quality care and ensuring the best possible experience for all patients in our community. We look forward to welcoming new patients into the Fox Family.

Also, FAHC Change of Command Ceremony is 4 June 2024. The incoming commander is LTC Deepak Mathew.



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Edward Jones

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

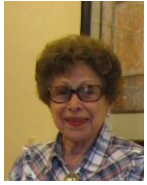
Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

2045 Cecil Ashburn Drive S E
Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, 20 June, at Carabba's Italian Grill,
Parkway Place Mall, Upper Level.
Phone: (256) 228-1333. We meet at 11AM.
POC: Bonnie Treadway, 256-859-1484.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Why It's Not 'Happy' Memorial Day

This time of year, we are all inundated with advertisements on TV, in our email, on social media, or even in stores that say, "Happy Memorial Day" or promote Memorial Day sales.

I get it — for most, it is a well-earned day off work. It often signals the beginning of the summer beach season. And yes, it is a long weekend with friends and family spent by the pool or grilling in the backyard. It is easy to forget the true meaning behind the holiday.

So, what is Memorial Day? Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, is the one day a year our country sets aside to recognize, remember and mourn our U.S. servicemembers who have died while serving our great country. It is also a day to remember our Gold Star Families, those who have lost a service member on active duty. This day can be especially hard on these families and those who have lost loved ones, as emotions are often elevated.

For this reason, although I don't take offense, I always encourage people to not say "Happy Memorial Day." Think of it this way: Would you say, "Happy funeral"? That helps it to sink in a bit more, doesn't it?

Given that we have an all-volunteer force, fewer and fewer people have lost someone in the service or even know someone who served after the Vietnam War era. Many do not realize we still have service members in harm's way, and each year we continue to have families back home who are getting that dreaded knock on the door to inform them their loved one has been lost. To some, it seems as though Memorial Day has become just another fun holiday for which the meaning has been lost. And to that I would say CELEBRATE!

Really? Yes, really! I am the Gold Star wife of WO1 Sean Mullen, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), who was killed in action in Afghanistan in June 2013. Sean loved this country and felt it was his honor and duty to serve. He would want you to go shopping, throw a neighborhood barbecue, take that beach trip, go camping with your kids — after all, he fought and died for the freedom we have to do those things.

All we ask is that at some point during that celebration, you join me by lifting up your drink for a toast or say a silent prayer for those who died for our freedom and that you live a life worthy of such sacrifice.

As George S. Patton Jr. said: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.



The Apostle Paul wrote several Epistles or letters to those he ministered to. The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were discouraged, and Paul wrote to them to encourage them. In his letter he talked much about faith, and how faith has shaped the journey of their forefathers. After going in detail of how faith shaped specific people in their past, Paul would add "For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (Hebrews 11)." These were just a few examples of people who acted in faith and their accomplishments.

Beyond just reminding the Christians in the Jewish community of the faith of their fathers, Paul was also pointing out that they are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, those who went before them and through faith accomplished many great feats, many of which still affect us today.

Paul's letter to the Hebrews could have been written to the military community we were or still are part of. While it does take military prowess to plan and execute a military campaign, it also takes faith that all you've planned will be carried out the way you envisioned it, and that you would see success. Yet, no matter how hard we plan, things sometimes go awry. So sometimes, we get discouraged. That seems to be that way life is sometimes.

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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: 290
Regular Members: 244
Surviving Spouses: 46

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

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

Maj Marisha Findley, USAF

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

employees with childcare costs through childcare stipends, on-site day care or reserved spots at licensed facilities.

An approved \$9.3 billion education budget includes a 2% pay increase for public school teachers and employees. The governor has set a goal of making starting teacher pay the highest among neighboring states.

There were some shortcomings in this session too.

Lottery and casino legislation failed after not getting the needed support in the Alabama Senate. A conference committee proposal would have authorized a state lottery and slot machines and video poker, but not table games, at seven locations.

Legislation that would have rewritten the state ethics law passed the House of Representatives but died in Senate committee. Republican Rep. Matt Simpson said his goal was to make the ethics law easier to understand. The legislation was opposed by the state attorney general's office.

The House Judiciary Committee voted down legislation that would allow about 30 death row inmates, who were given death sentences despite a jury's recommendation of life imprisonment, to receive new sentences. Alabama lawmakers abolished judicial override in 2017, but the change was not retroactive.

Lawmakers did not approve a proposal that would have prohibited teachers and school employees from displaying Pride flags on public school property. Another bill that did not pass would have allowed librarians to be arrested under the state obscenity law because of library content and programs.

And on the national front: The go-broke dates for benefit programs Medicare and Social Security have been pushed back as an improving economy has contributed to changed projected depletion dates, according to the annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report. Medicare's go-broke date for its hospital insurance trust fund was pushed back five years to 2036 in Monday's report. Social Security's trust funds will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2035, instead of last year's estimate of 2034. Still, officials warn that policy changes are needed lest the programs become unable to pay full benefits to retiring Americans.

The April 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released on May 15, was 307.811, 2.2% above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. The May 2024 figures will be announced June 12. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September) will be compared to the FY 2024 COLA baseline to calculate the 2025 COLA. 🏠

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Salads continue to have supply issues with most of the shelves empty.

Check out the specials in the meat isle along with all the extras to make your BBQ the best.

Head over to <https://marsmilitary.com> for coupons, recipes, and a chance to win two Six Flags tickets. Sweepstakes ends 1 Aug.

Check out the center of the store for bulk item sales! Big box selection without the big price tag. 🏠



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report April 2024

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

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

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$19,598.81	\$ 1,703.58
Income	\$ 760.00	\$.01
Expenses	\$ 1,625.74	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$18,733.07	\$ 1,703.59

3. Notable income: Membership meeting meals, payments for an advertisement in the Sentinel, \$300 from HQMOAA for tournament, petty cash, and dues.

4. Notable expenses: Liability insurance, 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 \$15,592.86. 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 May 2024

None

Total received for May:	\$0.00
Total received CY24:	\$0.00





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 **12 June**, 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

**Choose
Well.
Live
Well.**



**“HONORING
our VETERANS”**

THERE COMES A POINT
A point to live well, love well, BE well.



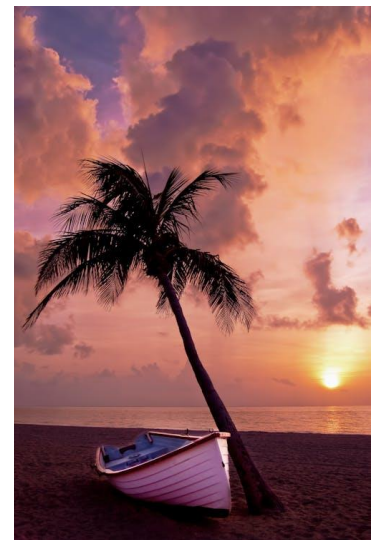
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Welcome to Summer!



27 Birthdays in June

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CPT Rene E Lemieux, USA | Mrs. Helen J Kolankiewicz |
| LTC Stephen D Rice, USA | MAJ Michael V Tallman, USA |
| LTC Johnnie L Bone Jr, USA | LTC Roderic Spencer, USA |
| CDR Rudolph M Ohme, USN | Mrs. Florence L Garman |
| MAJ John F Wilson Jr, USA | CW3 Lewis F Spencer Jr, USA |
| Capt Kenneth E Shepard, USAF | Mrs. Lois J Wendt |
| COL Tom L Albertson, USA | LTC Kenneth E Breeden, USA |
| COL John A Olshefski, USA | CAPT Veronica A Brecht, USCG |
| CDR Robert P Rolf, USN | CWO Richard C Demming, USA |
| LTC Johanna L Mora, USA | MAJ Sherrill T Chaffin, USA |
| Col Bernard S Morgan Jr, USAF | Mrs. Freddia K Scott |
| LTC William L Brigadier, USA | Mrs. Nora Taylor |
| CW4 William W Wright, USA | LTC Gary R Young, USA |
| CAPT Ronald L Stowe, USN | |

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

That's where perseverance comes in. Perseverance is defined on the internet as doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. Many of us have retired from the military, but faith and perseverance still come into play. What are your plans? Are they working out the way you planned? Giving up hope for success? I would encourage everyone to remember the many accomplishments you as well as those who came before you have accomplished and run the race that has been set before us.

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:

Mrs. Rosemary Bundy - passed away at the age of 99 on May 1, 2024. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in 1948 she married Lt. Robert Bundy. Bob and Rosemary made Huntsville their permanent home in 1972 after 31 years of military life. Her children and grandchildren will always recall her ingenuity and selfless acts. She will be remembered as a loving Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandmother.

Rosemary is preceded in death by her husband Bob of 64 years, and her sons Bernard and Michael. Survivors include her daughters Trish (Al) Bransdorfer of Holland, Michigan, and Kathy Staggs, daughters-in-law Rebecca Bundy and Sharon Bundy; grandchildren Amanda (Paul) White, Carolyn (Pat) McDonough of Auburn, Alabama, Billy Staggs of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Erik (Jordan) Bransdorfer of Sparta, Michigan, Beth Bransdorfer of Holland, Michigan, Nichole Bundy, Heather Bundy (Isaac Kirby); great-grandchildren Robert and Andy White, Sawyer, Greyson and Finley McDonough, Liam and Cole Bransdorfer, Blayze Bundy and Ledger Kirby. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Shirley Williamson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Visitation was on Monday, May 6th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Berryhill Funeral Home, followed by a mass at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 7th, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Hospital.

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Password Essentials

Overview

Online account security matters when it comes to avoiding identity theft, and having a strong password is your first line of defense. Strong passwords should be long (at least 16 characters), complex (containing a random mix of letters, numbers, and characters), and unique (not repeated from site to site). And if your credentials are stolen as part of a data breach — or if you suspect that someone’s trying to access your account — change your passwords immediately.

Much like the lock on a door or the code to a safe, your passwords protect the treasure trove of personal information stored within your digital accounts. From a retail membership with your banking or credit card information stored inside to your IRS account with your address or Social Security number on file, cybercriminals can do a lot of damage with information plucked from an online account.

How hackers steal passwords

Password thieves know just how valuable these credentials are, and they've found a multitude of ways to steal them over the years. Keeping an eye out for these methods of attack is essential.

- **Data breaches:** If a company you have an online account with is the victim of a data breach, your credentials could be stolen as part of the attack. That’s one reason why it’s so crucial to use unique passwords for every online account you open, instead of reusing the same password from site to site.
- **Brute force attacks:** This happens when bad actors try to guess your password, sometimes using software that allows them to do it rapid-fire, until they break the code. The good news is that most websites now limit how many incorrect attempts can be made to log into an account within a certain period of time, helping cut down on these attacks.
- **Malicious software:** If a device of yours is infected with certain types of malware, hackers can track what you type, including your credentials when you’re logging into an online account.
- **Shoulder surfing:** A more traditional mode of stealing information, this entails a fraudster watching you enter a password in real life, peeking over your shoulder as you type.
- **Phishing:** Some spoofed (or phony) websites deployed via phishing emails, texts, and social media messages can gather data you enter into them. So, when you type your username and password into the login page of a spoofed site, that data is captured by a criminal on the other end of the screen.
- **Social engineering:** In a social engineering scheme, a fraudster may pretend to be a family member or friend — or even generate the feeling of companionship via social media or dating sites — then ask for you to share their login information for some fictitious reason.

If a hacker steals your password using any of these methods, the most immediate risk is that they could gain access to the account (or accounts) associated with that password. Then, they have the power to manipulate your account settings and lock you out and act on your behalf without your consent. They could also view and steal the personal information stored inside, and use it to open new accounts, apply for credit cards, or commit other forms of identity theft. If the hacker gains access to your bank or credit card account, they could withdraw or transfer money or make unauthorized purchases.

How to create a strong password

It takes only a few seconds to change a password, and it’s time well spent if it saves you the emotional, and potentially financial, strife of identity theft or financial fraud. To ensure your passwords are as safe and secure as possible, follow these guidelines:

DO:

- **Make your passwords at least 16 characters long.** Or preferably, the longest length allowed by the site or app.
- **Use a random mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.** For some passwords, you may even be able to add spaces.

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- **Incorporate both capital and lowercase letters.** The more intricate the password, the more secure it is.
- **Use complex phrases rather than single words.** Using misspelled or nonsensical words and phrases will earn you extra points.

DON'T:

- Reuse passwords for multiple websites or accounts
- Write down passwords or store them in your email, phone, or computer
- Use words or phrases that are unique to you but predictable like your pets' names, street names, or your birthday
- Use common words or letter or number combinations like 12345 or "password"

Randomness is key to a good password

A great password solution: Take a phrase that's easy for you to remember, and tweak it to make it harder to guess, like in the examples below.


- **Swap out letters with similar special characters** (think @ for a, \$ for s) to turn a familiar verse into a stronger password. For example, Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud" becomes "Iw@nderedlonely@\$@cloud" — a much stronger password.
- **Use only the first letter of each word in a popular phrase or song.** Sheryl Crow's "All I wanna do / is have some fun / and I've got a feeling / I'm not the only one" becomes the more cryptic "AIWDIHSFAIGAFINTOO."

How often should you change your passwords?

Though it used to be best practice to change your passwords every few months, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has said in recent years that **it's more important to use strong and highly unique passwords than to change them often.** That said, immediately change your password if your credentials were included in a data breach, if someone you're no longer in touch with has a record of it, or if you suspect that attempts have been made to hack into your account.

More ways to protect your identity online

Fortunately, strong passwords aren't the only protection you can take against hackers and identity thieves. To further protect your digital accounts and identity security:

- **Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA)** for your most sensitive accounts like email, online banking, medical, and government accounts. It's smart to require multiple personal identification numbers or codes as an added layer of security.
- **Pay extra attention to your email account's security.** Because multi-factor authentication messages typically go to your email, it's extremely important to have a secure password for your primary email address.
- **Choose security questions that only you can answer.** Avoid questions and answers that a fraudster could glean from your digital footprint, for example, your mother's maiden name, or the city you were born in.
- **Keep your devices up to date.** Don't procrastinate on software updates for your smartphone and computer. These often contain new and improved safety features to help keep your electronics protected from hackers.
- **Use a password manager.** If you use the same password over and over again to avoid having to memorize yet another slew of random characters, you're not alone. But you're also putting your identity at risk. Thankfully, password manager software lets you remember only one unique password: the one that will log you into that account, which securely stores all your other passwords. Do ample research to ensure you're subscribing to a reputable, safe, and highly rated password manager, then enjoy the security — and headspace — it affords. 

Chapter Happenings – May



Chapter President Rick West presents the MOAA JROTC Award to Cadet James Nix from Madison County High School.



Chapter Member Ed Kennedy presents the MOAA JROTC Award to Cadet Gabrel Dempsey from Hazel Green High School.



Chapter Member Sam Scruggs presents the MOAA JROTC Award to Cadet Nathan Harbin from Fort Payne High School.



Chapter President Rick West and MG Tom O'Connor with the 2024 HCMOAA Scholarship Winners. (1 winner not present)

Chapter Happenings (cont)



2024 Memorial Day Ceremony & Wreath Laying: President Rick West, Dave Campbell, Sam Scruggs, and RADM Rich Landolt



2024 Memorial Day Ceremony & Wreath Laying: Sam Scruggs, Dave Dunlap, Audrey Ransom, and President Rick West



Mr. Larry Leopard (NASA Technical Director) briefs Chapter members on Moon and Mars missions.



President Rick West presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Leopard.

'Indefinite' DoD IDs may be Dropped as Acceptable Air-Travel Identification

Military retirees and some spouses or dependents whose next-generation Department of Defense identification cards have an "INDEF" expiration date continue to face problems using their IDs to traverse Transportation Security Administration checkpoints at U.S. airports.

And a potential solution under consideration at TSA -- that the agency drops the IDs, known as USIDs, as acceptable forms of identification when stricter travel requirements are implemented next year -- is sure to irritate those who like using their military IDs instead of a state driver's license or passport for travel.

Nearly a dozen military retirees have contacted Military.com in the past two years with concerns that their ID cards marked INDEF, meaning they have an indefinite expiration date, don't work with TSA screening technology in airports across the country.

Former service members have run into the issue at Chicago O'Hare International, Seattle-Tacoma International, Orlando International, Tampa International, San Diego International and elsewhere.

According to the TSA, the problem centers around USIDs that lack an expiration date. The "INDEF" designation cannot be read by the TSA's Credential Authentication Technology. When the CAT unit does not detect an expiration date, the CAT screen will display an "EXPIRED" alert, according to Langston.

The TSA officer is supposed to ask for another acceptable form of ID that can be read by the CAT unit. If the passenger does not have another acceptable form of ID, the officer will conduct manual inspection of the DoD ID presented as these IDs are currently acceptable forms of ID.

The issue is largely a matter of inconvenience, since many people travel with a driver's license, passport or other form of identification.

But for DoD ID card holders, it could become a major problem beginning May 7, 2025, when all travelers and visitors to the U.S. will be required to have a passport, a state-verified REAL ID or another form of identification designated as acceptable by TSA.

Since the REAL ID Act of 2005 was passed, Defense Department IDs holders have been told their IDs are compliant and acceptable in lieu of a REAL ID and many have not bothered to get a REAL ID compatible state identification card.

They may need to or begin traveling with a passport, because given the ongoing issues, TSA is considering dropping DoD IDs from their list of accepted identification before the REAL ID requirement goes into effect.

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But the proposal does not sit well among some former service members who spent decades serving their country and take pride in carrying a military ID.

The Defense Department updated the new IDs, known as USID, for active-duty family members, military retirees and their dependents, reservists and Medal of Honor recipients in 2020, the first upgrade to the cards since 1993.

The USID cards look similar to Common Access Cards, which are issued to active-duty personnel, but they don't have a built-in chip. They were created to have durable lamination, full-color photos and enhanced security features to make them less able to counterfeit or misuse.

When the USIDs were introduced, TSA's scanning system was unable to read their barcodes. That issue largely was fixed in 2022 with a software update, and DoD ID cards work for most individuals whose cards have an expiration date.

But the problem continues for IDs with the "INDEF" date. And retirees aren't happy about it.

"It's been my assumption all along [that I could fly with a DoD ID card]," said the Washington-based retired officer. "I had an old ID until just a couple of months ago, and it worked just fine."

Alabama Star ID Documents List

To obtain an Alabama Star ID, one must present four documents to verify identity/date of birth, Social Security number and address of principle residence when renewing/applying for a driver's license. Below is a list of accepted documents in each category. Photocopies are not acceptable.

- Verify Identity and Date of Birth (one document) – US Passport, Certified Birth Certificate, various other forms issued by DHS
- Verify Social Security Number (one document) – Social Security Card, DD-214, W-2 Form
- Verify Address (two documents) – Alabama Driver's License, Voter Registration Card, Mortgage, Lease, Property Tax Statement, Tax Returns, Vehicle Registration, Utility Bill, Court Documents, DD-214, Homeowners Insurance Policy, Social Security Statement, US or State Government Check III

History of Father's Day

Father's Day did not become a national holiday until 1972. Why did it take so long to pass into law (unlike Mother's Day, which was quickly embraced)? Why was it controversial at one time? Find out.

With America's history, you might think that a holiday recognizing men would be perfectly acceptable. After all, men dominated American society in the early 20th century. In addition, a "Father's Day" or day that recognizes the role of fathers in the family is an ancient tradition. In history books, there is mention of a Southern European tradition dating back to 1508.

Certainly, in modern days, we do not give Father's Day a second thought. It's been almost 50 years since President Richard Nixon's administration declared the third Sunday in June a day to recognize and honor the role of fathers in society (that occurred in 1972).

Father's Day Controversy

Interestingly, Father's Day was not immediately accepted when it was proposed. Why not?

Mother's Day came first (it was officially recognized in 1914), so men in the early 1900s associated such a tribute to women and found the idea too effeminate to their liking. To be fair, Mother's Day was couched in terms of femininity. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson called Mother's Day a way to recognize "that tender, gentle army—the mothers of America."

Men viewed the idea of Father's Day as similar to Mother's Day, which was popular with florists; for fathers, it didn't have the same sentimental appeal. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

Also, according to Lawrence R. Samuel, the author of *American Fatherhood: A Cultural History*, men had a different role in the family during the first half of that century. It was patriarchal, so they felt that a special day to exalt fatherhood was a rather silly idea, when it was mothers who were underappreciated.

However, that sentiment changed over time for several reasons.

The Women Behind Father's Day

Grace Golden Clayton

The first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.

Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died. However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted; very few people outside of the local area knew about it. Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers ...

Sonora Smart Dodd

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself, after his wife Ellen died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27 years old, came up with the idea. Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third

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Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons. Thus, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Becoming a National Holiday

The widely publicized events in Spokane struck a chord that reached all the way to Washington, D.C., and Sonora's celebration put the idea on the path to becoming a national holiday. However, the holiday did not catch on right away, perhaps due to the perceived parallels with Mother's Day.

- The first bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, but in spite of encouragement from President Woodrow Wilson, it did not pass.
- Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."
- In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that the holiday be celebrated on the third Sunday in June.
- Under President Richard Nixon, in 1972, Congress passed an act officially making Father's Day a national holiday. (Six years later, Sonora died at age 96.)

Commercialism and the Economy


Two economic events pushed Father's Day forward:

1. **The Great Depression.** With so many people pinching their pennies, the economy needed reasons for people to spend money. Father's Day was promoted by struggling stores as an occasion to get fathers some of the clothing and material goods they needed. It was a way to invite people to get Dad the necktie or pair of socks that he probably would not buy for himself.
2. **World War II.** Men were on the front lines. The desire to support American troops and the war effort provided another reason to support and show appreciation for dads.

The Changing Role of Fathers

The idea of fatherhood changed as well. It's not usually a big floral day, but it has become more of a day that celebrates what Dad likes to do, whether it's going fishing or flying or go-carting! It focuses on the larger roles that dads play with their children.

This change is partly due to the way society has evolved. There are no longer huge armies of workers toiling away in industrial factories, while women spend hours hand-stitching and handwashing the family's clothes. The modern role of the father has changed so that mothers and fathers are partners, each taking more responsibility within family life.

Fathers are now seen as significant influences on children; we know from many studies what happens when a father figure is lacking. In a sense, today, Father's Day, helps to demonstrate the importance and value of fatherhood—and the gifts beyond material goods that a father bestows on his children and family. 

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 June

- 3 June - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson (1937)
- 4 June – Rome liberated by US 5th 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)
- 12 June – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 13 June – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 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)
- 15 June – Tut Fann BBQ – 1100**
- 16 June – Father’s Day
- 17 June – Watergate burglary (1972)
- 18 June – Battle of Waterloo (1815)
- 19 June - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed (1953)
- 20 June – First day of summer
- 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)

