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May 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 May and the start of what is hopefully a MUCH better summer than last year's!

Thanks to those of you who attended the April Zoom membership meeting. I always enjoy the discussions we have! We will use Zoom again in May for hopefully the last time! The next Zoom membership meeting will be **May 26th at 1000 - please block this time off on your calendars now!** The meeting should last about 45 minutes.

Based on survey results and discussions at the last Governing Board and membership meetings, we are planning a face-to-face membership meeting at The Summit Club at the end of June – **June 30th at 1100** to be exact! We will have a small German buffet and our guest speaker will be the Fox Army Health Center Commander – certainly should be interesting based on the events of the last 16 months! **Please save this date also!**

I am happy to announce that the Chapter once again has received the **Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for both the monthly newsletter and our website.** This award is presented by MOAA National after reviewing hundreds of Council and Chapter newsletters and websites.

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! Our next golf meeting will be May 7th (a Friday) at 1200 at The Links at Redstone golf course. Come join us – we really do have a lot of fun doing this!

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

Stay Safe!

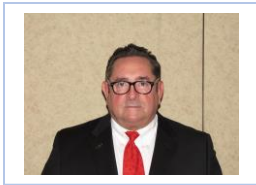
Rick

*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.”

As of 16 April, 23 and 24 of the possible 30 legislative days in the 2021 Legislative Session have been expended. The number of bills introduced—the Senate’s total was 394 and the House of Representatives total was 633. So far Governor Ivey has signed 77 general acts into law, 33 local laws, 103 resolutions, and 7 proposed amendments to the Alabama Constitution. Many of the more controversial issues have not made it out of the Alabama Legislature, yet. However, Alabama Governor Ivey signed legislation naming the sweet potato as the official state vegetable. The Alabama Legislature in mid-April gave final approval to the bill. The Alabama Senate voted 29-0 for the bill. The House of Representatives voted 84-4 for it.

Alabama has a long list of official state emblems and honors, including an official state fruit, bird and amphibian. Like others, the bill to elevate the tuber started as a classroom idea. A Harvest homeschool class submitted the idea, according to the bill. The official state fruit of Alabama is the blackberry. The official tree fruit is the peach. The official crustacean is the brown shrimp. The official amphibian is the Red Hills salamander.

Governor Ivey in mid-April also signed a law allowing Alabamians to get beer, wine and liquor delivered to their homes. This law takes effect in October.

On the national front: President Joe Biden proposed \$715 billion for the Pentagon in its 2022 baseline budget, which is a slight increase from this year’s spending plan. However, Biden’s proposal is a decrease from what former President Donald Trump’s administration had expected to request for the Pentagon in 2022. Lawmakers allocated \$704 billion for fiscal year 2021, and Biden’s request 9 April would be a 1.5% increase in defense spending. Yet, the budget boost is less than the Trump administration projected for the fiscal year 2022 budget. That budget would have requested the Pentagon get \$722 billion for the fiscal year that begins 1 October 2021.

The overall defense budget topline, which includes money for the Department of Energy and its nuclear weapons program, is \$753 billion.

Continued on page 9

2021-2022 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bged992K@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

Golf: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

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

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

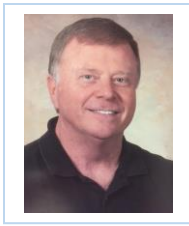
Webmaster: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

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

IMPORTANT: Although The mask mandate for Alabama has been lifted – masks are **STILL** required anywhere on Redstone.

Remember that the gun shop closes at 1700 – before the Exchange. All of the food shops are open, and you get 10% off with your STAR card.

The Exchange still has their plant sale going on outside. Ready to start that Spring clean-up of your yard? The Main Exchange has the yard care tools, fertilizers, mulch and topsoils you require. Start your yard off right by getting rid of all the weeds and feed the grass at the same time.

Your Exchange has a clothing clearance in men's, women's and children. Most are 25% off with the occasional additional percentage off (and even more sometimes - 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!

After the yard work, get ready for Memorial Day activities by throwing some BBQ on the smoker or grill you can buy from your Exchange. From apartment size to having the neighborhood block party – your Exchange can make you king of the grill. Plus, you can always check out <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> for even more items!

Then relax by your super-sized TV or surf the internet on your new computer. Plus, there are several TVs on clearance near the back of the store. Either way, your Exchange has you covered!

Shopette

Your Express has your favorite and new offerings of beer, liquor, and various spirits.

You still get 5 cents off your gas at the gas pumps when using your STAR card. There is usually even more off for the Memorial Day weekend. While there, check your tire pressure at the **FREE** tire pressure stand.

Check out the wines of the Month, Spirit of the Month, and Limited Time Specials. Still no word on when the tent sales will resume.

PX/Commissary – continued on page 9

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:

CDR John Inman, USN

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
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Personal Affairs Officer
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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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Cloud Investments, LLC and Cloud Financial, Inc. are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any government agency.



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



How to Sign Up for a COVID-19 Vaccination at Fox Army Health



1. Register for an account with the FAHC PCRS system at

<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-19 Vaccine Appointment Sign-Up icon.



Select your eligibility category, beneficiary category or unit information, and sign up for a date and time to get your vaccination.

5. Arrive to your appointment as close to your scheduled time as possible (no earlier than 10 minutes).

NOTE: VACCINES ARE PROVIDED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, AND THE PCRS WILL NOT ALLOW PATIENTS TO MAKE A SAME DAY APPOINTMENT.

When arriving at Fox, check in at the main entrance directly in front of the pharmacy.



COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

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

- You have allergies
- You have a fever
- You have a bleeding disorder or are on blood thinners
- You are immunocompromised or on a medication that affects your immune system
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- You are breastfeeding
- Have already received a Covid-19 vaccine
- You have received any other vaccines 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 a severe reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine
- You have had a severe reaction to any ingredient in this vaccine

FAHC is now offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible beneficiaries

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HONORED TO SERVE YOU WITH YOUR INSURANCE AND
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John D. Stover, LUTCF, Certified Financial Planner™, Certified Kingdom Advisor®**

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ASEA®

Paul & Patsy Morin
Independent Associates

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Huntsville, AL





Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

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

Everyone will be called when we resume the luncheons.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Focusing on Finances After Loss

The loss of a spouse has quite an impact. At first, you are busy dealing with grief and helping your family recover from the loss. Eventually, though, you must focus your energy on finances. You have lost your financial partner.

Your goal should be to live comfortably with as little financial stress as possible. Losing a spouse often means a reduction in family income. This requires some changes and hard decisions as you consider:

- **Where should I live?** Many factors are involved in this decision. Work, commute time, children, their friends, activities, and school proximity, health, safety, and other family responsibilities are all important.
- **What can I afford?** This is probably the most important consideration. If you and your spouse were conservative in spending, your living expenses and debt might be manageable. Do a budget analysis based on your current income and spending. Be aware of adjustments. Income might be down, but taxes might be up if your new IRS tax status is "single" (higher rates). Include new insurance costs for yourself to protect any dependents. Don't forget to add in the expense of services your spouse provided, such as lawn mowing, painting, or handy jobs. Do the calculations. If you can stay put for a while, great!
- **How can I make changes to my current home?** It's home, and you love it. You can freshen things up with some inexpensive changes like rearranging furniture, adding some fresh paint, buying a new bed or bedspread, and relocating photos and wall art.
- **What if a change of address is necessary?** Downsizing or moving might be the best option for your new financial circumstances or emotional state. Make a pro/con list of emotional factors and expenses. Be thoughtful about real estate commissions, state income tax, moving, and redecorating expenses as well as all those emotional pluses and minuses. Investigate whether spousal disability exemptions and entitlements are available at a new home or new location. Changing states can generate issues. Do your homework. Be diligent!

This is a lot to do and a lot to consider but help and resources are available. There are excellent calculators and programs online to assist with mortgages, investments, budget analysis, and insurance decisions, including on MOAA.org. Find them at [MOAA.org/Finance](https://www.moaa.org/Finance).



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

A Sentinel Standing on Guard of Our Hearts

'Be careful, for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7, KJV).

There are three things we must remember when we pray. First, we must remember the love of God; He seeks and wants only the best for us. Second, we must remember the wisdom of God; He alone knows what is best for us. Third, we must remember the power of God; He only can bring to pass that which is best for us. He who prays with a perfect belief and trust in the love the wisdom and the power of God will find God's grace.

The result of believing prayer is that the peace of God will stand like a sentinel on guard upon our hearts. The word the Apostle Paul used (*phrourein*) is the military word for "standing on guard." That peace of God, says the Apostle, "passes understanding." This means that the peace of God is so precious that a human's mind, with all its skill and all its knowledge and all its understanding can never contrive it or find it or produce it. It is entirely beyond humans' ability to obtain it by him or her work. This peace can never be of human's contriving; it is only of God's giving. The way to peace is to take ourselves and all who we hold dear and to place them and ourselves trustingly in the hand of 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: 334
Regular Members: 280
Surviving Spouses: 54

New this month: 1
Deaths this month: 2
Renewals: 0

**Welcome New Members to
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

LTC Shaun Lott, USA

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

The budget does not detail where the money that is not earmarked for the Pentagon is going, but it is typically spent on the National Nuclear Security Administration that oversees the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The proposal rolled out 9 April also includes a significant reform and ends the use of an overseas contingency operations, or OCO, account. For the first time in two decades, the budget does not include a separate fund to finance overseas military operations.

The March 2021 CPI is 258.935, 2.2 percent above the FY 2021 COLA baseline.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative Affairs portion of our webpage. There are two articles: One is about the potential repeal of the Presidential War Powers authorizations and the other deals with the several pieces of veteran legislation submitted to the 117th Congress pending passage.

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. III

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Commissary

There are still limits on various meats. But no limits on marked down meats. All paper products have no limits.

Be sure to check out the special on hams – most are 50% off.

For your Memorial Day BBQ - steaks and chops – check out the prices at your Commissary! Plus, a huge selection of sauces, rubs, and spices – and enough foil and storage containers to put it all in when you are done!

Snacks, breads, and unusual food items from around the world – all at your commissary. The bread isle was fully stocked.

Download the Commissary Rewards mobile app (on Google Play and the App Store) today. No more clipping coupons, save time and money with the Commissary Rewards card! Pick up your card at any Commissary location worldwide and register it at <https://newdeca.couponselectionpage.com/#register> and you are ready to start saving! Your Commissary has selected special coupons for our customers to help you make the most of your benefit! III





HCMOAA Treasurer's Report March 2021

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

1. The March 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	\$11,488.04	\$ 8,005.24
Income	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 0.05
Expenses	\$ 17.59	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$12,900.45	\$ 8,005.29

3. Notable income: Revenue from two Sentinel advertisements and dues.

4. Notable expenses: Payments for postage and Zoom 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. A 3-month CD was renewed on 22 March 2021 with Wells-Fargo. The CD was opened with a balance of \$8,515.94. The CD matures on 19 June 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.

The 2020-2021 Merit Awards / HCMOAA Scholarship fund drive has finished. **Many thanks** to those who donated and enabled the Chapter to provide \$8000 in scholarships for 2021! Of course, donations are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 scholarship drive!

Note: The below amounts reflect only donations. Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament monies are tracked separately and presented to the membership following the tour

Total received for April:	\$0
Total received FY21 to date:	\$7510



Weird News Stories

It's a Dog's Life – Bill Dorris, a successful Nashville, Tennessee, businessman, was 84 years old when he passed away late last year, WTVF-TV reported, leaving \$5 million to his beloved 8-year-old border collie, Lulu. Dorris, who was unmarried and traveled frequently, often left Lulu in the care of his friend Martha Burton, 88, who will continue to keep the dog and will be reimbursed for reasonable monthly expenses from the trust established for Lulu by the will. Burton was chill about the whole thing: "I don't really know what to think about it to tell you the truth," she said. "He just really loved that dog."

Animal Antics – EuroWeekly reported that on Feb. 24, a routine Sudanese Tarco airline flight from Khartoum to Doha, Qatar, was forced to turn around about a half-hour after takeoff when a stowaway cat caused a midair emergency. The cat gained entry to the cockpit and became aggressive, attacking the crew, who were unable to restrain it, prompting the pilot to return to the airport. Officials believe the cat got onto the airplane while it was parked overnight in a hangar in Khartoum.

All in the Family – At a wedding in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province in China on 31 March, the groom's mother noticed a birthmark on the bride's hand that was similar to one belonging to her long-lost daughter. When asked, the bride's parents admitted they had found her as a baby by the side of the road and taken her to live with them as their own -- a secret they had never told. The Daily Star reported that upon hearing of the connection, the bride burst into tears, saying the moment was "happier than the wedding day itself." Bonus: The groom was also adopted, so their marriage could proceed as planned.

Disturbing the Peace – Neighbors around a new luxury condo tower in Brooklyn, New York, are up in arms, and up at night, because of the persistent, shrill whistle they say is coming from the building, reported NBC New York. The city has been inundated with complaints. "It almost sounds like the subway screeching, but it's constant, and it usually happens late at night," Chris Valentini said of the noise. A representative of the developer told neighbors the sound originates from wind whipping around the new metal balconies. "This is not uncommon in new buildings," he said, "and we will resolve it."

Crime Report – Detectives investigating recent thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in Pasco, Washington, went to the mobile home of Dustin Allen Bushnell, 30, in nearby Burbank with a search warrant on Feb. 26, and not only found converters, but also discovered a 400-pound playground slide that had been removed from a city park in December, KEPR reported. The slide had been repainted and mounted to a bunk bed in the home. Bushnell was arrested for possession of stolen property for the slide; no charges were filed for the converters.

Alarming Headlines – Shannon Stevens, along with her brother Erik and his girlfriend, snowmobiled to Erik's yurt in the backcountry near Haines, Alaska, on 13 FEB and got the scare of a lifetime when she was attacked from below by a bear in an outhouse, the Associated Press reported. Erik heard his sister's screams and went out to investigate, opening the toilet seat to find "a bear face ... just looking right back up through the hole, right at me," he said. He shut the lid and ran back to the yurt, where they treated Shannon's wound with a first aid kit and determined it wasn't serious. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management biologist Carl Koch said the bear probably swiped at her with its paw, rather than biting her. "She could be the only person on Earth that this has ever happened to," Koch speculated.



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	

Resumption of Face-to-Face Meetings

The Chapter plans to resume face-to-face meetings in June. The schedule is as follows:

- Governing Board Meeting – 10 June – Java Café @ 1100 (or Golf Course patio if the Café meeting room still has restrictions)
- Breakfast - 12 June – City Café Diner @ 0900
- Membership Meeting – 30 June – Summit Club @ 1100
- Golf Meetings are already face-to-face – June date TBD
- Widows Luncheon - at the discretion of Carrie Hightower – everyone will be called

Commissary Sidewalk Sales Return in May

Sidewalk sales and bigger savings are back at most stateside military commissaries, after being canceled last year because of the pandemic.

Most commissaries will have one event, generally a two- or three-day outdoor weekend sidewalk sale – with extra savings on a variety of everyday items, according to the Defense Commissary Agency. The events are scheduled sometime between April 29 and May 31. For example, two Texas commissaries – Fort Hood and Fort Sam Houston – will start their sales on April 29. These two sales are held over four days, through May 2. Find your store's sidewalk sales dates [here](#).

Items on sale range from snacks, beverages, pet food, international foods, baking goods, canned goods, and non-food items, to health and beauty products.

The sales coincide with May's Military Appreciation Month.

Only stateside commissaries will hold the sidewalk sales; however, customers overseas should check with their local stores for sales events that may possibly be held there.

Officials urge commissary customers to check their [local commissary's web page](#) for sale dates and hours because dates may change. Customers can also find sales flyers for their store on their store's web page.

Commissary employees and customers are required to wear masks at sidewalk sales, following Defense Department policy regarding COVID-19 safety protocols.

Those eligible to shop at commissaries include active duty, Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, 100 percent disabled veterans, and their authorized family members.

In January 2020, eligibility opened to all veterans with VA service-connected disability ratings; Purple Heart recipients; veterans who are former prisoners of war; and primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the VA caregiver program.



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



Dale C Kuehl
Financial Advisor

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Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

Edward Jones
Member of FINRA
edwardjones.com

HKT-0000-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 hold its next planning meeting on Friday, 7 May, at 1200. It 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!



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24 Birthdays in May

LCDR Edward S King, USN
Lt Col Louis S Davis, USAF
Col John A Morrison, USAF
COL Harold J Hicks, USA
Col Larry D Layne, USAF
LTC David E Pray, USA
CW3 Kenneth J Nurmi, USN
LTC Paul A Hays, USA
CW3 Clarissa A Lewis, USA
COL James D Treadway, USA
LTC Russell B Brownfield Jr, USA
LTC Donnie L Henley, USA

LTC James M Carter, USA
LTC Hector New, USA
CW4 Jeffrey A Sumners, USA
LTC Randall W Withrow, USA
Mrs. Jan Camp
COL Stephen H French, USA
CW5 Reginald Jacobs, USA
MAJ Loran R McKinley Jr, USA
COL Marvin S Smith, USA
Mrs. Charlotte U Miller
MAJ Charles B Drake, USMC
CH (LTC) James R Johnson Sr, 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.

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.

Military Exchanges to Serve more than Half a Million New Shoppers

The Defense Department has decided to extend military exchange shopping privileges to nearly 600,000 civilian DoD and Coast Guard employees for at least a year, according to a directive issued by the department April 12.

After the DoD announced Jan. 13 that it had dropped a plan to expand civilians' access to the stores, which offer clothing, electronics, housewares and other goods tax-free and often at discount, the new initiative was announced last week by Virginia Penrod, acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

According to the directive, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange and Marine Corps Exchange must allow the newly eligible customers access within 30 days.

According to the memo, first reported by Federal News Network, current appropriated and non-appropriated fund, or NAF, employees who have a valid Common Access Card and are assigned to the U.S. and its territories can shop in stores and online.

They will not be able to purchase alcohol, tobacco or uniform items, according to the memo, and the new policy does not expand commissary privileges to civilian employees.

Access for employees overseas will be determined on whether they have transportation agreements and will be subject to host-nation laws and status of forces agreements, the memo states.

The DoD has 180 days to upgrade its systems to accommodate the new online shoppers while the military exchanges will work with the Defense Manpower Data Center to verify the status of honorably discharged veterans, civilian employees and civilian retirees for online access.

The Coast Guard, which also operations an exchange system, must meet the same requirements, according to the memo.

Family members of civilian employees, civilian retirees and veterans do not have shopping privileges, either in store or online, according to the memo, but those eligible can buy items for their dependents.

The new policy marks the second time in 16 months that the Pentagon has significantly expanded shopping privileges to people affiliated with the DoD and Department of Veterans Affairs: In January 2020, 3.5 million disabled veterans and their designated caregivers were authorized to use military commissaries, exchanges and some Morale Welfare and Recreation, or MWR, activities.

Berry Patrick, an official with the Pentagon's MWR and NAF Policy Office, said last fall that the extension of benefits to civilian employees could increase sales at exchanges by \$287 million annually, an amount that could contribute as much as \$48 million to the military services' MWR programs.



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

TAPS

LTC Glen W. Williams, USA (Ret) - 87, passed away the morning of March 22nd, 2021 with his family by his side. He was born in Cullman Alabama, the only child of Ruth and Verl Williams. Glen married Martha Sue Fuqua from Bowling Green, Kentucky on June 8th, 1957. They met at Western Kentucky University.

Glen entered active duty with the Army soon thereafter. His assignments included Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Germany, graduate school at the University New Mexico, a tour in Vietnam War, teaching at the United States Military Academy and serving at the Pentagon. In 1972 the Glen and Martha Sue moved to Bloomfield Hills Michigan where Glen retired from his military career with many decorations, which included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Vietnam Defense & Service Ribbons.

Glen continued his civilian career with Textron in International Marketing. One of Glen's biggest dreams was to own his own corporation, so in 1994 he open Eagle Pacific International. Glen was an avid reader, golfer, and sports enthusiast. He was passionate about his family, wife and community support.

Glen is survived by his wife of 64 years Martha Sue, his Daughter Danielle Kaczynski, Son in-law Mark Kaczynski and his 2 Grand-daughters Logan & Sloan Kaczynski. Funeral Arrangements were held April 7th, 2021 at The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street Bowling Green, KY and officiated by Dr. Mathew W. Covington.

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Gloria Doughtie Lewis peacefully passed away on April 3, 2021 surrounded by her family. Gloria lived her life of more than 95 years with grace, dignity, and love for her family. She was a grand lady from Georgia and lived in Huntsville for over 57 years. Her curiosity and pursuit of lifelong learning took her around the world. Gloria was born on September 29th, 1925, the first child of Charles Pittman Doughtie, Sr. and Alma McMichael Doughtie, of Columbus, GA. Gloria was an extraordinary woman, abundant in natural talents with the drive to pursue them. After graduating with honors from Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia, Gloria taught elementary school in Columbus and Atlanta.

She met her husband, LTC Royal Cole Lewis, USA (Ret) at a Valentine's Day dance in Fort Benning, Georgia in 1951 and they married in May. They were married until his death in 2018. Her husband's US Army assignments took them to Orleans, France and to Hanau and Baumholder, Germany. Their mutual passion for foreign cultures and languages inspired them to travel extensively throughout

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Europe. Gloria became conversational in French and Spanish and enjoyed corresponding with the many friends she made during her time in Europe. After her husband's retirement from the military, the family settled with their children in Huntsville in 1966. Gloria resumed her teaching career as a primary and special education teacher at Whitesburg and Weatherly Elementary. She was an active member of Latham Methodist Church and loved the Lord.

A creative powerhouse, she also loved sewing, singing, painting, and studying French. She was a gifted soprano and had a great passion for music. She was a member of the Huntsville Community Chorus and sang in the choir at Valley United Methodist Church. Occasionally, she performed at private and community gatherings and she was a lifelong student of the piano.

Gloria's talents also included her beautiful oil paintings, many that she exhibited at public locations around Huntsville and that grace the homes of her family. Her specialties were New England farm scenes, wildlife, and landscapes. She also painted lovely flowers and fine portraits of her grandchildren. She delighted in taking pictures when she traveled and later poring through picture books to find just the right subject to paint.

A devoted patron of the arts, Gloria took great pleasure in attending musical, dance, and theatre performances at the Von Braun Center and other art venues around town. She was an active member of the Huntsville Music Club for 40 years and the Huntsville Literature Club and Alliance Francaise for more than 20 years. Gloria and Roy also enjoyed hosting many bridge games and cocktail parties in their home with a diverse group of friends.

Gloria is survived by her three children: Royal Cole Lewis, III (Kay) of Huntsville, Amy Lewis Bear (Jay) of Atlanta, and Fay Lewis Leo (Karl) of Huntsville, and her seven grandchildren, Dr. Christina Cochran of Birmingham, Thomas W. Rudderow, IV (Emily) of Atlanta, Jessica Dodd (Brian) and Hannah Lewis, both of Charlotte, NC, Dr. Channing Cochran of Salt Lake City, Lana Leo and Landon Leo of Huntsville. Her two great grandchildren are Emmalyn Alford of Charlotte and Lawson Rudderow of Atlanta. She is also survived by her younger brother, Charles Pittman Doughtie, Jr. and his children, Donna, Chuck, and Lauren of Columbus, GA.

A memorial service was held at the Laughlin Service Funeral Home in Huntsville on April 7, 2021. Gloria will be interred beside her beloved husband at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. In lieu of flowers, you can consider making a donation in her name to the Huntsville Music Club or the Thurber Arts Center at Randolph School.

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

Early Observances of Memorial Day

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemoration was organized by a group of freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865.

Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in

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in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

Confederate Memorial Day is still celebrated in several states and will be on Sunday, April 26, 2020 in Florida; on Monday, April 27, 2020 in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi and on May 11, 2020, in parts of South Carolina. The practice of commemorating the Confederacy became even more controversial after massacre at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in 2015.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer. 🇺🇸



All Adults can make a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment as of April 19, 2021

As of April 19, all Department of Defense (DOD) beneficiaries can make an appointment, as available, to get the COVID-19 vaccine at DOD vaccination sites. As a TRICARE beneficiary, you are eligible and authorized to get a vaccine at any DOD vaccination site.

- The number of open appointments will vary by vaccination site. This is because sites are getting different amounts of vaccine doses.
- Visit the [**TRICARE DOD COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments**](#) page to see what appointment tools your military hospital or clinic is using.

If you're in a priority tier and you haven't gotten your vaccine yet, you should make your appointment now.

Where Else Can I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

You have other options on where to get the vaccine, depending on local availability. Appointments are required at most locations.

Visit [**VaccineFinder.org**](#) to find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines near you. For some states, information is still limited; providers and pharmacies will continue to update locations in the coming weeks. Locations include:

- Your state or local health department COVID-19 vaccination sites
- Your civilian provider
- Retail pharmacies
 - To see a list of pharmacies that may have COVID-19 vaccines, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [**Federal Retail Pharmacy Program**](#) page.
 - You can get a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost at TRICARE network and non-network pharmacies.

What Does the COVID-19 Vaccine Cost?

The vaccine itself is offered at no cost but based on your plan and status (active duty or retiree), there may be a cost for an office visit to a TRICARE-authorized or network provider or if you require follow-on care.

While there is no charge for the vaccine, if you get a vaccine while seeking care (a diabetes check-in, for example), then a visit copayment or cost-share will apply.

COVID-19 Vaccine Documentation

You must bring your vaccination card to your second vaccine appointment for record keeping. Once the COVID-19 vaccination process is completed, submit documentation to your provider so it can be added to your health record.



REDSTONE ARSENAL VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

About Us

Redstone Arsenal Veterinary Treatment Facility strives to provide exceptional care to our Military Working Dogs and Service Member's Pets.

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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 May

- 1 May – May Day
- 1 May – Great Britain was formed (1707)
- 1 May – Francis Gary Powers’ U-2 plane shot down over Russia (1960)
- 2 May – Osama Bin Laden killed by US Special Forces (2011)
- 4 May – Four students killed at Kent State University by National Guardsmen (1970)
- 5 May – Cinco de Mayo
- 5 May – Alan Shepard became the first American in space (1961)
- 6 May – German airship Hindenburg explodes at Lakehurst, NJ (1937)
- 7 May - The *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German submarine, killing 1198 (1915)
- 7 May – Golf Meeting – 1200 @ The Links**
- 8 May – Battle of Coral Sea (1942)
- 9 May – Mother’s Day
- 11 May – Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969)
- 12 May – Berlin Blockade lifted (1949)
- 13 May – Pope John Paul II shot in St. Peter’s Square (1981)
- 13 May – Board Meeting via Zoom**
- 14 May – Smallpox vaccine developed (1796)
- 15 May – George Wallace shot while campaigning for President (1972)
- 17 May – New York Stock Exchange established (1792)
- 17 May – First running of the Kentucky Derby (1875)
- 18 May – Mt. St. Helens erupted (1980)
- 20 May – Charles Lindbergh took off on his historic flight (1927)
- 20 May – Amelia Earhart became first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic (1932)
- 21 May – The American Red Cross was founded (1881)
- 22 May – Richard Nixon became first president to visit Moscow (1972)
- 24 May – First telegraph message sent (1844)
- 26 May – Evacuation of Dunkirk began (1940)
- 26 May – Member Meeting via Zoom**
- 27 May – Golden Gate bridge opened (1937)
- 28 May – Amnesty International founded (1961)
- 30 May – Lincoln Memorial was dedicated (1922)
- 31 May – Johnstown flood killed over 2300 (1889)
- 31 May – Memorial Day

