

Volume 60, Issue 3
March 2021



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

Welcome to another great edition of The Sentinel newsletter! Hopefully, everyone made it past the “Big Freeze”, and you are all prepared for some rain!

The turnout at our membership Zoom meetings continues to increase. Thanks to those of you who took the time to join us in conducting chapter business and participating in the many discussions! We had 2 new chapter members attend and several first time Zoomers! We will continue to use Zoom until it is safe to get together. The next Zoom meeting will be **March 31st at 1000 ← Note the time! Please block this time off on your calendars now!** 😊

Our 2020 donation drive for the Scholarship Fund 2021 scholarships is complete. Of course, we will continue to accept donations towards the 2022 scholarships! Between commercial sponsorships and member donations, we received just over \$8000 in contributions – about \$2000 short of the goal we needed to maintain previous scholarship donation levels. The Chapter and I thank the many of you who so generously donated to this very worthy cause! I will advise you as to our actual scholarship donation in the April newsletter.

Just a gentle reminder that annual dues are past due! We are down to less than 30 renewals needed. Please see page 13 in this issue, and, if listed, please send in your dues using the form attached to the email. We really do not want to lose a single person from the chapter!!! There are so many benefits associated with membership and you **just cannot beat the annual \$10 dues!**

Another date to block off on the calendar – **September 10th**. That is the date of our annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. We will need a lot of help to make this year's tourney the best ever!

If anyone has suggestions or ideas for the Chapter, please let me know! My email and phone number are in this issue. **Stay Safe!**

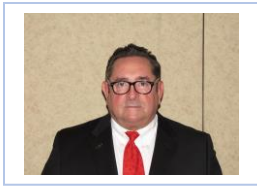
Rick

Due to the coronavirus situation, Member Meetings are being conducted via Zoom until further notice

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



"All politics is local."

On the National Front everyone should be aware that former President Trump has been acquitted by the US Senate on the sole charge of "incitement of insurrection". The verdict, on a vote of 57-43, resulted in the acquittal. Seven Republicans joined all the Senate Democrats to convict, but it was far from the two-third threshold required.

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville will serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee; the Health Education Labor & Pensions Committee; and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

U.S. Sen. Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, the Senate's fourth most senior member, has announced his intent not to seek reelection next year. This has prompted some Republicans to urge the powerful, establishment politician to reconsider, even as potential replacements prepare to run for his seat. The 86-year-old politician has spent 42 years in Washington, serving first in the House before the Senate.

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, beginning January 1, 2022, plans and providers (including hospitals, facilities, individual practitioners and air ambulance providers) are prohibited from billing patients more than in-network cost-sharing amounts in certain circumstances. The prohibition applies to both emergency care and certain non-emergency situations where patients do not have the ability to choose an in-network provider.

Surprise billing describes a situation when an insured patient unknowingly receives care from an out-of-network provider and then is presented with a bill for services and payment obligation beyond what the patient's insurer will cover. Surprise medical bills can arise in an emergency when the patient has no ability to select the facility or provider rendering services. Surprise bills can also arise when a patient receives planned care, such as when a patient receives care at an in-network facility but later finds out that a provider who treated the patient is out-of-network. This most often happens with providers with whom the patient does not interact prior to the service, such as pathologists and radiologists.

Gov. Kay Ivey signed three priority bills into law Friday 12 February 2021. This comes after state lawmakers wrapped up their first two weeks of the legislative session. The three are 1) a law revamping major economic incentives offered in industrial recruitment projects; this is intended to generate new business placement and job growth in Alabama, 2) a law specifying that federal COVID-19 relief funds received by individuals, businesses or

Continued on page 9

2021-2022 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

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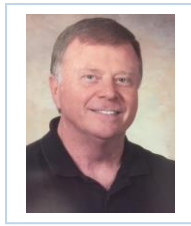
Webmaster: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2023)

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

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



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Time for St. Patrick's Day savings at your Exchange! You will save plenty of green when you shop your Exchange! Be sure to always check the clearance section of each area in the store. The first plant truck sale of the season is anticipated in late March or early April. Stop by and buy a single plant, a six-pack or a full tray! Pepper, tomato, onion, to ornamental – everything you could want for early planting!

Check the <https://www.shopmyexchange.com> web site every day for the super daily special. At this site, you can also see the latest specials, weekly sales, and sweepstakes. Shop early for the best selection!

While at your Exchange, pick up your copy of the "Beauty Bar" sale book (or check for it online), where everything for personal care is on sale. Also, don't forget to download the Exchange EXTRA app today. Get it on Google play, the Apple app store, or scan the QR (quick response) code in flyers and ads. The main store will soon have winter merchandise on clearance so watch for that! Spring starts in March.

Check out the clothing clearance in men's, women's and children. Most are 25% off with the occasional additional percentage off (and even more if you use your STAR card). Don't forget, if you don't have a STAR card, apply for one and ALL your first day purchases are an additional 10% off! Plus 12 months, no interest and no payments on any Apple purchase of \$499 or more!

Shopette

Sadly, tent sales are still on hold. Check out the spirits and wines of the month selection! Check out the latest Muscatine wines: lightly sweet to sweet table wines. While at home rent a video from The Red Box outside. Download their app for specials.

Commissary

New at the commissary: Orrington Farms Meal Creations Sauces for Pot Roast, Chicken Marsala, and Beef Stew; also Orrington's Broth Base for beef, ham, and chicken; Johnny's French Dip Au Jus; Energy Coke in cherry and regular; and Iced coffee Girl Scout s'more flavor from Dunkin. All in the freezer isle section.

Check out the section of MRE's near the bread aisle. A large selection of food to store and be ready for the next time we have to stay at home. Ready for preppers or camping.

Your commissary not only saves you an average of 30% or more, but also has links to healthy living and recipes at: <http://www.commissaries.com/healthy-living/index.cfm>

Need Addresses

None this month

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 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
jtreadway51@mchs-i.com

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

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

Personal Affairs Officer
Lt Col Gerald Haynes
 256-882-7857
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Do you know how the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset may affect the direction of your Social Security?



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



FAHC Highlights from February 2021:

- Fox Army Health Center continues its COVID-19 vaccination campaign, currently focused on medical personnel, first responders, frontline essential workers, deploying personnel, and beneficiaries age 75 and older. Vaccines continue to be appointment based and in accordance with the published DoD prioritized population schema.
- The local Sergeant's Major Association hosted a lunch for the Fox Army Health Center staff to recognize and thank the staff for their contributions and support to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FAHC nurses celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps birthday, highlighting this year's theme: "Diverse in Talent, United in Mission."

Events to look forward to in March 2021:

- Fox Army Health Center is proud to announce and welcome back the return of American Red Cross volunteers beginning the first week of March 2021.

Information about the Fox Army Health Center's Covid -19 Vaccination Program



1. Register for an account with the FAHC PCRS system, Right click on this web address:
<https://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/>
2. Next, click on this icon: 
3. Once at the PCRS page, look for "Click here to sign up for a new account"
4. Once registration is confirmed, log into PCRS and click on the Covid Vaccine icon. 
Select your patient category, and sign up for a date and time to get your vaccination. You can also download and complete your vaccine screening form, and bring it with you.
5. Arrive at your scheduled date and time.

When arriving at Fox, use the main entrance. Once inside, follow the bright yellow arrows to the basement. Signs will direct you from there.



COVID 19

Before you get the vaccine, please let vaccine staff know if any of the following applies to you:

- You have allergies
- You have fever
- You have bleeding disorder or are on blood thinners
- You are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- Have already received Covid-19 vaccine
- You have received any other vaccine within the past 14 days
- Will you be TDY/TAD/PCS OCONUS within the next 30 days

Who should not get the vaccine:

- You have had severe reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine
- You have had severe reaction to any ingredient in this vaccine

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2021 GOLF SCRAMBLE

PINEAPPLE OPEN

April 30th

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



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower

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

Everyone will be called when we resume the luncheons.

Surviving Spouse Corner: The Four Facets of Grief

Often one's grief journey has many variations or facets. After a loss, there are so many things that need to be completed and people demanding your attention that it's easy to forget about taking care of yourself. However, when the final tasks honoring our loved ones are completed, we need to focus on healing ourselves.

Ruth E. Field's book *The 4 Facets of Grief*, helps put into words some of the tough experiences you encounter during the grieving process. The framework is flexible; there is no specific order to the facets, so you can read about and work with whatever interests you and seems relevant.

Here are some highlights from the book:

Facet 1: Accepting (the Unacceptable) — Having to recognize what has happened and is true. This does not mean approving, liking, endorsing, or embracing the situation. Accepting can help you find some clarity in the haze of the decision-making process under the circumstances. [MOAA publications](#) are a great place to find helpful information.

Facet 2: Adapting to a New Reality — Modifying your previous life and transitioning to something new. This adjustment can be very challenging especially when resisting the inevitable change that is happening. Of course, nothing will be exactly the same when a loved one passes, but often aspects can remain. Figuring out what needs to change and what doesn't is part of adapting.

Facet 3: Meaning Making — Creating an opportunity for personal growth and lifestyle changes. Examples include focusing more on religious or spiritual education, increasing family interaction, or even philanthropic causes. Remember you are still here and finding new activities to bring some positive energy to your life can be fulfilling.

Facet 4: Replenishing — It is common to become depleted by people, events, and even your own emotions during grief. Being a bit selfish (in a healthy sense) by taking care of yourself first is key. Identifying what activities you find fulfilling can assist in the healing process. Even thinking about a new or old pursuit could revitalize you.

Continued on page 9



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.



Memorials

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to:
Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box
1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 356
Regular Members: 301
Surviving Spouses: 55

New this month: 1
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 9

**Welcome New Members to
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

Col Larry Layne, 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


organizations are not subject to state income tax, and 3) a law to limit the COVID-19-related lawsuits that can be filed against businesses and other entities, as long as CDC and Alabama Health Department guidelines were followed. The law will help protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits.

State lawmakers returned for session on 23 February. Other bills that might become law are:

- A bill to allow home delivery of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages.
- A bill that would allow law enforcement agencies to use automated license plate recognition systems on public highways but specify that collected information can only be used for law enforcement purposes.
- A bill will help with the deployment of 5G small cell technology throughout the state. It is an economic development bill. The bill creates a uniform application process that local governments will use, as well as a timeline for approval. It also creates a cap on fees by setting limits on how much money local governments can charge providers for access to utility structures.
- There will likely be an amendment to the Alabama constitution proposed to allow gambling state-wide.

The January 2021 CPI is 255.296, 0.7 percent above the FY 2021 COLA baseline.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative Affairs portion of our webpage. There are three articles: One is about the US Space Force, the second is news about a cheating scandal at the USAF Academy and the last one is more detail on the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

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

Surviving Spouse Corner – continued from page 7

Each of the facets joins together to create a new beginning.

- **Accepting** brings you face to face with reality.
- **Adapting** to new circumstances inspires fresh ideas.
- **Meaning making** ponders the significance and implications of the loss.
- **Replenishing** ensures continued healthy self-care.

Each person's journey is unique like a precious gemstone. When you use new skills like those in Field's framework, you become like a jeweler cutting a rough stone and polishing it into a beautifully faceted one. Then you can let the light in again.

Remember, try not to resist asking for help. Your MOAA surviving spouse liaison can be of assistance. Local resources are available to explore by simply asking your funeral director for a list. All are happy to provide additional support. 



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report January 2021

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

1. The January 2021 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. It was virtually reviewed by the Governing Board and forwarded for membership approval at the next membership meeting.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$ 9,846.11	\$ 8,005.10
Income	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 0.07
Expenses	\$ 1,221.99	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 11,574.12	\$ 8,005.17

3. Notable income: Renewal of Nick's Ristorante advertisement, USAA advertisement, LMT revenue for O'Neil, Ciccolella, and Armstrong, LMT and HCMOAA dues.

4. Notable expenses: Payments to the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, Alabama MOAA Council of Chapters, LMT transfers for O'Neil and Ciccolella, HCMOAA Scholarship Fund, and bankcard fees.

5. Chapter savings account activity was limited to interest.

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

7. The 5-month CD was opened on 19 October 2020 with Wells-Fargo. The CD was opened with a balance of \$8,515.59 and the current balance is \$8,515.81. The CD matures in mid-March 2021. The funds represented by this CD are for reserve funding and advance dues payment protection.

Scholarship Fund Donations

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

Total received for February:	\$1270
Total received FY21 to date:	\$7560



Many Thanks to the Following Supporters for their Generous
Scholarship Fund Donations Received During February 2021 (up through the 25th)

CW4 Jeffrey Sumners, USA (Ret.)
Maj Edward Morfenski, USAF (Ret.)
Mrs. Rosemary Bundy
Thompson Gray, Inc. – Corporate Donor

Options to Get COVID-19 Vaccine

Are you and your family looking to get a COVID-19 vaccine near you? If so, you'll soon have more options for where you can go to get it. As part of the ongoing response to COVID-19, the federal government has launched the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination. This new program is a collaboration between the federal government, states, territories, and 21 national pharmacies and independent pharmacy networks to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. Here are some details about distribution and how you can get the vaccine with your TRICARE benefit.

How does the program work?

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will supply COVID-19 vaccines to retail pharmacies in phases. As part of the initial phase, 1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be sent to a select group of pharmacies. These pharmacies will then administer vaccinations to those who are eligible. Some pharmacies have already begun offering a limited amount of the vaccine through this program. Other pharmacies are set to begin offering doses soon. As stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "As vaccine supply increases, more retail locations will be added."

Will my local pharmacy offer the COVID-19 vaccine?

Pharmacies that are part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program may vary by state and territory. Pharmacies participating in the program may include TRICARE network pharmacies and non-network pharmacies. You can find a list of pharmacies that are currently participating in your area on the CDC website.

How can I get the vaccine with my TRICARE benefit?

The availability of the vaccine may vary by location. If you're a TRICARE beneficiary, you'll eventually be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine at:

- Your local military hospital or clinic
- Local or state health department COVID-19 vaccination sites
- Your civilian provider
- Pharmacies participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program

There is no cost if you get the COVID-19 vaccine at a TRICARE network pharmacy. Planning to get the vaccine at a non-network pharmacy? There's no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine itself. Keep in mind, TRICARE doesn't cover other vaccines and most prescription drugs at non-network pharmacies.

Remember, there may be a cost based on your health plan for an office visit with a provider, or if you need follow-on care.

Do you prefer to get the vaccine at a military hospital or clinic? If you're eligible for TRICARE, you can get the COVID-19 vaccine at any military hospital or clinic that offers it. This is true even if you don't get your routine care there.



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	

Attention Annual Members

It is getting time to renew your membership for next year
 The Chapter has one of, if not the, lowest membership rates in the country at \$10

Members listed on the next page are being dropped from the rolls

You can also renew for multiple years and lock in that low rate
 Don't know when your membership expires? Contact MAJ Bruce Robinson at
 256-426-0525 or brucer76@knology.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

The following annual members are being dropped from the rolls:

COL James R Allred, USA
Col Stephen C Baker, USMC
Mrs. Margot J Chabot
LTC Joseph J Della Silva, USA
LCDR Aaron T Freymiller, USN
Lt Col James B Dooley, USAF
CDR John E Inman, USN
COL George S Laslo, USA
COL James E Moentmann, USA
COL Larry M Pigue, USA
Col Charles R Rice, USAF
LTC Richard H Sorrell, USA
COL Steven E Walburn, USA
LTC Glen W Williams, USA

LCDR James G Andrews, USN
CW2 Ann D Bruno, USN
CW5 Charles A Covell, USA
LTC James F Duttweiler, USA
MAJ Diana M Hansen, USA
LTC James O Holland, USA
CDR Paul R Jensen, USN
CW4 Michael H McIntosh, USA
COL Maurice A Ottinger, USA
LT James L Pointer, USN
CPT Gary M Rose, USA
LCDR Walter A Starkey, USN
Col Dwayne B Wilhite, USAF

Governing Board Vacancies

The chapter either has, or will have, vacancies in several governing board positions. We need some dedicated volunteers to fill these positions and help the leadership team keep the chapter vibrant. Brief descriptions of the positions follow. If you think you may be able to fill one of the vacancies, or desire additional information, contact any board member.

Membership: A key position. The chair maintains a roster of chapter members & keeps it in synch with MOAA National's online roster. Responsible for recruiting & retention of members.

Webmaster: Maintains the chapter's website & keeps it current. You can be as creative as you want. The position could be filled by a spouse, child or grandchild of a member.

Chaplain: Provides spiritual support to members in need. Provides prayers at chapter meetings. Provides a monthly newsletter article. You need not be a military chaplain or any type of priest or minister to fill the position.

Publicity: Helps to advertise chapter events with local media & the Redstone Rocket. The main event is our fundraising golf tournament.

Historian: This position has not been filled for many years. The historian would be responsible for establishing a digital archival system for storing relevant chapter documents. You can be as creative as you want.

There's no time like now to plan your future.



Dale C Kuehl
Financial Advisor

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

Edward Jones
Member Since 1977
edwardjones.com

HKT-00000-A

Scholarship Golf Tournament

Our annual fundraising golf tournament for 2021 is scheduled for September 10th at the Links at Redstone.

The Chapter's Golf Committee will begin to hold monthly planning meetings as soon as it is safe to conduct face-to-face meetings. They will take place at the Links restaurant over lunch.

The Golf Committee needs volunteers to make the tournament a success. You don't need to know anything about golf to help out.

Areas where you can help include:

- Corporate sponsorships
- Soliciting items for the silent auction & door prizes
- Soliciting rounds of golf from local courses
- Advertising the tournament
- Signing up golfers
- Helping staff the tournament – registration, silent auction, photography, manning prize holes, placing hole signs, and more

If you would like to join the Committee, or just find out more, contact Bruce Robinson at 256-425-0525 or brucer76@knology.net

Hope to see you on the Links!

Redstone Arsenal Honors
GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH
2PM-4PM
PERSHING WELCOME CENTER

Please help RSAMCC join the Redstone Arsenal community in honoring our Gold Star Spouses by handing out gifts/baskets to families via a drive thru event. We need many participants out there to clap, hold flags, and wave. Come out and support and honor our surviving military spouses.

Contact RSAMCC Community Liaison Kristina DeBusk at kristina.debusk@yahoo.com for more information



19 Birthdays in March

Maj Gen Melvin G Bowling, USAF
Mrs. Margaret R Feist
LTC Nicholas M Mikus, USA
Lt Col Charles T Clements, USAF
COL John R Fairlamb, USA
COL Lawrence J Becker, USA
Lt Col Brenda Armstrong, USAF
Col Scott G Patton, USAF
CDR John E Inman, USN
LT James L Pointer, USN

LTC Raymond L Livingston Jr, USA
LTC James A Roy, USA
CW3 Braxton D Butler, USA
LTC Harry W Durgin, USA
MAJ James Greene, USA
COL Donald B Harmon, ARNG
CW4 Robert C Savage, USA
LTC Earl A Freeman, USA
COL Robert J Thomas, USA

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

Chapter Happenings

Chapter President Rick West receives a check for \$1000 towards the scholarship fund from chapter member Don Kimminau on behalf of Thompson Gray, Inc.



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time has been used in the U.S. and in many European countries since World War I. At that time, in an effort to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power, Germany and Austria took time by the forelock, and began saving daylight at 11:00 p.m. on April 30, 1916, by advancing the hands of the clock one hour until the following October. Other countries immediately adopted this 1916 action: Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, and Tasmania. Nova Scotia and Manitoba adopted it as well, with Britain following suit three weeks later, on May 21, 1916. In 1917, Australia and Newfoundland began saving daylight.

The plan was not formally adopted in the U.S. until 1918. '*An Act to preserve daylight and provide standard time for the United States*' was enacted on March 19, 1918. It both established standard time zones and set summer DST to begin on March 31, 1918. Daylight Saving Time was observed for seven months in 1918 and 1919. After the War ended, the law proved so unpopular (mostly because people rose earlier and went to bed earlier than people do today) that it was repealed in 1919 with a Congressional override of President Wilson's veto. Daylight Saving Time became a local option, and was continued in a few states, such as Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and in some cities, such as New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round Daylight Savings Time, called "War Time," from February 9, 1942 to September 30, 1945. From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law regarding Daylight Saving Time, so states and localities were free to choose whether or not to observe Daylight Saving Time and could choose when it began and ended. This understandably caused confusion, especially for the broadcasting industry, as well as for railways, airlines, and bus companies. Because of the different local customs and laws, radio and TV stations and the transportation companies had to publish new schedules every time a state or town began or ended Daylight Saving Time.

On January 4, 1974, President Nixon signed into law the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act of 1973. Then, beginning on January 6, 1974, implementing the Daylight Savings Time Energy Act, clocks were set ahead. On October 5, 1974, Congress amended the Act, and Standard Time returned on October 27, 1974. Daylight Saving Time resumed on February 23, 1975 and ended on October 26, 1975.

Inconsistent use in the U.S.

In the early 1960s, observance of Daylight Savings Time was quite inconsistent, with a hodgepodge of time observances, and no agreement about when to change clocks. The Interstate Commerce Commission, the nation's timekeeper, was immobilized, and the matter remained deadlocked. Many business interests were supportive of standardization, although it became a bitter fight between the indoor and outdoor theater industries. The farmers, however, were opposed to such uniformity. State and local governments were a mixed bag, depending on local conditions.

Efforts at standardization were encouraged by a transportation industry organization, the Committee for Time Uniformity. They surveyed the entire nation, through questioning telephone operators as to local time observances, and found the situation was quite confusing. Next, the Committee's goal was a strong supportive story on the front page of the *New York Times*. Having rallied the general public's support, the Time Uniformity Committee's goal was accomplished, but only after discovering and disclosing that on the 35-mile stretch of highway (Route 2) between Moundsville, W.V., and Steubenville, Ohio, every bus driver and his passengers had to endure seven time changes!

The Uniform Time Act

By 1966, some 100 million Americans were observing Daylight Saving Time based on their local laws and customs. Congress decided to step in and end the confusion, and to establish one pattern across the country. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S. Code Section 260a) signed into Public Law 89-387 on April 12, 1966, by

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

TAPS

None this month

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Continued from previous page

President Lyndon Johnson, created Daylight Saving Time to begin on the last Sunday of April and to end on the last Sunday of October. Any State that wanted to be exempt from Daylight Savings Time could do so by passing a state law.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 established a system of uniform (within each time zone) Daylight Saving Time throughout the U.S. and its possessions, exempting only those states in which the legislatures voted to keep the entire state on standard time. In 1972, Congress revised the law to provide that, if a state was in two or more time zones, the state could exempt the part of the state that was in one time zone while providing that the part of the state in a different time zone would observe Daylight Saving Time. The Federal law was amended in 1986 to begin Daylight Saving Time on the first Sunday in April.

Under legislation enacted in 1986, Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. began at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of April and ended at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Savings Time in the U.S. beginning in 2007, though Congress retained the right to revert to the 1986 law should the change prove unpopular or if energy savings are not significant. Going from 2007 forward, Daylight Savings Time in the U.S.

- begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of March and
- ends at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of November

In most of the countries of Western Europe, including the countries that are members of the EU, Daylight Saving Time:

- begins at 1:00 a.m. GMT on the last Sunday of March and
- ends at 1:00 a.m. GMT on the last Sunday of October

Observance of Daylight Savings Time elsewhere in the world is highly variable. 

When Can I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

The big question on the mind of many TRICARE beneficiaries is, “When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?” The Department of Defense (DoD) is offering the COVID-19 vaccine to service members, retirees, and their families through different phases of the schema.

“Right now, the initial supply of the COVID-19 vaccine is limited, and availability varies by location,” said Dr. John Kugler, chief of the Clinical Support Division at the Defense Health Agency. “Vaccine supplies will increase over time and be available to all TRICARE beneficiaries. Get vaccinated as soon as you can to protect your health, family, and community.”

What are the DoD COVID-19 vaccination phases? The DoD COVID-19 vaccination plan is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 recommendations. It’s composed of the following phases:

- **Phase 1A.** This phase is already underway at many military hospitals, clinics, and DoD installations. This phase includes vaccinating health care workers, first responders, and residents of Armed Forces Retirement Homes. As military hospitals and clinics complete this phase, they’ll move to the following phases.
- **Phase 1B.** This phase includes select defense forces and beneficiaries age 75 years old and older. This phase also includes frontline essential workers, such as teachers, childcare staff, and those who are involved in postal service, public transportation, as well as commissary and food service.
- **Phase 1C.** This phase includes eligible beneficiaries age 65-74 and those ages 16-64 with increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, as defined by the CDC. This phase also includes some additional select military populations.
- **Phase 2.** This phase includes any TRICARE beneficiaries not otherwise mentioned in the above phases.

For a complete list of who is included in each phase, go to the [TRICARE COVID Vaccine](#) page.

Get Informed and Get Ready for Your COVID-19 Vaccine

Where can you get the vaccine when it becomes available to you? If you’re eligible for TRICARE, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at any military hospital or clinic that offers the vaccine, whether or not you get your routine care there. Keep in mind that military hospitals and clinics around the world may be in different phases of vaccine administration. The best way to know when a military hospital or clinic has vaccine available for you is by checking with them directly. Visit your military hospital or clinic website for information or contacts. Many also have hotline numbers you can call for vaccine updates.

All TRICARE beneficiaries are also able to get the COVID-19 vaccine at:

- Local or state health department COVID-19 vaccination sites
- Your civilian provider
- Pharmacies participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (this may include TRICARE network pharmacies, non-network pharmacies, and non-network providers)

As of Feb. 8, retail pharmacies will begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. You can see which pharmacies in your state will have vaccine available on the [CDC website](#). There will be no charge for TRICARE beneficiaries who get their COVID-19 vaccination at any of these pharmacies. Remember, there may be a cost based on your health plan for an office visit with a provider, or if you require follow-on care. If you have questions, you can contact your TRICARE contractor.

TRICARE is committed to supporting you and your health. Stay up to date on the vaccine and its availability through the [TRICARE](#) and [Military Health System](#) websites. You can also check with your local health department and talk to your health care provider about when you may qualify to receive the vaccine as well as your options for getting vaccinated.

History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Who Was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.

When Was the First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772 to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston and other early American cities only grew from there.

Growth of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each.

The Irish in America

Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to 1 million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics began pouring into America to escape starvation.

Despised for their alien religious beliefs and unfamiliar accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the

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streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

The American Irish soon began to realize, however, that their large and growing numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish Americans whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in the New World.

The Chicago River Dyed Green

As Irish immigrants spread out over the United States, other cities developed their own traditions. One of these is Chicago's annual dyeing of the Chicago River green. The practice started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week. Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, and the river turns green for only several hours.

Although Chicago historians claim their city's idea for a river of green was original, some natives of Savannah, Georgia (whose St. Patrick's Day parade, the oldest in the nation, dates back to 1813) believe the idea originated in their town. They point out that, in 1961, a hotel restaurant manager named Tom Woolley convinced city officials to dye Savannah's river green. The experiment didn't exactly work as planned, and the water only took on a slight greenish hue. Savannah never attempted to dye its river again, but Woolley maintains (though others refute the claim) that he personally suggested the idea to Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations Around the World

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world in locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia. Popular St. Patrick's Day recipes include Irish soda bread, corned beef and cabbage and champ. In the United States, people often wear green on St. Patrick's Day.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use interest in St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism and showcase Ireland and Irish culture to the rest of the world.

What Do Leprechauns Have to Do with St. Patrick's Day?

One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies.

Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13, but are also celebrated on St. Patrick's, with many dressing up as the wily fairies. ||||

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

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

Benefits of Membership

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

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

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

Attention Members

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

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

Important Dates in March

- 1 March – Lindbergh baby kidnapped (1932)
- 1 March – Peace Corps established (1961)
- 5 March – President Roosevelt proclaimed a four-day "Bank Holiday" to stop panic withdrawals (1933)
- 5 March - The "Iron Curtain" speech was delivered by Winston Churchill (1946)
- 6 March – Battle of the Alamo (1836)
- 9 March - Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies. (1864)
- 10 March – Salvation Army founded (1880)
- 11 March – Monthly Board Meeting – via Zoom**
- 11 February – Spanish flu reaches US soil, eventually killing over 500,000 (1918)
- 12 March – Bermuda colonized by the British (1609)
- 12 March – 40 inches of snow fell in New York City (1888)
- 12 March – Nazi Germany invaded Austria (1938)
- 14 March – Albert Einstein was born (1879)
- 14 March – Daylight Savings Time begins
- 15 March – Julius Caesar assassinated (44 B.C.)
- 16 March – My Lai massacre in Vietnam (1968)
- 16-18 March - AUSA Global Force Symposium (virtual)
- 17 March – St. Patrick's Day
- 19 March – US invades Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein (2003)
- 20 March – Nerve gas attack in Tokyo subway killed 12 (1995)
- 20 March – First day of Spring
- 23 March - Patrick Henry gave his “Give me liberty or give me death” speech (1775)
- 24 March - The Philippine Islands were granted independence (1943)
- 24 March - *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Alaska (1989)
- 25 March - Fire in New York City garment district killed 146 (1911)
- 26 March – Camp David Accord signed (1979)
- 25 March - Two Boeing 747 jets collide in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths (1977)
- 28 March – Three Mile Island nuclear accident (1979)
- 30 March – President Reagan shot while walking in Washington, DC (1981)
- 31 March – President Johnson announced he would not seek re-election (1968)
- 31 March – Monthly Member Meeting – via Zoom**

