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October 2020



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members –

Here comes October and the temperatures are dropping! Many schools and many sports are back in action – I hope they continue precautions to keep all participants safe!

As I said in my last email, all face-to-face meetings/events are cancelled until at least January. This includes membership meetings, monthly breakfasts, governing board meetings, the annual Christmas gift-wrapping fundraiser, and the Chapter Christmas party. I really hated to cancel the party, but I just would not feel right attending and most of you that responded to my email poll agreed.

The Chapter has a Zoom license. We will use Zoom for Governing Board meetings and for membership meetings. As those of you who participated in the September Zoom meeting know, it worked well, and we were able to catch up on some Chapter business. It was good seeing many of you again! We will do this again for the October meeting, which will include election of Chapter officers for 2021-2022.

Veterans Day/Week and RAD events will be virtual this year. I do not have any updated details, but I will forward them as I receive them.

Please see the article in this issue regarding voting! Thanks Charles Clements and John Fairlamb for working it.

I do hope that all of you are following CDC and AL guidelines regarding the COVID. There is no need for unnecessary meetings and there is certainly NO reason or excuse not to take adequate personal measures including face masks and copious amounts of sanitizer! When we do resume face-to-face meetings, I want to see all of you there and healthy!

That is all for this month.

Stay Safe!

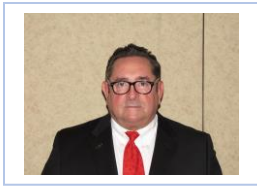
Rick

***Due to the coronavirus situation, Member Meetings are
Virtual 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.”

The presidential election, U.S. Senate contest and seven US House of Representatives races might be the big draws for voters, but there are also six statewide constitutional amendments on the ballot on November 3rd. Several of the proposed changes to the state constitution were approved by lawmakers in the 2019 legislative session. Here’s a recap of each.

Amendment 1

If approved by voters, Amendment I would “provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote.”

According to the **Fair Ballot Commission**, the state constitution grants the right to vote to U.S. citizens who meet certain requirements. The amendment does not change those requirements. Citizenship is a federal requirement to vote.

If a majority of voters vote “yes” for Amendment 1, the state constitution will grant the right to vote to “only” those U.S. citizens who meet the requirements. If a majority of voters vote “no,” the state constitution will continue to grant the right to vote to “every” U.S. citizen who meets the requirements, according to the commission.

Legislation for the proposed amendment was sponsored by Sen. Del Marsh, R-Anniston, in 2019. Marsh said he doesn’t think non-citizens voting is a big problem in Alabama. But the amendment “sends a message to Washington.” “And I think you have a lot of states that do not police this,” Marsh said this week.

Marsh’s legislation cleared the Senate and House last year without any no votes.

Amendment 2

Amendment 2 proposes to make several changes to the administration and oversight of the state’s court system and judges.

Currently, the Alabama chief justice appoints the administrator of courts (AOC), the executive who oversees court operations. If approved, Amendment 2 would allow the full Supreme Court to make the appointment.

Legislation for the proposed amendment was sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur. He said the proposal allows for a renewable contract for the administrator and the position would no longer be at the whim of the chief justice. Because the administrator oversees the entire state court system, there

Continued on page 11

2019-2020 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

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, j.treadway51@mchsi.com

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, biged992K@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: LTC Jane Sonak, USA-Ret, 281-883-2364, hcmooamembership@gmail.com

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@hiway.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

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

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

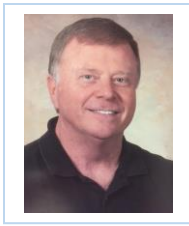
The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brucer76@knology.net

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

Check out the big screen TV's selection—now is the time to get your gear for all the college games! OLED 65 inch and 4K 75 inch to impress anyone.

Your AAFES store has the new Toy Book soon to be available with many pages of toys on sale from late October to Dec 24. Look for your copy soon! There will be no Black Friday sale this year, but you can check for special deals on the Exchange website.

Use your Military Star card and enjoy 10% off in the Redstone Exchange Food Court and Burger King. Don't have a military STAR card? See any sales associate or apply online at shopmyexchange.com then start your list to get at least 10% off your first day's purchases.

As always shop early for best selection. The Exchange values your opinion! Please take a moment to tell them how they are doing. The link information is on your receipt or go to <https://surveymonkey.com/s/MyExchSurvey>.

Shoppette

Every month a new Limited Time Special and Spirit of the Month—both have many special prices on your favorites! Gluhwein in October to the Redstone Express. This year's assortment anticipated favorites: Cherry, Blueberry, White and Red. Stock up for the holidays while supplies last. This is a fast seller! Use your STAR card to always get 5 cents off per gallon at the gas pumps. Also, don't forget--Rug Doctor and Red Box is available at the Redstone Express.

Check out the monthly promotions and save!

Commissary

All limitations as mentioned last month are still in effect. I did notice that the paper products isle was now almost half full (instead of almost empty). There is no limit on marked down meats, but you must use the regular check outs and not the self-checkout for those items.

October has Columbus Day promos. Check out <http://www.commissaries.com/rewards-and-savings/savings-center>

Be sure to pick up the many coupon books just outside the entrance and check out the organic section on your right as you enter the commissary.

New Health-Ade Kombucha (blood orange-carrot-ginger), Bew Dr Kombucha (clear mind), and Acai Roots Kombucha (Mango and Goji, pomegranate, blueberry and ginger). Fairlife ultra purified milk (lasts MUCH

Continued on page 12

Need Addresses

None this month

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Jane Sonak at 281-883-2364 to update their addresses.

Concerns

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

None this month

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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



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



FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER
SERVICES
AS OF 11 August, 2020

HOURS OF OPERATION

0800-1500

Color Key

	Normal Operations
	Modified Services Utilizing Virtual/Limited F2F
	Limited Operations/Modified Hours
	Closed

	Wellness Clinic
	Behavioral Health
	EFMP
	Hearing Exams
	Immunizations (By appointment only)
	Laboratory (No walk-ins for COVID-19 testing)
	Medical Boards (IDES)
	Medical Records
	Nutrition (weight management, pre-diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol appt only)
	Occupational Health
	Optometry
	Patient Administration
	Pediatrics (F2F: Acute and Well-baby Appointment/Virtual Care)
	Patient Advocate (call 256-876-8621)
	Pharmacy
	Physical Exams (No Special Schools/Readiness Only)
	Physical Therapy
	Primary Care (F2F: Acute Appointment/Virtual Care)
	Public Health (Mission Essential Employees Only)
	Radiology Services
	Referral Management
	Release of Information
	Uniform Business Office/Third Party Billing
	Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator/Debt Collection Assistance Offices

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Please call our office to set a time for a complimentary one on one meeting with
John D. Stover, LUTCF, Certified Financial Planner™, Certified Kingdom Advisor®

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HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

PHONE: 615.591.3937
TOLL-FREE: 888.468.9672
FAX: 615.591.3932

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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: Navigating the First Year After Loss

By: Barbara Smith

You have become a surviving spouse. Intense agony comes with grief. People grieve in different ways. There is no right or wrong way, you just need to find your way. Grief is private and personal. It's OK to cry. It's OK not to cry. It's OK to laugh.

The first year after losing your spouse will be extremely difficult. You will have birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays without your loved one. Lifetime events become very painful. There will be days when you feel heartbroken.

Reach out to family, friends, whoever brings you comfort, and don't be afraid to share your thoughts and fears with them. Love from those around you and that are close to you can be very healing. Don't be afraid to seek counseling if you need to or see your doctor.

This is also a good time to pursue a hobby, volunteer, travel, read, write, take an exercise class or dance lessons, sign up for a cooking class, or become more active in your church, etcetera. You don't get over the loss of your loved one; you learn to live with it. Nothing you do in the future will change your love for the person who died.

My hope for you is that you will find the strength to get through this. I hope you find a little happiness in each day and that remembering your spouse brings a smile to your face.





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

Anger

What does it take to turn a person into a Judas? What motivates someone to betray deep-seated loyalties?

Unresolved anger and resentment for one thing. Consider the story of Earl Pitts, FBI agent turned Soviet spy.

According to Evan Thomas in NEWSWEEK, Pitts was raised on a farm in Missouri and was recognized as a Future Farmer of America. His parents said they disciplined him firmly but fairly. He was a captain in the army who regarded himself as a patriot. Even today he is described by his wife as a "good man." So, what happened?

After getting his law degree and serving as a military policeman for six years, in 1983 Pitts realized a lifelong ambition by going to work for the FBI. In 1987 he was assigned to the New York office, and there his troubles began. He did not see how he could afford to live in the Big Apple on his \$25,000 salary.

Thomas writes, "Morale in the office was poor, and petty cheating on expense accounts was rampant. Burdened with debt from student loans, Pitts had to ask his father for a loan. He felt humiliated. Pitts later told a psychiatrist that he was" overwhelmed by a sense of rage at the FBI."

One morning he came up with the idea of spying for the KGB. That way he could kill two birds with one stone - solve his money problems and get back at his bosses. He later told a psychiatrist, "I was shoved by the bureaucracy, and I shoved back."

Over the next seven years Pitts worked as a Soviet spy and for his services received \$224,000. When he was finally caught and convicted the judge sentenced him to twenty-seven years in prison. At the sentencing the judge asked him point-blank why he had become a traitor. Earl Pitts replied, "I gave in to an unreasonable anger."

Never allow anger to fester nor cause bitterness. Deal with anger as God prescribes.



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: 355
Regular Members: 297
Surviving Spouses: 58

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

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

MAJ James Greene, 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.

ALABAMA'S GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

to be dedicated October 17, 2020

When a loved one loses their life in service to our country, it's hard to know what to say to those left behind.

With the upcoming dedication of Alabama's first Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, the message will be clear: "We will never forget."

The black granite monument, designed by the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, will be placed at the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial. It will be dedicated on October 17, 2020.

On its face, the monument will bear the words, "Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives." The other side will tell a story through panels depicting scenes unique to Alabama, with the themes Homeland, Family, Patriot and Sacrifice. The centerpiece of the monument is a silhouette representing a Loved One who lost their life serving our country.

The monument is a joint effort of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, the Alabama Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee, the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation, and the City of Huntsville. Its primary sponsors are Mike and Christine Wicks, i3 - Integration Innovation Inc.

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENTS START? In 2010, Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams formed the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. Its mission is to honor Gold Star Families by establishing monuments in communities throughout the United States. To date, 62 monuments have been placed, representing 48 states. 77 monuments are in process. This will be the first Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in the State of Alabama.

WHERE DID THE TERM "GOLD STAR FAMILY" COME FROM? During World War I, it was customary for military families to display service flags in their windows, featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The star's color would be changed to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war, hence the term, "Gold Star Family."

GOLD STAR MOTHERS AND FAMILIES DAY Since 1936, our nation has recognized the last Sunday of September as Gold Star Mother's Day. In 2011, the law was amended to include the recognition of all Gold Star family members on this day. Gold Star Spouses' Day is April 5.

HOW MANY GOLD STAR FAMILIES ARE IN ALABAMA? The exact number is difficult to calculate because the government does not keep official records on Gold Star families. However, since World War II, Alabama has been home to almost 10,000 servicemembers who lost their lives serving our country. It is reasonable to assume that today there are more than 6,000 Gold Star family members living in Alabama.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT GOLD STAR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY? Remember that our fallen military personnel were real people whose lives are to be celebrated. Ask family members about their loved one, what was his or her name, what were they like, what were their goals, interests and passions. For information about the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, to purchase a brick for the walkway or to donate, visit hmcvm.org and click on Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, email adminperson@HMCVM.org or call 256-604-3896.

The Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 11, 2011, to pay tribute to all veterans and educate the public about local military history and the cost of freedom.



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report August 2020

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

1. The August 2020 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	\$ 8,787.56	\$ 8,004.76
Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.07
Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,787.56	\$ 8,004.83

3. Notable income: None.

4. Notable expenses: None.

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 the 2020 RAD luncheon or similar event.

7. The Chapter re-invested funds into an 18-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) with Wells Fargo Bank on 19 March 2019. The CD was opened for \$8,174.85 and the current balance is \$8,479.10. The CD matures in mid-October 2020. 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.

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During September 2020

None

Total received for September:	\$0
Total received FY20 to date:	\$50



needs to be stability, Orr said.

“We’ve had a series of AOC directors because new chief justices have come and gone, every six years, and they bring their own director with them,” Orr said this week. “And that’s created a revolving door, as far as the chief administrator of the court system.

“Putting that responsibility with the Supreme Court as a whole, in coordination with the chief justice, should provide more continuity.”

If approved, the amendment would also:

- Provide that county district courts do not have to hold city court in a city with a population of less than 1,000
- Increases from nine to 11 the total membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission, which evaluates ethics complaints against judges, and determines who appoints each member
- Allow the governor, rather than the lieutenant governor, to appoint a member of the Court of the Judiciary, which hears complaints filed by the Judicial Inquiry Commission
- Prevent a judge from being automatically disqualified from holding office simply because a complaint was filed with the Judiciary Inquiry Commission
- Provides that a judge can be removed from office only by the Court of the Judiciary. Currently, the Legislature can impeach judges

Amendment 3

Amendment 3 is also court related. If approved, it would extend the time appointed circuit and district court judges could fill a vacancy before facing election. Under current law, district and circuit judges appointed by the governor serve an initial term of one year or the remainder of the original term, whichever is longer. This amendment would change that initial term of the appointed judge to at least two years before they must run for election.

Amendment 4

Proposed Amendment 4 would reorganize Alabama’s notoriously long constitution and remove outdated and racist language.

The Constitution still has references to separate schools for white and “colored children” and laws against marriages between “any white person and a negro”. Similar ballot referendums failed in 2012 and 2004.

Amendments 5 and 6

Amendments 5 and 6 are specific only to Franklin and Lauderdale counties, respectively. But because the supporting legislation to specify that church members in those counties can use deadly force if they feel threatened in their places of worship was voted against by one House member, they now go on the statewide ballot.

On the COLA front: The August 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) is 253.597, 1.4% above the FY 2020 CPI baseline.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. There are seven articles. Two deal with Alabama issues, the others include Military Health Care, Veteran Bills signed into law recently, the Veterans Affairs Accountability Office, how a pilot perform against an artificial intelligence algorithm, and who will move to Space Force.

As always, please take time to look at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. The National Headhunters 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. IIII



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)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	MI	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Preferred Name	Birth Date	Spouse's Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	E-mail Address	Signature			

Commissary/PX - continued from page 3

longer than regular milk) with 30 g protein by the 12-bottle case (chocolate) \$14.99, plus a \$2.00 coupon. This product usually sells out fast. Visit the International Isle and select from German, Italian, Hispanic, and some other countries cuisine.

Make sure you check out the new seafood freezer. You can get shrimp, crab legs, lobster, crawfish, crab cakes and other tasty treats.

Your bakery and deli can create meat and cheese trays or/and sandwich trays. Please call 256.876.3517 and provide a two-hour notice.

Follow the commissary on Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter @YourCommissary. 

Absentee Voting Instructions

Voting is a civic duty we should take seriously. If you are concerned that voting in person will expose you to COVID-19, rather than not vote, use absentee voting. In Madison County, it's safe, secure, and can be done in person or online and via the USPS. The Madison County Absentee Ballot Office opened 9 September 2020 for voters who want to apply for or submit their absentee ballots in person and anyone who needs help during the absentee ballot voting process. The office is on the first floor of the Madison County Courthouse (100 Northside Square, Huntsville, AL, 35801) open every weekday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The Madison County Circuit Clerk and Absentee Election Manager is Debra Kizer. Her telephone number is 256-532-3684. When entering the courthouse, you must wear a mask, social distance, and try to bring your own pen.

Voting absentee is usually legal only for people who will be out of the county on election day, are ill or disabled, are taking care of someone or working election day, or are in jail for a crime that still allows them to vote. But this year, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill has added the COVID pandemic as a legal reason for any registered voter to vote absentee.

All that voter has to do is check the box "is ill or has a physical disability" on the absentee ballot application's list of reasons for wanting to vote absentee. Don't worry if you're not really ill or disabled, officials say. You're not lying on an official document, according to Merrill's order. You are legitimately concerned about becoming ill because of COVID. That's enough this year.

How do I register to vote?

You can register online, by mail or in person. If you have a valid Alabama driver's license or a non-driver's identification card you can register online at the [secretary of state's website](#). If you don't have either, you can download a [registration application from the website](#) and mail it to your [county board of registrars](#). The deadline to register for the November general election is October 19th.

How can I get an absentee ballot? Are there important deadlines?

First, [Download an absentee ballot application](#) to request the ballot or contact your [county absentee election manager](#). The absentee ballot application must be received by Oct. 29 for the November general election. You can fill out the ballot request online and you need to send a copy (front and back) of a state issued ID such as a driver's license. If your application is approved, the absentee election manager will mail you a ballot. Your completed ballot must be postmarked by November 2nd and received by noon on November 3rd. If hand delivered to your county absentee election manager, it must arrive by 5 P.M. on November 2nd. Only one application can be mailed in each envelope so a spouse must send a separate request. *But don't wait. Get your ballot in now, especially if mailing it, to ensure it's delivered in time.*

Once you get your ballot, read the instructions first and then follow them carefully. Unless the courts rule otherwise, voters need two witnesses or a notary to sign an affidavit (sworn statement) that must be mailed along with the absentee ballot. Spouses can sign for each other, but you need a second witness. Most banks can provide free notary services if you have an account via the drive through window.


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What form of identification do I need to vote? You'll need photo ID, such as a valid Alabama driver's license, non-driver ID, or U.S. passport — a [full list of acceptable IDs](#) is on the secretary of state's website.

NOTE: A [lawsuit against the state](#), which is winding its way through the courts, accuses Alabama election officials of failing to take adequate steps to protect the fundamental right to vote during the pandemic. The plaintiffs want the state to eliminate the witness signature requirements and the voter's obligation to provide a photocopy of an acceptable ID.

How do I know my absentee ballot is secure?

In addition to the mailing envelope, the absentee ballot is enclosed within a secrecy envelope and an affidavit envelope. Once the ballot is received, election officials will put it in a safe and secure location until Election Day. In the presence of any poll watchers, poll workers will examine the affidavits on Election Day. The secrecy envelopes containing the actual ballots are set aside to protect the identity of the voters. [The ballots are later fed into a tabulating machine.](#) 

Election of Chapter Officers

The chapter elects officers every other year at the October member meeting. The following position and candidates are up for consideration:

- President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret
- 1st Vice President: CAPT William P. Nash, USN-Ret
- 2nd Vice President: LTC Gary R. Young, USA-Ret
- Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret
- Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret
- Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret
- Navy/USMC Representative: COL Raymond G. Regner, USMC-Ret & LCDR John Inman, USN-Ret
- Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret

Additional nominations may be brought forward at the member meeting. The names of the winners will be published in the November (electronic) and January (printed) newsletters.

Officers will be sworn in at the January member meeting.

The October member meeting will be a virtual meeting over Zoom. Please try and attend so you can participate in this important chapter function.



20 Birthdays in October

LTC Dallas A Shaw, USA
Lt Col Barney F Barron, USAF
CPT Sean R Sterling, USA
MAJ Curtis Smith, USA
CPT Gary M Rose, USA
Capt Howard Sanderford, USMC
BG Daniel L Montgomery, USA
LTC Robert E Dudley, USA
CAPT Richard C West, USN
LTC Harold E Walden, USA

Col Donald R Brewer, USAF
Col Edward L Uher, USAF
CW2 Edward C Baltz, USA
LTC Russell L Dunford, USA
COL William W Stevenson, USA
Mrs. Caroline H Wilson
Col Adrian A Ritchie Jr, USAF
LTC Robert W Hearon, USA
COL Melvin J McLemore, USA
LTC James A Cox, 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.

Veterans Day Activities

There will not be a 2020 Veterans Day Parade; YMCA Prayer Breakfast; Veterans Dinner; or Veterans Day Breakfast due to Covid-19 concerns.

To honor our Veterans with a Veterans Day observance, the 2020 Veterans Day Observance for Huntsville/Madison County will be a 90-minute program filmed by WAFF beforehand and aired on Channel 48 at 1100 on 11 November.

It would consist of

- Veterans Day Proclamation Signing Ceremony
- Veterans Day Remarks from Mayor Battle, General Daly & CASA Fitzgerald (representing the Secretary of the Army)
- Gold Star Family recognition
- Madison County Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony
- Military Order of Purple Heart Induction Ceremony
- Silver Star Banner presentation
- BG (Retired) Robert Drolet – Service to Veterans Award Presentation
- NAVFOC Veteran of the Year & Veteran Organization of the Year Award
- NAVFOC Lifetime Achievement Award



TAPS

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

None this month

*Gone but not forgotten for their dedicated support and service to our Country. We
will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.*



Suicide Prevention Resources: Take Care of Yourself and Each Other

Globally, people are facing challenges caused by COVID-19. The pandemic may cause anxiety and stress. These feelings may feel stronger with less social interaction. Feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or lonely might increase the risk for suicide for some people. It's important to tend to your mental health and find ways to cope.

There are many resources to help you. These include, but are not limited to, TRICARE mental health services.

Are you or someone you know having thoughts of suicide? Call the Military Crisis Line for free, confidential support 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), option 1. You can also send a text to 838255, or start an online chat. If you think you have a medical health emergency, call 911 or your local emergency number, or go to the nearest emergency room

Everyone can play a role in preventing suicide. The Defense Suicide Prevention Office and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can help you learn about the risk factors and warning signs. Learning this information may help you determine if a loved one is at risk and needs help.

Some risk factors for suicide may include:

- Mental disorders
- Alcohol and other substance use disorders

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- Job or financial loss
- Loss of relationship
- Lack of social support and sense of isolation

Some warning signs that may indicate a risk of suicide include:

- Talking about suicide or making a plan for suicide
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or unit
- Expressing feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, or worthlessness
- Sudden changes in mood or personality
- Excessive use of alcohol or drugs


If you feel these warning signs or see them in another person, you should seek help. During the pandemic, you can still reach out for help safely. If you're a service member, veteran, or family member, you may seek help through your primary care manager, chaplain, Military Family Life Counselors, or Military OneSource. Depending on your needs and military status, you can also find support through the Real Warriors Campaign, Make the Connection, and inTransition.

"TRICARE offers mental health care services for beneficiaries coping with excessive depression, grief, and people who might have thoughts of suicide," said Dr. Krystyna Bienia, a clinical psychologist and senior policy analyst at the Defense Health Agency. "You may even be able to get help through telemedicine services from your own home."

Getting mental health treatment as well as learning coping skills, may help reduce the risk of suicide. As outlined in the [*TRICARE Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Fact Sheet*](#), TRICARE covers many mental health services. These include:

- Individual and family psychotherapy
- Intensive outpatient treatment
- Substance use disorder treatment
- Partial hospitalization programs
- Inpatient treatment

You may need a referral or pre-authorization for some mental health services. However, most office-based outpatient mental health services don't require you to get a referral or authorization. If you're an active duty service member, you do need to get a referral for all services.

During Suicide Prevention Month, take actions to help yourself and others who may be feeling stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about suicide prevention resources. If you think you or someone you know should seek mental health services, get help. Take care of yourself and others and take command of your health. 

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Amazon Smile

We have registered the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund with the Amazon Smile program. This program distributes money to various registered IRS(c)(3) charities.

If you are an Amazon user, you can help our Fund by using Amazon Smile. Here is how:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>
- Sign into your Amazon account.
- Look for the “Supporting: _____” in the top left section of the page. Select the down arrow and you can search for a charity to support. All you have to type in the space is HCMOAA and it will find the Scholarship Fund. Select it and you are done.
- Vice using “amazon.com”, use <https://smile.amazon.com> for your Amazon shopping – it has the same items and prices as the regular page and is still Amazon Prime. In other words, it is no different than amazon.com. If you have a shortcut for Amazon on your browser or desktop, delete it and replace it with a shortcut to Amazon Smile.
- If you have any problems registering, drop me an email or give me a call! My info is on page 2 of the newsletter. So far, only one person has had a problem and that was an Amazon issue that cleared up quickly.

The Scholarship Fund will receive .5% of the purchase price of any eligible item. How do you tell if the item is eligible? It will say “Eligible for  donation” in the item description area. I don’t know what items aren’t eligible - I have yet to find one that wasn’t eligible. I polled the Governing Board and they hadn’t either!

So far, a lot of people have registered our Scholarship Fund – we need to get that number over 100! If you shop Amazon and don’t have a charity already designated, **please give it a shot and help the Fund!** The fundraising potential is huge!

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 October

- 1 October – Henry Ford’s Model T went on sale for the first time (1908)
- 1 October – Peoples Republic of China founded (1949)
- 1 October – Panama Cana Zone retuned to Panama (1979)
- 2 October – Thurgood Marshall sworn in as first African American justice of the Supreme Court (1967)
- 3 October – East & West Germany reunited (1990)
- 3 October – President Lincoln established Thanksgiving Day as the 4th Sunday in November (1863)
- 4 October – Russians launched the first satellite – Sputnik I - into orbit (1957)
- 4 October – Pope Paul VI became the first Pope to visit the US (1965)
- 6 October – The first "talkie" opened in New York - *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson (1927)
- 6 October – Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in Cairo (1981)
- 8 October – Great Chicago Fire (1871)
- 8 October – Monthly Board Meeting – via Zoom**
- 8 October – Sergeant Alvin York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion (1918)
- 10 October – Spiro Agnew resigned as Vice President (1973)
- 12 October – Columbus Day
- 12 October - Brazil became independent of Portugal (1822)
- 13 October – US Navy established (1775)
- 13 October - The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington (1792)
- 14 October - Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier (1947)
- 15 October – Napoleon Bonaparte exiled on the Island of St. Helena (1815)
- 15 October – US Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court (1991)
- 18 October – The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began (1945)
- 19 October - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged 22.6% (1987)
- 20 October - General Douglas MacArthur “retuned” to the Philippines (1944)
- 20 October - Jacqueline Kennedy married Greek businessman Aristotle Onassis (1968)
- 21 October - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp (1879)
- 22 October – Cuban Missile Crisis began (1962)
- 24 October – United Nations founded (1945)
- 26 October - The shoot-out at the O.K. Corral (1881)
- 28 October – Monthly Member Meeting – via Zoom**
- 31 October - Halloween

