

Volume 55, Issue 5
May 2016

Award Winning

- Newsletter
- Website
- Legislative Reports

Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charles T. Clements, Lt Col, USAF, Ret



Dear Members -

Some good news: On 19 April our chapter's website and webmaster—Capt Rick West—was recognized as the winner of the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for our outstanding website. Second, one of the chapter's main goals is to support the MOAA scholarship merit award program that is managed by the Redstone Community Wives Club. We donated \$6,000 to fund four merit awards that will be presented on 3 May. The proceeds from our golf tournament made this possible. That brings me to my next thought.

Planning continues for our annual Scholarship golf tournament. It will be held on 22 September at the Links at Redstone. The "early bird special" is \$65 per player and \$260 for a foursome. All proceeds go to fund our scholarship program. If you want to volunteer to help organize and execute the tournament, contact Bruce Robinson, Don Kimminau or me. If you want to play, then save the date and clean up those clubs. There is no better way to spend a Thursday in September than with a round of golf.

Summer is upon us and there are three events you need to know about. First, on Memorial Day, Monday 30 May we will be laying a wreath at Maple Hill cemetery. Please contact Mrs. Carrie Hightower at 256-882-3992 if you wish to participate. Second the Chapter is co-sponsoring a barbecue for the residents of the Tut Fann Veterans Home. It will be held on Saturday, 4 June, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It is open to all members. Come on out and help support this worthy cause. Third, planning for our Summer Party is underway. It will be held on 25 June at the Summit—save that date. The theme this year is "Support Your Team" so I suspect there will be a few Alabama and Auburn jerseys to be seen.

The speaker for our May membership meeting will be Ms. Briana Collins. She is an employee of the Social Security Agency working in Birmingham. She has requested that if you have not created your own Social Security account that you go to the link for the My Social Security account: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. This link allows you to create your own My Social Security account to do a number of things she will speak to at the meeting.

Charles

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 Senate Bill 187 - Alabama Prison Transformation Initiative Act (The Threat to Funding for the Alabama State Veterans' Assistance Fund) — Update

SB287 is slowly crawling along and has been passed by the Alabama Senate and is now awaiting action in the House of Representatives. A lot of discussion and several amendments have been added to the original senate bill. As of now, it appears that actions taken to get as much of a commitment to protect the funds should “protect” the funds in the event that the bill becomes law and the construction of new state prisons is undertaken. Basically through the efforts of State Senator Bill Holtzclaw and his colleagues there has been added a commitment that should there arise a need to utilize funding from the 1 Mil tax that would otherwise have been provided to the Veterans Assistance Fund, that funding would be replaced from the General Fund.

Much appreciation is due the members of this MOAA Chapter for your letter writing, phone calls, and other contact with your elected representation in Montgomery.

• Increases in TRICARE Fees Still a Threat (but Being Addressed Nationally)

As most of you know, TRICARE continues to be under attack at the federal level. This administration, supported by a Congress with limited military experience, and thus, limited support for the service and sacrifices made through the years by many selfless members of the “All Volunteer Force.”

There remains the myth that the percentage of Defense Funds assigned to personnel costs continue to increase as a percentage of the total defense budget. And as stated before, that myth has been debunked flatly and is now old and inaccurate news. Obviously, the total dollars required to maintain our defense forces has increased over time, but the percentage dedicated to personnel has stayed pretty much level.

Continued on page 9

2015-2016 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov

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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@mediacommbb.net

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

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glennscrawley@comcast.net

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: Vacant

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

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

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

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

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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

The Exchange Optical Shop has their very popular buy one get one free offer for frames through July 2. The Main PX has Mother's Day savings on jewelry, clothes, shoes, and other items mom is sure to appreciate! Stop in before Mother's Day (May 8th) and check out the savings! Your Exchange also has a wide assortment of lawn care equipment, chemicals, fertilizer, and patio items available. Come by and check it out! And - plants have arrived at the Main Exchange, come by and select yours for best selection!

Shoppette

The Shopette usually has a tent sale prior to Memorial Day and one prior to July 4th – be on the lookout for great deals! Plus, be sure to check out the "What's New" section (spirits and wines) and the "Wine of the Month" for special selections and sales!

Commissary

Sign up for savings at mymilitarysavings.com. A few clicks and you will get information on current and upcoming Commissary and AAFES sales. In addition, there are recipes, contests, and an app you can download (Apple and android), that will take you directly to the site. This along with the Ibotta app mentioned in an earlier column will get you lined up for savings!

Expect to see the Redstone Commissary Case Lot Sale in May – just in time for Memorial Day savings and specials! Your Commissary also has their Plant Sale continuing during the month of May.

If you haven't seen it yet – you should stop by the Healthy Snacks area (between the salads and beef isles). You will find probiotics (kombucha and KeVita – in many refreshing flavors. Plus, they have chia drinks (blackberry, cherry lime, raspberry passion, and coconut mango). You will also find a wide variety of tofu, wonton wraps, tempeh, and veggie cheese, hotdogs, and burgers.

Need Addresses

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:

Mrs. Betty Ford
Mrs. Patricia Hicks

Persons to contact are:

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

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

Air Force Representative:
Col Gerald C. Maxwell
 256-606-5282
gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov

Personal Affairs Officer

Temporarily Vacant



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

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Fox Army Health Center
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Zika Virus

The World Health Organization has declared the Zika virus (ZIKV) and the observed increase in neurological congenital malformations and neurological disorders a Public Health Emergency of International concern. The Zika virus causes a mild illness that is spread to people primarily through the bite of the Aedes mosquito. The Zika virus causes fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The virus is usually mild and most people do not recognize they are infected. Symptoms usually appear between 2-7 days after being bitten by a mosquito and mild symptoms may last from a few days to weeks.

Although the Zika virus causes mild illness in most infected persons, this virus is of great concern for pregnant women or women that are anticipating pregnancy in the near future. There is a possible association between the pregnant woman infected with the Zika virus and congenital malformations within the fetus (baby). There have been reports of a serious birth defect of the brain within infants that is called microcephaly. Microcephaly is a condition where a baby's head is much smaller than what is expected. This condition may be caused from the brain not properly developing during pregnancy or the cessation of brain growth after birth. Babies with microcephaly may develop other health issues such as seizures, developmental delay, intellectual disability, problems with movement and balance, difficulty swallowing, hearing loss, and vision issues.

The following countries have active Zika virus transmission: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Martin, Suriname, U.S. Virgin Islands, Venezuela, American Samoa, Samoa, and Cape Verde. There have been no locally transmitted Zika cases in the continental US but cases have been reported in returning travelers.

Prevention of mosquito bites is the key for decreasing Zika virus infection. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat the Zika virus. Management of illness is directly related to self-care. If you are planning or anticipating travel to one of the infected areas, please follow the CDC's recommendation for prevention of the Zika virus:

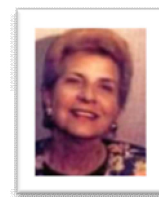
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are overseas or outside and are not able to protect yourself from mosquito bites.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated for effectiveness. Use as directed and reapply as necessary. Apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent if needed.

For more information and updates on the Zika virus go to www.cdc.gov.



Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

Widow's Activities



Mrs. Liz Townsend
256-721-9762

WOW Support Group

Many members attended our April Luncheon. Thank you for the support.

The WOW Support Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, May 19th, at the City Café, 2003 Drake Avenue, Huntsville. Phone: (256) 715-1863.

We will meet at 11 AM. Everyone will be called.

MOAA Widow's Luncheon

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, May 13th at Logan's Roadhouse, 4249 Balmoral Drive, Huntsville. Phone: (256) 881-0584.

Liz Townsend will be your hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

Please call Liz at 256-721-9762 for reservations.

TRICARE'S Nurse Advice Line: The Right Choice for Active Adults

Do you know that more than half of all adults 65 and older have three or more chronic medical problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or arthritis? Older adults can have multiple health problems and not know whether they need to see a doctor or can administer self-care. Have you considered TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line (NAL)?

If you are suffering from a rash, a sinus infection, or perhaps you just have a common cold; there is help! When you call the NAL, a registered nurse will help you assess if you can handle your health concern with self-care or if you need to see a medical professional.

Since its launch, the NAL has been able to increase patient safety and further ensure a positive patient experience. Military Health System (MHS) Patient Centered Medical Home (PCHM) team members can access live NAL information so they are aware of their patients' situation and can provide follow-up, if needed.

The NAL is a great medical assessment tool that provides access to care, especially after hours and when traveling, which is great for retirees on the move. When you don't know what kind of care you need, the NAL helps you access the right type of care at the right time. The NAL can also help you find a doctor and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics when available.

The NAL is an easy option for beneficiaries to get information on their medical problems quickly and at any time. To access the NAL dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select option 1. Get more information about the Nurse Advice Line on the TRICARE [website](#).



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

The Christian's Submission to the Government's Authority (Romans 13:1-7)

Christians have been called out of this world (John 15:8 and 17:14), but they have certain responsibilities to governments. Christians should be the best citizens in their nation, state, or city, etc. Some people give too much attention to our rights, and the same give too little, if any, attention to citizens' responsibilities to the government. There must be a balance between rights and responsibilities, or the nation is in danger of anarchy. Therefore, Scripture challenges us as believers to submit to whatever governments we live under. Submission to authority is never easy. Human nature tends toward resistance and even rebellion, especially if government is imposed, incompetent, and/or corrupt. But as we struggle with how to respond to the systems in which we live, this passage provides the Christian with a helpful guide:

(1) God is the ultimate Authority (Romans 13:1): Government as an institution has been established has been by God to serve His purposes. God elevates all leaders and eliminates those who are not in His will. Therefore, leaders or ordained by God for a purpose. Romans 13:4 describes one purpose God has for governments.

(2) Both followers and leaders are ultimately accountable to God (Romans 13:2). Submission to human authority reflects our submission to God's authority.

(The above will be continued in the SENTINEL, June 2016.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

LTC Jason Galindo, USA
COL James Mills, USA
MAJ Lillian Richardson, USA
CPT Paula Brown, USA

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 scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Gerald Maxwell for details.



Treasurer's Report

CAPT Richard West, USN

For the Month of March 2016

Beginning Balance	\$10,822.73
Credits	333.00
Debits	1430.36

Ending Balance	\$9725.37
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Membership Meeting

25 May 2016

1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: Ms. Briana Collins

Briana Collins is the Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration in Alabama. She began her career with the agency in 2009 as a Claims Representative where she took claims and evaluated factors of entitlement for retirement benefits and other programs administered by SSA. Briana was promoted to the position of Instructor in 2013 where she provided nationwide training for field office employees. She has spearheaded several trainings and speaking engagements to stimulate awareness in SSA services throughout the Southeastern region. Briana is a cum laude graduate of Georgia Southern University.

Here is a link for the My Social Security account (www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). This link allows individuals to create their own My Social Security account to do a number of things.

If you are not yet drawing benefits, you can create this account to view, download, and printout your annual Social Security statement. With this statement you can view and check on your earnings and view estimates of your future retirement, disability, or survivor benefits. (I am sure you can personally benefit from this as well if you have not already created your account). If you are receiving benefits, you can create the account to view, download, and print your benefit verification letter, start and change their direct deposit, change their address, and also download and print out a replacement 1099 for tax purposes.

You are encouraged to register prior to the meeting and bring your statement with you so that it can be discussed and any questions addressed. Here is an additional link that explains how to create a My Social Security account. <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10540.pdf>

Menu: Fried Chicken, Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Banana Pudding 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, cdowning@bellsouth.net, NLT 21 May 2016


Legislative – continued from page 2

Additional efforts to address this and the proposed disproportional TRICARE fee hikes under consideration were addressed as one of the main issues in this year's "Storming the Hill" which took place on 13 April on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

More than 160 MOAA members — including council and chapter leaders from almost every state and members of the association's board of directors, staff, staff, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving and Currently Serving Spouse advisory councils — "stormed" Capitol Hill Wednesday 13 April, during the association's annual "Storming the Hill" advocacy event. Coincidentally, and in support, MOAA Chapter members flooded Senators' and Representatives' inboxes and mail boxes with letters and emails. Participants specifically focused on two key issues during their meetings with elected officials:

1. Protecting Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) benefits for military widows and widowers from the military "widows tax," and,
2. Rejecting disproportional TRICARE fee hikes and plan changes.

Additionally, Hill-stormers provided their legislators detailed informational packets, which contained key takeaways, FAQs, fact sheets, and full-color pamphlets that break down each issue with comprehensive statistics for disproportional TRICARE fee hikes and personal stories of families affected by the SBP-DIC offset. Prior to meeting with congressional leaders, Hill-stormers gathered in Alexandria, Va., on Tuesday to learn more about the key issues and meet with their storming teams.

This year, MOAA used social media and a Thunderclap campaign to inspire those who could not be present at the Capitol to contact their elected officials. Thunderclap uses social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook to mass-share a message in order to raise additional awareness about a cause. Members "storming" from home were asked to contact their elected officials and ask them to oppose disproportional TRICARE fee hikes, cosponsor H.R. 1594 or S. 979 in order to repeal the SBP-DIC offset, or cosponsor H.R. 4519 that would extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. 

Fox Army Health Center Laboratory Renovation Project Ends

The Fox Army Health Center's Laboratory renovation project ended on 26 April 2016 and the newly modernized Laboratory resumed operations in the main building of Fox Amy Health Center on 27 April 2016. Thank you for your patience, and making Fox "Your First Choice in Health Care."



Your Huntsville Real Estate Connection



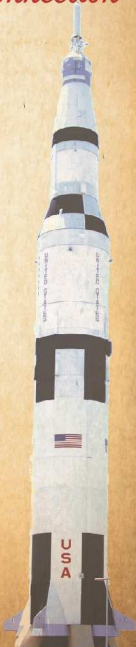
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Membership Statistics

Total Members: 424
Auxiliary Members: 66
Life Members: 216

New this month: 4
Deaths this month: 2
Renewals: 1

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**

MOAA Connect

MOAA's Social Media Application

Go to www.moaa.org, and on the pull-down menu "Connect with MOAA" select "MOAA Connect"

Set up your profile, and begin
collaborating with MOAA members
across the country

It's a great way to share information with
your fellow Chapters

Give it a try!



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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
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Beard Trim with Clean Shaved outline.....	\$18.00
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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 Members

Chapter Constitution and By-laws under Revision

The Chapter Constitution and By-laws are undergoing a major revision. Changes will impact the Life Member Trust and the Auxiliary. The changes are necessary for the Chapter to maintain its status as a tax deductible organization.

Proposed change will be posted on the Chapter website in the new future, and members will be asked to review and comment.

We hope to have the amended Constitution and By-laws approved and signed in the July-August timeframe

**29 Birthdays in May
Happy Birthday!**



TAPS

**COL Jack Amos
LTC Thomas Robinson**

Our deepest sympathy to the
families of our departed friends

LCDR Edward King, USN	Mrs Hannelore Murphy
LTC James Carter, USA	Lt Col Louis Davis, USAF
LTC Hector New, USA	COL James Bizer, USA
Col William Gibson, USAF	CPT Arthur Werkheiser, USA
Col John Morrison, USAF	CW4 Jeffrey Sumners, USA
Mrs Mabel Byrd	COL Christopher Sargent, USA
COL Harold Hicks, USA	LTC Randall Withrow, USA
CDR Steven Middleton, USN	CWO4 Gary Sweet, USN
Mrs Jan Camp	LTC David Pray, USA
CAPT Lawrence Grimes, USN	LTC Allyn Griffiths, USA
COL James Allred, USA	MAJ Charles Drake, USMC
LTC Paul Hays, USA	MAJ Loran McKinley, USA
Lt Col Arthur Miller, USAF	COL James Treadway, USA
LTC Donnie Henley, USA	CH (LTC) James Johnson, USA
CW3 Kenneth Nurmi, USN	

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:

The History of Memorial Day

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers.

During that first national celebration, former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

This event was inspired by local observances of the day that had taken place in several towns throughout America in the three years after the Civil War. In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. By the late 1800s, many more cities and communities observed Memorial Day, and several states had declared it a legal holiday. After World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America's wars and was then more widely established as a national holiday throughout the United States.

Chapter Happenings



March Member Meeting –
Mr. Rodney Pennywell



Redstone Arsenal All
Volunteer Luncheon



Chapter Volunteer Awardees – Rick West & Ray Weinberg

Member Spotlight – Maj William Burke, USAF

As Related by CDR Christine Downing

Bill Burke was born and lived for several years in Nebraska before his father took a position teaching agriculture in Oregon and moved his family there. He decided that it was time to put into practice what he had been teaching so he bought a ranch. Bill says that there was no shortage of work to be done on the ranch and even though he was the eldest of nine children, he says they all had more than enough chores to pass around. He attended college in Portland, Oregon and for two years was in the Air Force ROTC unit. After graduation, he taught in Portland for about a year and received his acceptance to graduate school on the third of July. That was quickly followed on the 5th of July by his draft notice. He says that the Army wanted him but he didn't want them; he'd dug enough fence post holes on the ranch that digging fox holes wasn't his idea of fun! He did have the great fortune to meet his wife while working on his graduate degree. Rosemary was also a teacher. Once he had a draft deferment for education and started his graduate work, he went back to the Air Force ROTC system and gained acceptance there. His colonel greeted him with a request to take an aptitude test for pilot training even though Bill had never been behind the controls of an airplane. After a very brief overview, he took the test and with a score of 98%, a pilot-in-training was born. When his graduate work in music education was complete and he received his commission, in May of 1965 he reported to Reese AFB in Lubbock, TX for pilot training. He remembers that for a guy whose talents were in music, pilot training seemed very hard to master. He remembers a particularly harrowing event during water survival training in which the buckles of his dummy parachute wouldn't release once he was under water. Try as he might, he couldn't shed the load of that wet parachute, so he walked along the bottom of the pool until he reached a point where it was shallow enough for him to raise his head and take a much-needed breath. He also attended Air Force schools for nuclear weapons and missiles. He received specialized training for B52's at Castle AFB in Merced, CA.

Bill reported to his first duty station at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, WA for duty. During this assignment he had four tours to southeast Asia. Each one of these was initially for 179 days, but then they were extended for another 45 days, and then an additional 30 days, making them very long deployments. He was on track to have another 2 tours, but was asked to take a temporary position in the war plans area teaching targeting and map reading, in the event of war breaking out with China. His combat missions were flown from Guam, Taiwan, Kadena AFB and U-Tapao, Thailand. He recalls two incidents during these combat tours. The first was when he was a 1LT co-pilot taking off from Guam with an older, more experienced pilot. The catch was that the pilot had only recently requalified after having had a desk job for several years. Two engines failed during take-off and since they were after the point of no return, the only option was to go for it. But the pilot appeared confused and dropped the controls. Bill picked them up and kept the plane going. They were nearly 10 miles out to sea before proper control of the airplane was certain. The other incident happened on a bombing run out of Taiwan where Bill was the co-pilot of a plane leading a three ship cell. He thought they were all lined up for a perfect bombing run when he realized that plane number three wasn't in position and couldn't be seen. After some frantic searching, they realized the plane was directly above them with their bomb bay doors open. Since Bill was in charge of communications, he immediately aborted that bombing plan. With the bomb bay doors of the wayward plane closed and everyone breathing a sigh of relief, they diverted to a secondary target zone and completed the mission.

During the course of his twenty two year career with the Air Force, Bill stayed with the B52 air frame and spent equal time in war planning, intelligence and targeting. He and his family particularly enjoyed a tour at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, SD. They had a camping trailer and made many a happy camping trip all around the Black Hills area and to Yellowstone National Park. He was also stationed at McCord AFB in Tacoma, WA and spent a remote tour at a radar site in Point Barrow, Alaska. He gained a healthy respect for polar bears during that time and learned that the best place for trash was way far away at the dump site! His last duty assignment was at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana.

As his retirement neared, the secretary in his office suggested Huntsville as her sister lived here and really liked it.

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HCMOAA SUMMER PARTY

“Support your Team – Pro or College”



WHERE: The Summit Club
WHEN: Saturday, 25 June 2016 from 6:00 - 9:30 PM
PRICE: \$17.00 per person (gratuuity included)



Reservations are required no later than Monday, 20 June 2016



Dress: Casual, but team apparel highly encouraged!
(Prizes for best male & female fans)



MENU

Chicken cordon bleu w/ supreme sauce
 Marinated flank steak w/ mushroom sherry sauce
 Mashed potatoes w/ brown gravy
 Green beans almandine
 Fried okra
 Apple cobbler
 Rolls with butter
 Coffee, Iced tea



Entertainment TBD



Cash Bar



Please reserve ____ space(s) for me (us)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$17.00 per person) payable to HCMOAA

Mail to: CDR Christine Downing, 116 Spring Tanner Rd, Hazel Green, AL 35750

The people in my party will be:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Getting Care When Traveling

Are you on Spring Break or preparing for vacation? Either way, you should know how to get medical or dental care when you need it.

Your rules for getting care depend on your TRICARE plan and travel destination. If you're using Prime, get your routine care from a primary care manager (PCM) before you go. If you have an emergency, go to the nearest emergency room. However, if you decide you need urgent care, you must have a referral from your PCM.

Standard and Extra beneficiaries can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider. An authorized provider is any individual, institution/organization, or supplier that is licensed by a state, accredited by national organization, or meets other standards of the medical community, and is certified to provide benefits under TRICARE. There are two types of TRICARE-authorized providers: Network and Non-Network. For care, whether stateside or overseas. Keep in mind, if you're overseas, you may need to pay up front and file a claim with the overseas claims processor for reimbursement.


If you need dental care and are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program, you can visit any licensed dentist for treatment. You can search for a participating dentist both stateside and overseas. TRICARE Retiree Dental Program enrollees can search for a stateside dentist or call Delta Dental's international dentist referral service collect at 1-312-356-5971. Call 1-215-942-8226 for dental emergencies.

Don't forget about your prescriptions. TRICARE beneficiaries have several options for filling prescriptions; military hospitals or clinics, network pharmacies, non-network pharmacies and home delivery.

If you're traveling stateside and you don't know what to do for care, call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE, Option 1. You can get information about all of your TRICARE benefits on the [TRICARE](#) website.

Member Spotlight – continued from page 14

Since Bill had never been here and knew nothing about the area, his secretary suggested that he accompany her and her husband on their next trip up to visit her sister. Once here he started handing out resumes and job hunting. The day after he returned home, he got a call from EER Systems who offered him a position starting immediately after his retirement the next week. When that contract ended, he took a position with SCI and was a Program Manager for the Peacekeeper missile. Unfortunately, that contract also ended without follow on work, and although he had secured positions for his entire team, the company could not place him and he was without work.

It turned out to be a good thing in the long run as shortly thereafter his mother-in-law was no longer able to live alone. Rosemary and Bill moved her to Huntsville where he became her care-giver for the last 6 years of her life. He felt privileged to repay the debt he owed as his in-laws had looked after his wife and children while he had been deployed to southeast Asia. Both daughters and his sons all live within a short distance of each other in Florida now, and Bill and his wife enjoy going down there for visits. If you ever want to hear a good story, just ask him about the time he and an Eskimo friend were caribou hunting and happened across a grumpy grizzly bear! 

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.

Verify / Update your Contact Information

Has it been a long time since you joined the Chapter? Maybe you've moved. Changed phone numbers.

If you are a LIFE member, do we have your beneficiary information?

To verify all is in order, please confirm current membership information with

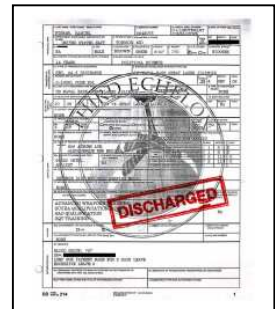
Chris Downing at 256-828-9740, csdowning@bellsouth.net,

DD-214s are now Online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

Includes DD
214/Separation
Documents, Personnel
Records, Replacement
Medals, and/or Medical
Records

<http://www.archives.gov/>
<http://vetrecs.archive.gov/>



Important Dates in May

1 May – May Day
5 May – Cinco de Mayo
5 May – First American in Space (Alan Shepard – 1961)
6 May – Military Spouses Day
6 May – Hindenburg explodes (1937)
7 May – Kentucky Derby Day
8 May – Mother's Day
12 May – Board Meeting – Summit Club
13 May – Friday the 13th (only one in 2016)
21 May – Armed Forces Day
21 May – Lindberg lands in Paris (1927)
24 May – First Telegraph Message (1844)
25 May – Member Meeting – Summit Club
28 May – Monthly Breakfast – Golden Corral
30 May – Memorial Day



Note: Change to Monthly Breakfast Schedule

- No breakfast in June or December, as the chapter has parties those months
- Beginning in July, the breakfast will be held on the second Saturday of the month