

Volume 56, Issue 3
March 2017



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Fellow Members –

March is almost here! Daylight Savings Time starts on 12 March, St. Patrick's Day 17 March, and the first Day of Spring is 20 March! Then everyone's dreaded day of 15 April. Time certainly seems like it is going by fast. Have you made a plan on what to do with your time? The future will be here no matter if you have made a plan or not.

At our last members meeting (usually the last Wednesday of the month at the Summit 11 AM), we heard from Cloud Financial (one of our proud Sentinel sponsors), who showed our members how to plan for their financial future. In March we hear from one of our own members about Better Living Though Chemistry.

Remember that it is important to RSVP to attend membership meetings. We have to provide a meal count to the Summit Club several days prior to the event. If you RSVP and fail to show, you are responsible for the cost of the meal. If you just show up unplanned, there may not be enough food. Try and make an effort to RSVP and attend our meetings.

Your Chapter also just submitted the package for the Level of Excellence award, which measures how well a Chapter is functioning in the eyes of MOAA National. We have won the 5-star award 5 years in a row. This year should be no different.

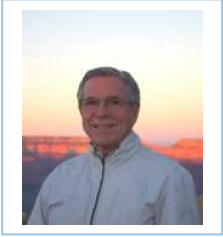
Finally, your Chapter is planning a day trip to the north of Nashville to view the upcoming total solar eclipse on 21 August. This eclipse is a rare event and you should consider going! More to follow. You can also join us at our Saturday Breakfast – usually the second Saturday of the month – 9AM at the Royal Rose Diner near Costco. Catch up on all your chapter events and news at our website: <http://huntsvillemoaa.org>

Gerald Maxwell

Get Involved!

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



Take
Action

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

• Alabama Pistol Permits

The Alabama legislation concerning free pistol permits has been amended to remove the word "nondisabled" from the law. Now any retired veteran, whether retired for length of service or for disability or any combination thereof, who is otherwise eligible to have a pistol permit in the state of Alabama may have one at no charge. The change is contained in Alabama Act 2016-453. In Madison County you can obtain a permit that is good for up to 5 years, saving you a total of \$100.00. Another benefit is that many other states will honor the Alabama permit. State House District 34 Representative David Standridge from Blount County, AL, championed this change.

(Contributed by Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF, retired, Chapter 2nd Vice President)

• DoD's New Retirement System - A Blended Reality – But, Is It Really an Improvement?

(Much of this is excerpted from an article by Col Dan Merry, USAF, retired, Vice President, Government Relations, national MOAA)

Even though this program is almost a year away, the financial education and leadership engagement has begun. Last July MOAA asked for membership's views concerning top personnel priorities such as the pay raise, housing allowance, force levels, TRICARE fees, and commissary initiatives. Over 5,000 members responded, and the single greatest concern among our retirees was further proposed cuts to force levels. This helped inform MOAA's lobbying efforts and, as we know by now, the 2017 Defense Bill turned back projected cuts and actually increased our force strength. Membership's actions and engagement made a difference but the challenges are not over.

The military's new retirement system could pose an enduring, long-term negative impact on the size and shape of our force. The new retirement system:

- Provides 40% of high-three years average basic pay at 20 years rather than the current system's 50%.

Continued on page 9

2017-2018 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

Secretary: MAJ Joe H. Williams, USA-Ret, 256-880-7694, joehwilliams@bellsouth.net

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bige992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

Second Past President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Programs: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jtreadway51@mchsi.com

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

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, mrbill5779@comcast.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, janetecamp@aol.com

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, janetecamp@aol.com

Chapter Hospitality: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164, rrolf@att.net

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

Audit: Vacant

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

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org / Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, don.kimminau@gmail.com

ROTC: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, charles.clements@mda.mil

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinso@mitre.org

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2017)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandis.com (July 2018)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2016)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

March is here. Time for St. Patrick's Day savings at your Exchange! Time to clean out your closets and get new dresses and spring clothes! Stop by and check out our selections. Spring also means getting your yard and garden in shape. In the early March sale brochure, your Exchange has Scotts Turf Builder buy 2 save 20%, seeds, seed starting products, weed killers, potting mix, and flower care materials – all on sale. For the younger gardeners, the Exchange has car seats, OshKosh, Carters, Under Armor, and Adidas – plus all the baby supplies – on sale!

Also, check out the AAFES Optical Center where you can buy one, get one 50% off pair of glasses (thru 1 April, 2017). Lined bifocal lenses are \$25 off and no line are \$30 off.

The new NAPA auto care center should be opening around mid-March. Be sure to watch for the grand opening!

As always shop early for best selection.

Shoppette

Your Shoppette now has a wide selection of local brews! These include Naked Pig, Dog Tag, Brown Ale, Brother Joseph, Cahaba, and others! We now carry a new product – Best Damn Root Beer and Cherry Cola – stop in and check it out!

We have a variety of Grey Goose vodkas on sale, and a new vodka – Cathead – just arrived! In the beer department we have Miller and Coors 24 pack cans and bottles on sale. Just arrived is a new Bird Dog Kentucky Blended Whiskey only \$17.90 750ml.

Remember, we offer a 10% case discount on wine and spirits. Discount applies to regular priced merchandise only, see store associate for more details. Wine – 6 bottles or more 750ml or more and spirits a full case.

Continued on page 6

Need Addresses

None at this time

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

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:
COL James D. Treadway
256-859-1484
jttreadway51@mchsi.com

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

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

Personal Affairs Officer
COL William Stevenson
256-424-1334
Mrbill5779@comcast.net



**Paul Snowden,
Tim Kinnison, COL., USAF (Ret.)
Gary Brotherton**

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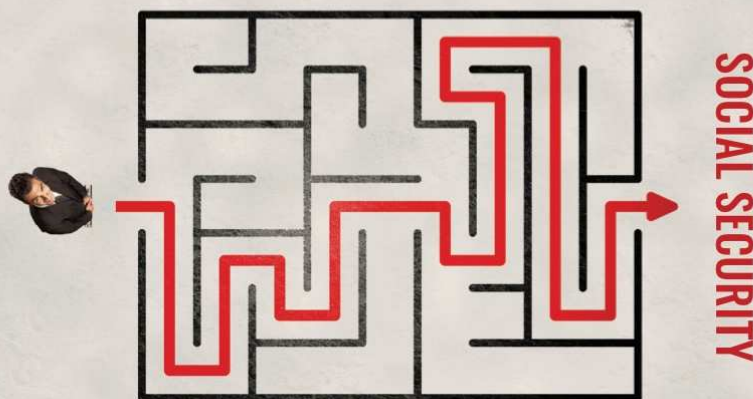
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*Nominated by
SSG Gary Brotherton
who returned recently
from a year of
active duty overseas.*

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



Fox Pinpoints Pharmacy Wait Times - Increases Patient Satisfaction

With the click of a button, Fox Army Health Center beneficiaries can maintain control of their schedules while taking charge of their health.

Beneficiaries can now see how long they'll have to wait to pick up their prescriptions at Fox's pharmacy simply by logging on to the FAHC website, www.redstone.amedd.army.mil. The home page not only lists the number of people waiting in the pharmacy, but also the approximate wait time. And coming soon, patients will also be able to see what ticket is currently being served. "We're definitely having lower wait times which relates directly into increased patient satisfaction," said Maj. Jennifer Easley, Fox's deputy commander for nursing. "It allows our patients who have flexibility in their schedule to be able to come in at times they won't experience a wait so they can take care of other things in their day, instead of spending it in our waiting room."

Since implementing the real-time tracker in December, the pharmacy has seen wait times drop from an average of 43 minutes down to 15, with a bulk of those wait times occurring between the lunch hour, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The real-time tracker, as well as the addition of two new dispensing windows, has allowed staff to spread out the prescription workload, rather than having a rush of beneficiaries at peak times.

"Our goal is to give patients the information they want about our services, as fast as possible," said Bill Adams, chief information officer for Fox, of the tracker, which updates every 15 seconds. "This is the first real-time bit of data we've displayed. The next thing we're going to do is we're getting ready to implement a queuing system in the clinics. This will allow patients to be a more informed partner in their healthcare. For Example, if you drive by commercial health care facilities some display wait time information outside their buildings our goal is to become more transparent so patients feel empowered when they use our services."

Patient satisfaction scores for the pharmacy have increased to 83.3 percent, up from 49 percent last year at this time, which is a major win for Fox, considering that the pharmacy is filling 75,000 more prescriptions annually than it did in 2009. To further reduce wait times, patients are still encouraged to phone-in, mail-in or go online to have their prescriptions refilled. Those prescriptions are then easily available for pick-up at pharmacy window 10, which is manned by American Red Cross volunteers. The real-time tracker is all part of an effort by Fox Army Health Center leaders to improve the beneficiary experience at the pharmacy. That effort includes opening more dispensing windows, increasing staff and adding more medicines to the formulary. Starting February 1, 2017, 86 new drugs are available at Fox, a roughly 15 percent increase to the pharmacy's offering of more than 550 medicines. To view the formulary click on "Pharmacy & Prescriptions" on the Fox homepage and scroll down to "FAHC Formulary."



Widow's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Thanks to all the ladies who attended our February luncheon

This month's luncheon will be on Thursday, 16 March, at the Royal Rose Diner, 1009 Memorial Parkway, Huntsville. Phone (256) 213-7478. We will meet at 11 AM. Everyone will be called. Please come.

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

PX – continued from page 3


Commissary

Check out the certified organic section on your right as you enter the commissary. Tomato's, carrots, potatoes, broccoli, apples, beans, peppers and more! From Chile, your commissary has black/red plums, nectarines, peaches, red/white seedless grapes, and blueberries.

Heavy rains in the western US have made quality issues for lettuce and leafy greens and this may last for several months.

New items! Sabra Greek yogurt dip – cucumber dill & spinach parmesan – plus a \$1 off coupon thru 3/31. Also Sabra spreads for sandwiches – honey mustard, garlic herb, sea salt & ancho pepper. Dole salad kits – southwest, BBQ ranch, bacon & blue, spinach cherry almond bleu, chipotle & cheddar, poppy seed, and pomegranate. Isle 3 has a wide variety of German, Hispanic, Indian and gourmet items. Also a new item – Puck Cream – I had to look it up. It is similar to ordinary cream with thickener. However, it does not contain sugar or vanilla, so I would add that to it and whip it up a bit. The canned cream carried by the commissary is almost solid like the consistency of pudding. The spread kind is soft like cream cheese. Also new is spotted Duck Sponge – a pudding from the UK.

Your Commissary now carries Sello Rojo short grain rice in a 5 lb bag \$4.27 (reduced \$1.62 to that price). What's the big deal? Short grain rice is the fattest, roundest breed of rice. It cooks up sticky and clumpy—think sushi rice, which is always short-grain. Making sticky rice? Don't reach for anything else. I have found short grain rice very difficult to find anywhere except specialty stores. Buy this at the commissary and try it out!

In the International Bread section (to the left of the wall of breads), you will find pumpernickel, Munich style Rye, Klosterbrot (Monastery) style Rye, Rudis Organic Bakery breads and Alpine Valley Super grains breads. For campers or preppers, your commissary has MRE's – right next to the breads. 



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

The Power of the Tongue

"DEATH and LIFE are in the power of the tongue" (Proverb 18:21, KJV).

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. For example, a teenager recklessly told his girlfriend that she was getting "too fat." That night she committed suicide. Teachers told us in elementary school: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." That was not true then, and it is not true now. Bad words are too frequently used today to stab others, and they often kill souls.

But there are good words that heal, revive, uplift, etc. The following are a list of common good words and a Scripture reference for each: praise, (Psalm 106:1); thank, (Romans 1:8); glorify, (Psalm 86:9); honor, (Psalm 8:5); bless, (Psalm 63:4). Blessing, honoring, and glorifying are basically the same. However, it seems that to honor is more highly concentrated than to bless, and to glorify is higher than to honor. However, if we bless, honor, glorify God, we usually do it by speaking of Him to men, and acting in such a way that He is exalted by us to others. Thanks and praise is directed to the person to whom it is given, while blessing, honor, and glorification may be given to others about the person.

The following are a list of a few of the bad words: murmur, (John 10:10); grumble, (James 5:10); backbite, (Psalm 15); judge, (Matthew 7:1-2); blaspheme, (Matthew 12:32). Murmuring, grumbling, backbiting, judging, are usually done by us to others. Blaspheming is usually directed straight against God.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

None this month

HCMOAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or ray.kw@juno.com.

Scholarships

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one or more scholarships each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Richard West for details.



Treasurer's Report

CAPT Richard West, USN

For the Month of January 2017

Beginning Balance	\$7525.62
Credits	2712.00
Debits	2588.22

Ending Balance	\$7649.40
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Membership Meeting

29 March 2017 11 AM – Summit Club

Mr. Paul Morin, Chapter Member

Paul was born in Rochester, NH, shortly after the conclusion of World War II and lived near his paternal grandparents in Eliot, Maine.

His father was a U.S. Navy pilot and so Paul moved around, living in Pocomoke City, MD, Pensacola, FL and Norfolk, VA growing up. He completed his senior year at Catholic High School in Pensacola, playing football, acting as a member of the Drama Club, and being selected as a member of the National Honor Society.

Paul's father taught him how to fly and he earned his private pilot's license. Following high school, he spent two years at a Roman Catholic seminary in Kentucky studying to become a priest. At the beginning of his third year, Paul decided that military aviation was more the life he wanted and so he left the seminary. He enrolled in Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama and earned a four-year undergraduate degree in Physics in roughly two and a half years.

Upon graduation, Paul married his first wife, Sandy, and joined the Navy's aviation officer training program. He received his wings as a Naval Flight Officer in April, 1970 and was assigned to Attack Squadron 42 at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA, to learn to operate the Navy's A-6 Intruder.

Paul served 21 years on active duty with the U.S. Navy. This included duty with two other A-6 squadrons based aboard three different aircraft carriers, a tour in Viet Nam (completing almost 100 missions), as an instructor at two Navy ROTC units (meeting and marrying his present wife of 40 years, Patsy) and at the Naval Aviation Training Command in Pensacola. Paul also earned two graduate degrees (an M.S. in Management from Troy University and an M.A. in Human Resource Development from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.), and attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Upon retiring from the Navy, Paul taught for the Albertville, AL school system. He retired from that job in 2008 and moved to Huntsville, where he plans to remain. Paul and his wife have 4 children and six grandchildren.

Paul plans to talk about a new health, athletic performance and anti-aging technology.

Menu: Pork schnitzel with jaeger sauce, Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German pan-fried potatoes, Cucumber salad, Broetchen, German chocolate cake and assorted beverages

Cost: \$15 for Chapter members and their guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

RSVP: CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, csgiving@bellsouth.net, NLT 24 March 2017

- Provides for a continuation bonus at the 12-year point between 2.5 to 13 times a member's regular monthly basic pay. DoD is still working on implementation guidance which will inform force-shaping strategies used by Service Chiefs and Secretaries.
- Leverages DoD's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) to augment retirement planning with a DoD Contribution of 1% of base pay, up front, after 60 days.
- Further leverages TSP by matching up to 4% of a member's contribution after two years of service—the maximum DoD contribution is 5% if the member deposits at least 5% of their base pay.
- Puts a lot of responsibility on the service member to plan and save in order to maximize DoD's matching contribution and compounding growth. Those who don't add their own savings to their TSP account will end up with a significantly reduced portfolio.
- For separating members with a minimum of 24 months of service, their TSP retirement savings becomes portable - they can take it with them to a new employer or transfer to another retirement saving plan.
- By law, those entering the service on or after 1 January 2018 will automatically be under the new system. Those who entered or signed their contract to enter service before January 1, 2006 are grandfathered into the pre-2018 retirement system and cannot opt in to the new one.

The 12-year window for those who will have the option to enroll or remain with their current retirement system ranges from (on or after) January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2017. That decision period starts 1 January 2018 and goes through the calendar year.

As stated above, this program is just under a year away, but the financial education and leadership engagement is happening now. As such, we anticipate this topic to grow in popularity. If you are a senior or retired service member, brace yourself for a potential run on your bank of knowledge. This daunting retirement decision may compel some to seek your counsel.

Force strength is often seen as numbers but the commanders in the field will tell you force strength is realized through trained, effective and capable forces, and experienced people and leaders up the ranks. The new retirement system has the potential of impacting retention by incentivizing shorter durations of service and "if-then-else" decisions at each assignment or deployment resulting in un-programmed losses of key personnel. Highly trained, and employable, officers and enlisted with as much as 10 to 15 years of service could decide to leave the military unless they are offered the maximum continuation bonus, and even that may not be enough.

We just lost an advertiser

His ad was in this spot. We need to replace it with a new advertiser.

Do you work for a company who might be interested in advertising?

Do you run your own business and would like to make that known to Chapter members?

You all have many vendors and businesses that you work with. A hairdresser or barber. A mechanic. A contractor. Favorite restaurant. Car dealer. And on and on ...

Provide their contact information to Bruce Robinson – he will reach out to them for advertising.

YOU are the best source of referrals.

An ad in the Sentinel is an easy source of revenue for the Chapter. Every little ad helps.

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 363
Surviving Spouses: 66

New this month: 0
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 7

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Help the Chapter Recruit New Members

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

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

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

You are the Chapter's best recruiters

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475 Providence Main St. 256.489.0886

Mon-Fri 9-7 Sat 9-4

Menu of Services

Roosters Club Cut...Precision cut, shampoo, hot towel and style...	\$26.00
Hot Towel Shave...Our special seven step process.....	\$22.00
Gentlemen's Choice...Club cut AND hot towel shave.....	\$45.00
Hero Cut...Club cut for active duty servicemen, police and firemen.....	\$22.00
Head Shave...Same special seven step process as the face.....	\$22.00
Beard Trim.....	\$12.00
Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline.....	\$18.00
Littlemen...Age 10 and under.....	\$18.00



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1301
Huntsville, AL 35807



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

<input type="checkbox"/> New		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	\$10	Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (based on your age)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	\$20				
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years	\$30				
<input type="text"/> First Name		<input type="text"/> MI	<input type="text"/> Last Name		
<input type="text"/> Preferred Name		<input type="text"/> Birthday (mm/dd/yy)	<input type="text"/> Spouse's Name	<input type="text"/> Period(s) of Active Duty i.e. 1965 – 1990	
<input type="text"/> Grade	<input type="text"/> Branch of Service	<input type="text"/> MOAA National Member #			
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> NG	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
<input type="text"/> Mailing Address		<input type="text"/> City	<input type="text"/> State	<input type="text"/> Zip	
<input type="text"/> Phone Number		<input type="text"/> E-mail Address			

Attention Annual Members

It is past time to renew your membership for next year



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

Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls - see page 14 for a list of those members who need to renew!

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate

Don't know when your membership expires? Contact CDR Chris Downing at
256-828-9740 or cdowning@bellsouth.net

Don't want to worry about renewing ever again - consider becoming a Chapter Life Member –
contact COL John Fairlamb at 256-539-0161 or fairlambjrf@comcast.net for the details

**30 Birthdays in March
Happy Birthday!**



TAPS

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

None this month

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:

Maj Gen Melvin Bowling, USAF	CW3 Braxton Butler, USA
LTC Floyd Teller, USA	LYC Nicholas Mikus, USA
LTC Raymond Livingston Jr, USA	Mrs Margaret Feist
LTC James Roy, USA	Col Alvin Kemmet, Jr USAF
Mrs Sonia Gojsza	Maj John Finn, USAF
Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF	Col Scott Patton, USAF
MAJ Harold Meeker, USA	LTC Harry Durgin, USA
Mrs Jean Parker	COL John Fairlamb, USA
LTC Robert Westerfeldt, USA	LTC Earl Freeman, USA
CAPT John Snyder, USN	COL Donald Harmon, ARNG
CW3 Darrel LaCanne, USA	MAJ Ryan Rushton, USA
LCDR Richard Edgar, USN	COL David Pemberton, USA
LT James Pointer, USN	Lt Col Brenda Armstrong, USAF
CDR John Inman, USN	COL Mark Arn, USA
MAJ Robert Szeremi, USA	LTC Charles Long, USA

Recognition

Do you have a friend or relative who achieved a major milestone that you would like to recognize?

Chapter Member Nick Mikus (see the ad for his restaurant on page 17) did. His nephew attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and Nick wanted to recognize him. He asked the Chapter to help.

We provided our Chapter logo to go on a plaque that Nick purchased, and our Chapter President provided a letter of congratulations.

This is a good "best practice" that we would like to continue. Let a board member know if you have someone you want to acknowledge, and the Chapter would be glad to assist.



Chapter Happenings



COL James Treadway is sworn in by
outgoing Chapter President Charles
Clements as the US Army
Representative



CDR John Inman presents
JROTC award at Sparkman HS



Chapter President Gerald Maxwell presents a certificate to February
guest speaker Charlie Harriman of Cloud Financial

**The following Chapter members need to renew their memberships.
Please fill out the form on page 11 and send it in with your check.
Don't risk getting dropped from the rolls!**

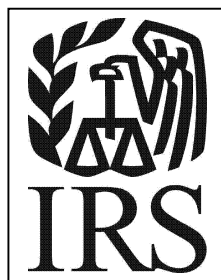
LTC	Melville	Adams	USA	Mrs	Helen	Kolankiewicz	
COL	Mark	Arn	USA	LTC	Ruby	Lardent-Davis	USAR
LTC	Philip	Bradley	USA	COL	George	Laslo	USA
CPT	Paula	Brown	USA	Col	James	Lee	USAF
CW3	Braxton	Butler	USA	LTC	Charles	Long	USA
LTC	Richard	Carter	USA	LTC	Thomas	Means	USA
LTC	Patrick	Conner	USA	BG	Daniel	Montgomery	USA
LTC	Andre	Cota-Robles	USA	Col	Millard	Moon	USAF
COL	Edmund	Dowling	USA	CAPT	David	Newberry	USN
MAJ	Charles	Drake	USMC	LTC	Albert	Parmentier	USA
LTC	John	Fain	USA	COL	David	Pemberton	USA
BG	Leslie	Fullen	USA	CPT	Steven	Raymond	USA
COL	Ronald	Funderburk	USA	MAJ	Lilian	Richardson	USA
LTC	Robert	Hearon	USA	LTC	Malcolm	Sams	USA
LTC	James	Holland	USA	LTC	Samuel	Scruggs	USA
Col	Charles	Hummer	USAF	LTC	Harold	Walden	USA
COL	George	Jobczynski	USA	CPT	Arthur	Werkheiser	USA
LTC	Charles	Joyner	USA	LTC	Glen	Williams	USA
Col	Alvin	Kemmet Jr	USAF	MAJ	Houston	Yarbrough	USA
LTC	Edwin	Kennedy	USA				

Please direct any questions to CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, csdowning@bellsouth.net

Redstone Arsenal Tax Center

The Redstone Tax Center has moved from Bldg. 3489 Ajax Road to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Honest John Road, Bldg 3439, which is across the street from Pagona Gym. The grand opening was on for 23 January 2017. Individuals who qualify (Active and retired military members and their dependents if they have an ID, card as well as reserve and national guard members) to have their tax returns prepared at the Redstone Tax Center can call 842-1040 to make an appointment.

April 18th !



Legislative – continued from page 9

With that view of the landscape in mind, and if only one out of five currently serve until 20 years, there is a good chance even fewer will stay for the 20-year retirement under the new system. Will service ethos alone be enough to keep the rosters full of the right people with the right skill levels and experience? If not, what will it cost to keep people beyond their initial obligation to reach the 12-year continuation bonus? Will the balance of continuation bonuses be closer to 13 times the monthly pay vice the 2.5 lesser amount? How much will contracted support cost to replace those servicemembers who don't stay?

Many people—mostly those who expect to leave before completing a career—will benefit from the Blended Retirement System, and the DoD may benefit from it initially, but we should bear in mind Congress changed the military retirement system once before in 1986 (to cut benefits for post-1986 entrants) and had to repeal it by 2000 because it was hurting retention. **Someone has to pay attention to the negative trends** such as skill set shortages, un-programmed losses and overall lower retention rates. **MOAA will answer this call.** If we miss those indicators we risk hollowing out the force and we cannot let that happen again. |||

TRICARE Wants You to Drop the Dip

Roses are red, violets are blue, but chewing tobacco makes your loved one say “Eww!” Don't let smokeless tobacco ruin your date night plans or accelerate “til death do us part”. Drop the dip with TRICARE and Quit Tobacco. Each year smokeless tobacco users around the country agree to quit for just one day in the hopes that it helps you quit for good.

Smokeless tobacco is not harmless. When you drop the dip, a number of health risks will drop too:

- Drop the risk for developing cancer in your mouth.
- Drop leathery white patches and red sores in your mouth.
- Drop the risk for heart disease, high blood pressure and heart attacks.
- Drop the risk for high cholesterol.
- Drop the bad breath and possibility of tooth loss.

In addition, snuff and dip contain three to four times more nicotine than a cigarette, making it more addictive and harder to quit. Military smokeless tobacco use is more than five times higher than the civilian population.

Quitting is not always easy, but the Quit Tobacco – UCanQuit2.org campaign is available to help you stop for good. Visit UCanQuit2.org for their tips on tobacco cessation. Their resources include an interactive quit plan, text message support program, a savings calculator and 24/7 live chat support.

TRICARE has a number of programs you can also use to help you drop the dip, including:

- Tobacco Cessation Quitlines through your regional contractor
- Counseling Services
- Tobacco Cessation Medication

Visit us [online](#) for more information on TRICARE's tobacco cessation benefit.

Pancake Breakfasts

Kiwanis Club of Huntsville
40th Annual Pancake Breakfast
4 March 2017 from 6 AM until Noon
Huntsville High School Cafeteria
2301 Billie Watkins Street, Huntsville
All you can eat – pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk & orange juice - \$7.00



Kiwanis Club West
17th Annual Pancake Breakfast
18 March 2017 from 7:30 AM until 11:30 AM
Mayfair Church of Christ Gym
1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, Huntsville
All you can eat – pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk & orange juice - \$6.00

Kiwanis Club West is also conducting a raffle for a Beretta 92F 9mm pistol
Further info: store6670320.ecwid.com/#!/Kiwanis-Huntsville-West-Raffle-Tickets/p/78634288
Winner must be 18 or older and complete a background check

Contact Chapter Member Mike Roddy, 256-461-9899, javelin06@aol.com, for info

Market Place Craft Fair



Trinity United Methodist Church
607 Airport Road, Huntsville



3 March 2017 from 9 AM until 6 PM

4 March 2017 from 9 AM until 4 PM

Park in the rear of the church

Food can be purchased for lunch

Check out Chapter Member James Treadway's booth – Jim's Gems

Huntsville Shred Day




22 April 2017 from 8:30 AM until Noon

Redstone Federal Credit Union
220 Wynn Drive, Huntsville



Document Destruction & Secure Destruction will provide free document shredding

Tennessee Valley Electronics will provide free electronics recycling



Welcome AUSA!
Nick's Ristorante is SDVOSB
and Organization Corporate Member

The Place for Discerning Adults Age 19 and over

Open: Tue-Sat 5-11PM
 10300 Bailey Cove Rd
 For reservations: 256-489-8280
www.nicksristorante.com



Huntsville Veterans Job Fair

Holiday Inn Research Park

5903 University Drive
 Huntsville, AL 35806

29 March 2017

11 AM – 3 PM

To Register: RecruitMilitary.com/Huntsville

Now and Always We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

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

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have about 450 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us, and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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



Register: www.warriorstotheworkforcehsv.net

Don't miss this Job
Fair for Veterans
and military
spouses

Over 30 companies
committed to
participate

Talk with employers
and submit
applications on the
spot

Important Dates in March

- 1 March – Ash Wednesday
- 1 March – Charles Lindberg's son kidnapped (1932)
- 1 March – Peace Corps established (1961)
- 2 March – Sam Houston born (1793)
- 4 March – Knute Rockne born (1888)
- 6 March – The Alamo falls (1836)
- 6 March – Michelangelo born (1475)
- 9 March– Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café**
- 10 March – Salvation Army founded (1880)
- 11 March – Monthly Breakfast – Royal Rose Diner**
- 11 March – Influenza epidemic began – 500,000 US deaths (1918)
- 12 March – Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13-15 March – AUSA Global Force Symposium – VBC
- 14 March – Albert Einstein born (1879)
- 15 March – Ides of March – Julius Caesar assassinated (44 BC)
- 16 March – My Lai Massacre (1968)
- 17 March – St. Patrick's Day
- 20 March – First day of Spring
- 24 March – Exxon Valdez oil spill (1989)
- 26 March – Tennessee Williams born (1911)
- 28 March – Three Mile Island nuclear accident (1979)
- 29 March – Monthly Member Meeting - Summit Club – Paul Morin**
- 30 March – Ronald Reagan shot (1981)
- 30 March – Vincent Van Gogh born (1853)

