Volume 60, Issue 10 October 2021



Huntsville Chapter Military Officers Association of America **The Semunation**

Huntsvillemoaa.org





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



Greetings Huntsville Chapter Members -

Finally – cooler and drier weather! Only have to mow a couple more times this year!

Thanks to those of you who attended the September Zoom membership meeting. We passed our FY22 Budget and took care of several administrative items.

Regarding meetings, the Governing Board has discussed options based on current restrictions on Redstone Arsenal and in our area and included those inputs from members who responded to my survey questions.

- The October meeting will be in-person if we get enough committed attendees to meet the minimum commitment to the Summit Club. Details are on page 12. Please RSVP as soon as you get this Sentinel! ^(C)
- The November membership meeting is cancelled no Zoom or in-person meeting.
- The Christmas Party on December 4th is still on. We need enough RSVPs to meet the Summit Club's minimum commitment (larger for evening events). This should be a very enjoyable event held at The Overlook with some good music, good food, and great door prizes! See the flyer on page 11 for more details. RSVP soon please!
- As long as the Veterans Day/Week events happen, we will be participating.
- We will not be participating in the XMAS Gift Wrapping at the PX if it is held.

This year's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament has come and gone! It was a great success considering some of the restrictions and the economic impact on our donors and sponsors. Please see the list on page 15 and give them all the support you can. I also would like to **very much thank** the members of the Golf Committee who worked so hard for about 6 months and the members of the RSA Military and Civilians Club whose help ensured we were able to execute the tournament!

<u>Thanks for being members of the best MOAA Chapter in Alabama and PLEASE</u> <u>Stay Safe!</u>

Rick

Our Member Meeting will be held on 27 October at the Summit Club. The guest speaker is Mr. John Stover, a financial planner.

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



Legislative Corner Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret



http://www.moaa.org/<u>takeaction/</u>



"All politics is local."

Alabama will hold an election for State offices on November 8, 2022. The primary is scheduled for May 24, 2022, and a primary runoff is scheduled for June 21, 2022. The filing deadline is January 28, 2022. In the race for governor, incumbent Kay Ivey and challengers Stacy George, Dean Odle and Jim Zeigler are running in the Republican primary. The sole Democrat running is Christopher Countryman. Chad Chig Martin will run as an Independent candidate.

The race for the U. S. Senate seat includes Lynda Blanchard, Katie Britt, Mo Brooks, Mike Dunn and Jessica Taylor running in the Republican primary. Jarmal Jabbar Sanders is running as an Independent candidate and as of now there are no announced Democratic challengers.

Governor Ivey plans to call lawmakers to Montgomery for a special session on prison construction on 27 September. Legislative leadership has been meeting with Ivey's team and Alabama Department of Corrections' officials since early summer to craft a draft bill that has been circulating among lawmakers this month. The plan allows the state to borrow up to \$785 million and use several hundred million in federal COVID relief funds to build at least three new prisons.

A new state veterans' home in southeast Alabama will be named for Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins, who received the Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War. The new home, with space for 175 veterans, will be located in Enterprise, said a statement from the Alabama State Board of Veterans Affairs. Adkins was "well-known statewide for his bravery and heroism, especially in southeastern Alabama with his close ties to the community," said Chad Richmond, the vice chair of the board. Adkins, a resident of Opelika, died from COVID-19 last year at the age of 86

Defense officials have backed off plans to consolidate the commissary and exchange systems according to a new DoD report citing flaws in their previous recommendations about the benefits of a merger. Such a plan would actually cost an additional \$1.5 billion, according to a new DoD report to Congress, signed 23 August 2021 by Virginia Penrod, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The previous analysis, completed in 2018, had a "single-minded fixation" on cutting costs and diverting the focus away from the customer, the new report stated. The projected costs of a consolidation "have increased substantially and are now prohibitive."

Continued on page 9

2021-2022 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: Vacant

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

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, <u>mbarron468@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-715-1671, <u>ctcbama76@gmail.com</u>

Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jtreadway51@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 (Acting): MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, <u>brucer76@knology.net</u>

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, <u>ctcbama76@gmail.com</u>

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse 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, chapter.chaplane.chapter.chaplane.chaplane.chapter.c

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, <u>brucer76@knology.net</u>

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

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, <u>brucer76@knology.net</u>

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

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

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandits.com (June 2024)

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



PX / Commissary Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Big screen TV's selection—for all the college games! Some on clearance at your Exchange! Columbus Day Specials are on their way, and we are gearing up for Halloween! Stop by your Exchange or online and get your Halloween costumes. The new Toy Book will soon be available with many pages of toys on sale from late October to Dec 24. Check it out online! Your Exchange usually has a huge furniture savings event for Columbus Day! Bassett, Ashley for all rooms in your house.

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 on-line at shopmyexchange.com then start your list to get at least 10% (sometime more if they run a special!) your first day's purchases. Make a list for the Exchange Black Friday sales. As always – tax free and free shipping with your military STAR card purchases over \$49.

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 <u>https://surveymonkey.com/s/MyExchSurvey_</u>Plus Daily Specials! Check out contests and prizes at: <u>Home - Exchange Community Hub (publicaffairssme.com)</u>

From Sept. 24 through Oct. 21, shoppers who use their MILITARY STAR card twice at any military exchange and twice at any commissary will automatically be entered in the Home for the Holidays sweepstakes. Five grand-prize winners—one each from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—will receive \$5,000. Five second-place winners, also one from each branch of service, will receive \$2,000.

Shopette

Every month a new Limited Time Special and Spirit of the Month—both have many special prices on your favorites! Gluhwein is coming soon to the Redstone Express. This year's assortment will include favorites such as: 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 movies are available at the Redstone Express.

Commissary

October has Columbus Day promos. Check out <u>https://www.commissaries.com/rewards-and-savings/savings-center</u> Be sure to check out the discount beef and pork on your right in the small freezers by the meat area. Plus, there is usually a manager's sidewalk sale in conjunction

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:

None this Month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative: **COL James D. Treadway** 256-859-1484 jtreadway51@mchs- i.com

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

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

Personal Affairs Officer Lt Col Gerald Haynes 256-882-7857 jerry15@hiwaay.net

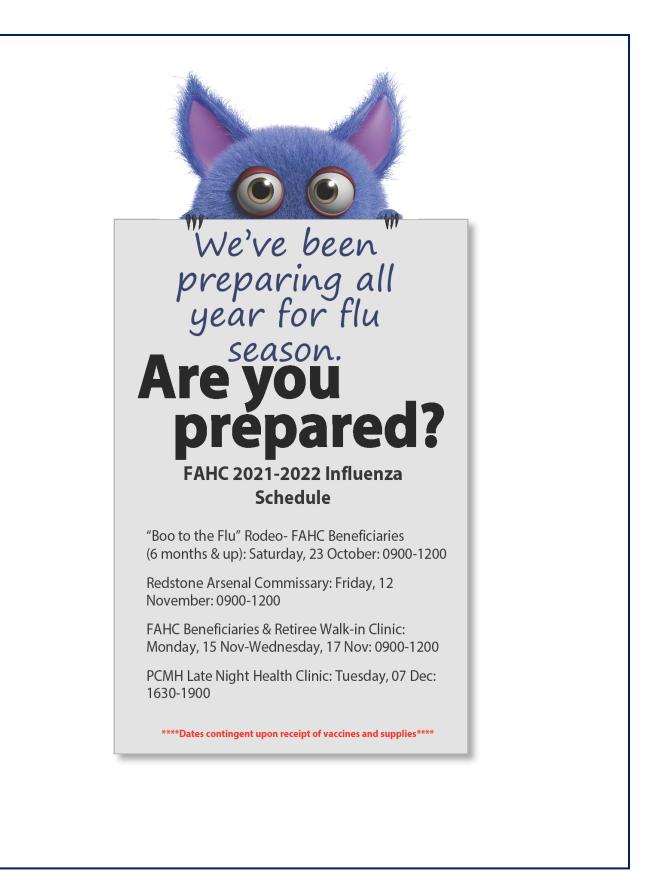






Fox Army Health Center MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret







YOU SERVED OUR COUNTRY WELL AND WE WOULD BE Honored to serve you with your insurance and Investment needs.

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®

> 8 ARCH STREET Huntsville, AL 35806 By Appointment Only

PHONE: 615.591.3937 TOLL-FREE: 888.468.9672 FAX: 615.591.3932

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ASEA®

Paul & Patsy Morin Independent Associates

Cell: 256-738-0389 Email: paulmorin3018@comcast.net

Website: paulmorin.teamasea.com Huntsville, AL

Surviving Spouse's Luncheon



Mrs. Carrie Hightower 256-882-3992

Attendance was low in September due to illness & surgeries. Hope everyone is doing well. Our next luncheon will be on Thursday 21 October, 11AM at Kacey's, 10017 South Memorial Parkway in Huntsville. Phone: 256-715-0183. Reservations are required. Everyone will be called. Please join us.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Resources for Caregiver

Each caregiving journey is unique. My role of caregiver for my husband expanded from not only getting him to medical care but also making legal decisions in his stead. Common issues that affect most caregivers include navigating VA procedures, obtaining help with specific disabilities and diseases, learning how to deal with dementia, organizing paperwork, and knowing what legal documents are needed with regard to consent issues, legal capacity, and decision making.

During my journey as a caregiver, I found the following resources to be beneficial:

- MOAA and VA. Talk with members of your local chapter, join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter whose outreach includes current spouses (<u>mssvc02@gmail.com</u>), and take a look at pertinent <u>MOAA publications</u>. Veterans service organizations will help with disability claims, requests for respite care, and pay for long term care, as well as other benefits. The VA and MOAA have planning brochures and guidebooks to help you collect and organize necessary paperwork.
- **Health agencies.** Search for caregiver resources on the <u>National Institutes of</u> <u>Health</u> and <u>Department of Health and Human Services</u> websites to find helpful information.
- **Disease-specific associations.** Contact organizations like the <u>Alzheimer's Association</u>, the <u>ALS Association</u>, and the <u>American Heart Association</u>. These groups have educational information and support groups available to caregivers.
- Military family support groups. <u>TAPS</u>, <u>Gold Star Wives of America</u>, and <u>American Gold</u> <u>Star Mothers</u>, and others provide a wide variety of support services to military families and friends.
- **Respite care.** Organizations such as the <u>Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes</u> and the <u>Yellow Ribbon Fund</u> provide resources and support specifically tailored to military caregivers.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, caregivers need to take care of themselves. Eat healthful foods, stay active, ask for help, and pamper yourself. Like the pre-flight instruction says, "Put your face mask on first." If you don't take care of yourself, you won't be able to take care of your loved one.



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

Eyes Opened

A Christian worker in Arizona tells of a fierce looking cowboy who came to him asking for copies of Mark's Gospel, and who told him this story:

I went to San Francisco and threw away much money in rough revelry. I slept late after a night of dissipation. When I awoke I saw a little Book on the table near my bed the Gospel of Mark. I angrily threw it on the floor. I did the same thing the second morning. Awakening the third morning, I saw the same little Book.

This time I took it with me to a nearby park and began to examine it. I spent the day reading it. I heard the Son of God say to a leper. "Be clean" (1:41). I heard him say to a paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven for you" (2:5,9). I heard Him commend the widow for her mite (12:43). I saw Him take little children in His army and bless them. I heard Him say, "Could you not watch one hour?" (14:37) I saw Him die.

It broke my heart and changed my life. I am a different man. Now, stranger, I spend much time giving away copies of the Gospel of Mark.

would like to s

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

Memorials

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 336 Regular Members: 283 Surviving Spouses: 53

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

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

COL Gene Lesinski, USA CDR Charles Jennings, USN

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

While U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his German counterpart toasted improved relations between their countries over beers in Berlin last month, U.S. military school teacher Sierra Eberhardt was contemplating financial ruin at the hands of local German tax collectors. Eberhardt, a teacher at Vogelweh Elementary in Kaiserslautern, was recently forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars in German income tax and faces additional bills despite a military treaty designed to put her pay—which is also taxed by U.S. authorities—off limits.

Nearly one year after the U.S. government lodged a formal complaint with Germany over efforts by its local finance offices to impose tax penalties on scores of Defense Department civilians and service members, Eberhardt and hundreds of others remain targets. The situation got the attention of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who during a 30 June 2021 meeting at the Pentagon raised the issue directly with German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. "Secretary Austin conveyed his gratitude for Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer's personal engagement on the issue and requested her continued involvement to resolve the issue," Secretary Austin expressed the United States' eagerness to see the long-standing issue resolved."

The financial toll for those snared in the German tax system has been devastating: bills reaching into six figure sums, threats of imprisonment, frozen bank accounts and court battles. The U.S. contends the situation amounts to a treaty violation, but so far American officials have been powerless to stop it. It's been happening for years, even while U.S. taxpayer dollars inject billions annually into the German economy through the military community's spending. But despite U.S. objections, and even indications from Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and other senior German officials that they want the matter resolved, the situation is at a standstill. It's unclear what authority the federal German government has over localities or how it could force tax officials at the state level to back off.

The August 2021 CPI is 268.387, 5.9 percent above the FY 2021 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for September is scheduled to be released Oct. 13.

Please read the recent posting to the Legislative portion of our webpage. There are three articles: one is a continuation of the Sierra Eberhardt story above, the next one is a list of what was in the trillion-dollar infrastructure bill and third article concerns the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

As always, please take time to look at <u>http://takeaction.moaa.org</u>. 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.

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

with Columbus Day in October.

Pick up one of the many coupon books just outside the entrance and check out the changing organic section on your right as you enter the commissary. Follow the commissary on Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter @YourCommissary.

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.





HCMOAA Treasurer's Report August 2021

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

- 1. The August 2021 Treasurer's Report is presented herein. Details are attached.
- 2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$12,695.82	\$16,522.03
Income	\$ 937.00	\$ 0.14
Expenses	\$ 11.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$13,621.82	\$16,522.17

3. Notable income: A donation from NAVFOC for a future RAD discussed in paragraph 6 below, dues and funds associated with the upcoming golf tournament which will be transferred to the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund.

4. Notable expenses: Payments for US postal stamps.

5. Chapter saving account activity included interest.

6. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$1,403.07 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. Recently another VSO donated \$500.00 to be used for a future RAD; so, the total reserved funds earmarked for a future RAD or similar event totals \$1,903.07.

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. <u>Please consider donating</u> to our program. Contact the HCMOAA Scholarship Fund Treasurer, Rick West, at <u>rickw675@att.net</u> or 256.776.6901 for details.

Many thanks to those who donated and enabled the Chapter to provide \$8000 in scholarships for 2021! Donations are being accepted for the 2021-2022 scholarship drive!

Note: The below amounts reflect only donations directly to the fund. Golf Tournament monies are tracked separately and presented to the membership following the tournament.

COL Philip White, USA (Ret.) – non-member CPT Rene Lemieux, USA (Ret.) Anonymous x 2

Total received for September:\$800Total (Final) received FY21:\$8310



Huntsville Chapter MOAA Christmas Party

Holiday Dinner



Sliced honey glazed ham Oven roasted turkey breast with giblet gravy Country Style corn bread dressing with giblet gravy Macaroni & cheese Whole green beans almandine Yeast Rolls & Butter Ice Water – Coffee Sweet or Unsweetened Iced Tea Carrot cake



HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE OVERLOOK at THE SUMMIT CLUB SATURDAY EVENING, 4 DECEMBER 2021

COCKTAILS - No Host/Cash bar - 5:00 pm President's Remarks and Dinner - 6:00 pm DOOR PRIZES

DRESS: Business Casual – khakis/slacks and collared shirts/polo shirts for the men – slacks/skirts and blouses/collared shirts for the ladies – of course you can always dress more formally

\$20.00 PER PERSON (Members & Family) - \$25.00 PER PERSON (Guests)

RSVP by <u>19 November 2021</u> (with check made out to HCMOAA) to:

MAJ Bruce Robinson 809 Farley Drive SE Huntsville, AL 35802 256-426-0525





Membership Meeting 27 October 2021 1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: Mr. John Stover Certified Financial Planner, Focus Financial Group

John has worked in the insurance and investment business for 25 years. He is a Certified Financial Planner TM, Certified Kingdom Advisor ® and a proud member of both the National Ethics Association and Better Business Bureau. John started Focus Financial Group, LLC in 1997 with the passion for helping people in their financial and insurance needs. John's goal has always been to help people and enjoys working with people in a straight-forward manner that removes the mystery of financial planning. John also believes in helping people protect their assets and, with that in mind, works hard to reduce risk in his client's portfolio while still providing his client reasonable options for growth.

John is married and has four grown children and an ever-growing number of grandchildren. John grew up in Nashville, TN and loves the community there. John has quickly fallen in love with the Huntsville community and his home in Alabama. Many people search long and hard to find a place to call home and John feels blessed to have two places he calls home. When John is not working, he enjoys walking, studying, playing board games, a good book, and when time allows, going to the beach.

John Stover and Focus Financial Group, LLC always strive to provide their clients with the highest level of service. Everyone should have a knowledgeable professional to help guide them through their financial journey. John looks forward to working with you!

John will address two topics in his talk:

- Options for money you want to keep safe
- Planning ideas to keep you out of a Nursing Home

Menu: Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti with Marinara, Green Beans, Salad w/ Italian Dressing, Garlic Toast, Cannoli, Assorted Beverages

Cost: \$15 for Chapter members & their family - \$20 for guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

RSVP: CAPT Rick West, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net, NLT 20 October 2021



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The following Sponsors / Donors were very generous in supporting our Tournament. Please support them with your patronage!

Platinum Sponsors

OASYS, Inc. State Farm—Lara Bryant

Torch Technologies

Edward Jones Noblis Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Gold Sponsors RFCU

Aerojet Rocketdyne

Silver Sponsors USAA

Focus Financial Group

Cloud Financial

Lunch Sponsor - All in Solutions, LLC

Breakfast Sponsor - North AL Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition

Hole Sponsors

Limbaugh Orthodontics Bruce & Nancy Robinson Rick & Felicia West Ed & Anne Uher

American-National	Nick's Ristorante
John & Lynette Fairlamb	Jerry & Judy Haynes
Jan Camp	Mike & Susan Barron
Anonymous (2)	

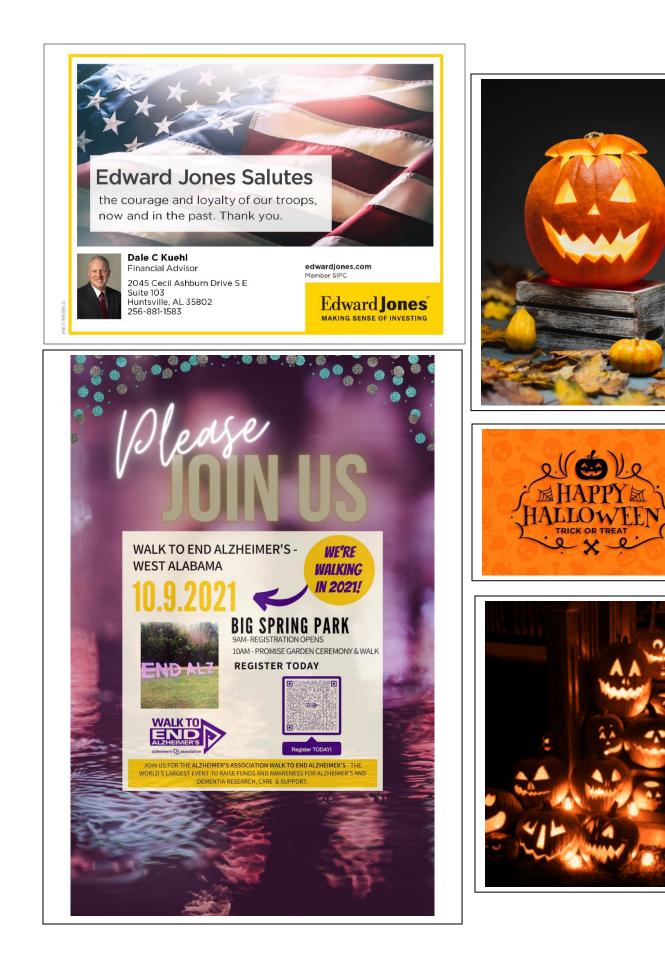
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Publix	Phoenix	Tennessee Aquarium
The Links @ Redstone	Firestone Auto Care	Gunter's Landing GC
Terri Pines CC	Fox Run GC	Colonial GC
Cherokee Ridge CC	COSTCO	Valley Hill CC
Metro Diner	Lee's Magic Tunnel	Jim 'N Nicks BBQ
Eagle's Nest GC	Bonefish Grill	Clear Creek GC
Point Mallard GC	Rosie's Cantina	Chuy's
Connors Steak	Ihop	Honey Baked Ham Co.
Below the Radar	Surin of Thailand	Larry's Pistol & Pawn
Atlanta Braves	TN Titans	Drake's
The Casual Pint	Newk's	Longhorn Steakhouse
Walton's Southern Table	Nick's Ristorante	The Brass Tap
Hampton Cove RTJ GC	HSV Botanical Gardens	Wintzell's

Your 2021 Golf Committee

Marty Ohme
Roderic Spencer
Gary Young
Bill Steele
Don Kimminau

Bruce Robinson - Chair Charles Clements Laurie Kubik Sean Sterling Kristina DeBusk Tonya Statom

Rick West Carrie Hightower Lara Sterling Stephanie Walburn Cherie Cain







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 COL Barton Lawrence Jr, USA CAPT Richard C West, USN Lt Col Brian J Smith, USAF 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 Shaun S Lott, 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 <u>brucer76@knology.net</u> so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Governing Board Vacancies (update)

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.

1st Vice President: An important position. The 1st VP fills in for the President in his absence. He also supervises & assists the other board members & committees with their duties.

 2^{nd} Vice President: The 2^{nd} VP has one main duty – managing the ROTC program for the chapter. This primarily involves liaising with the various high schools & colleges and presenting awards to their distinguished graduates.

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.



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

LCDR Edward S. King, (USN-Ret) - 96, of Huntsville, passed away Monday. During his senior year at Augusta, KS High School at age 17, Mr. King signed up for the naval aviation flight training program. He completed flight training at Pensacola, FL in October 1945, and was commissioned an ensign in the US Navy and received his wings as a Naval Aviator.

After commissioning in 1945, he served in flight operations at Olathe, KS Naval Air Station until September 1950. In September 1950 he was assigned to a patrol Squadron VP-881 flying PV2 (Harpoon) and PB4yZ (Privatier). Their mission was Air Sea Warfare (ASW). Their Reserve Squadron drilled one weekend a month and he was active duty in places such as Woodby Island NAS, Bangor ME NAS, Barkers Point NAS, and Oakland NAS. In 1956, he transferred to Transport Squadron VR882 flying R5Ds to support Navy transport requirements at bases such as New Orleans NAS and Port Lyautey NAS Morocco. He changed his mobilization assignment to aeronautical engineer in 1974 and retired from ready reserve July 1, 1978.

Concurrent with the above Navy experience, he graduated from Wichita University with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1951. He worked for Beech Aircraft and Cessna Aircraft Co. He started working for the Boeing Co. in December 1951, as a flight test engineer. In 1953 he was assigned as a test pilot for the B47 airplane. In 1963, he relocated to Huntsville, AL where he worked as an engineer on the Apollo Saturn Program. In 1967, he transferred to Cape Kennedy NAS, FL where he worked as an engineer on the Apollo Saturn launch system. In 1972, they returned to Huntsville with Martin Marietta working on the Skylab Program. In 1974, he returned to Wichita, KS with Boeing Airplane Co. as an engineer on the B42 and KC-135 airplanes. LCDR King next transferred to Boeing-Seattle to work on the AWA Program and on the EAA 767 airplanes. He also worked on the E-6 TACMO. In 1985 he returned to Huntsville where he worked on the Space Station. He retired from Boeing in March 1987.

After retirement from Boeing, he and his wife joined the Coast Guard Auxillary under the Department of Homeland Security and spent 24 years in support of patrolling the Tennessee River area. LCDR King was also active in the Chapter where he served as the Navy Representative.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Ann "Corky" King; son, Eric Lee King; brothers, Keith Albert King (Joan) and Donald Lee King (Joanne). Mr. King was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles and Kenneth King; and son, Brian King. A private graveside service will be held at Sunset Lawns Cemetery in El Dorado, KS. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola FL, or the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA.

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Army Dress Blues Trousers: Logic and Regulations Show Light Blue

I frequently read cases of incorrect history. Such is the case in the June 2021 "Eye On History" piece in Military Officer regarding the color of the Army's Dress Blue uniform trousers (p. 37).



ANSWERS: 1. D 2. True 3. True 4. C 5. A, C, D 6. F 7. C 8. C 9. B 10. D 11. D 12. C

The piece written on the purported reason for the Army Dress Blue trousers being a different color than the coat is a long-running, totally fictitious account. It's what we called "RUMINT" ---- "rumor intelligence". Unfortunately, like a number of other stories it has "grown legs" and only perpetuates itself because it is now on the internet. For those who actually believe the story, everything on the internet is true. Right?

So the piece states that the Army blue uniform trousers are a lighter shade than the coat because the "cavalry troops would take off and stow their jackets while riding, so the pants (sic, "trousers") faded faster."

There are a couple of significant problems with this assertion. First, it defies logic. Until the end of the War of 1812 when mounted forces were disbanded, the mounted troops did not normally wear blue trousers. So, by elimination, we know the "tradition" does not pre-date 1833. When the mounted forces were reconstituted as U.S. Dragoons in 1833, light blue trousers and dark blue uniform jackets were *specified by regulations*. Other branches were already wearing light blue trousers by regulations. Infantry did not ride horses thus completely discounting the stated reason for a "mis-match" of their trousers and jackets. Faded trousers assumes that the trousers were dark blue like the uniform jackets to begin with. Not so. Additionally, anyone who has dealt with fabrics knows it would take substantial exposure in sunlight to uniformly change the color of the trousers, especially on the inner legs and the seats when riding a horse. This is a totally bogus, irrational explanation.

Let's go to a logical reason. The uniform coats were dark blue by regulations reflecting the heritage of the Continental Army's uniforms. However, the trousers were *intentionally made in a lighter shade of blue*. This began in the 1820s. We know this because the Army uniform regulations specifically state so. When mounted ("cavalry") was reinstituted with the formation of Dragoon regiments in 1833, the trousers were specifically designed to be light blue. How would they be light blue if there was no cavalry before 1833 wearing dark blue trousers that could fade? Logically, therefore, they would not be light blue based on cavalry "tradition" as cited in the "Eye on History".

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Head Quarters of the Army Adjutant General's Office Washington, 2 May, 1833

Order,

The General-in-Chief has received the following Regulation from the War Department and commands that the uniform as herein established be scrupulously observed: DRESS OF THE DRAGOONS. COAT.—Dark blue cloth.... TROUSERS.—For the company Officers, blue grey mixture of the same color as that for the Infantry, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, BUGLERS AND PRIVATES OF THE DRAGOONS TROUSERS.—Same material as for other corps.... JACKET.—Blue cloth for winter, white cotton for summer....

The Horse Soldier", Vol I, pp. 90-91 Randy Steffan

So, from the outset of our mounted forces in 1833 when blue was designated as the trouser color (rather than white or buff as largely worn prior to 1814), the regulations clearly state that the color is light blue by design, not "fading"!

G.O. No. 31 AGO 1851 COAT FOR ALL COMMISSIONED OFFICERS 1. All officers shall wear a frock-coat of dark blue cloth.

FOR ENLISTED MEN

The uniform coat for all enlisted men shall be aof dark blue cloth.
 Trousers – The uniform trousers for both officers and enlisted men, will be of...white and light blue mixed, commonly called sky blue mixture....

The Horse Soldier", Vol II, pp. 6-7 Randy Steffan

Trousers: 1884 Pattern

Enlisted men's trousers of the pattern adopted on January 16, 1884,...were made of ... army standard sky-blue kersey, both of which were termed "light shade"....

"...army standard sky-blue kersey both of which were termed "light shade" conforming to the range of greenish-blue hues...."

Uniforms, Arms and Equipment: The U.S. Army on the Western Frontier 1880-1892, Vol I, p. 128, Douglas McChristian

There are numerous other regulation citations showing the intentional design of light blue uniform trousers. As clearly seen from these few citations, light blue trousers and dark blue jackets were the US Army's "standard" before there was a cavalry and has stayed so through both the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Hopefully this will put the nail in the coffin of some bad logic and bad history regarding the advent of light blue trousers as part of the Army's Dress Blue uniform. By-the-way, I suppose the rationale for the lighter blue USMC uniform trousers can be predicated on the tradition of when their "cavalry" "stowed" their blue jackets. Joking of course.

LTC Edwin L. Kennedy, Jr (USA-Ret) Former Assistant Professor and history instructor, USACGSC (and Chapter member)

DoD Backs Away From Plan to Merge Commissary, Exchange Systems

Defense officials have backed off plans to consolidate the commissary and exchange systems, according to a new DoD report citing flaws in their previous recommendations about the benefits of a merger.

Such a plan would actually cost an additional \$1.5 billion, according to a new DoD report to Congress, signed Aug. 23 by Virginia Penrod, acting under-secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The previous analysis, completed in 2018, had a "single-minded fixation" on cutting costs, diverting the focus away from the customer, the new report stated. "Successful retailers are currently focused on digitization and the customer."

DoD "has determined that the 2018 [business case analysis] recommendation to consolidate the resale organizations is not feasible, and no longer supports such a consolidation," concluded the report to Congress.

The projected costs of a consolidation "have increased substantially and are now prohibitive," according to the new report. The defense resale system includes the Defense Commissary Agency, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Marine Corps Exchange and the Navy Exchange Service Command.

Those costs would likely have been borne by customers, reduced contributions to quality of life programs on military installations, or both, said Steve Rossetti, president of the American Logistics Association, a trade group of manufacturers and distributors who supply products to commissaries and exchanges.

For years, some officials within DoD have taken aim at the cost of the commissary benefit in particular, which receives about \$1.1 billion a year in taxpayer dollars to provide discount groceries to authorized customers in the military community around the world.

Advocates, long concerned that consolidation could pose a threat to the future of the commissary and exchange benefits, were also concerned that DoD was moving too quickly toward a merger.

"First and foremost, we're concerned about preserving the commissary and exchange benefits," said Nicole Russell, government relations deputy director of the National Military Family Association. Many families rely on the benefits, "especially those struggling financially," she said, because of the competitive prices. "We're glad DoD has finally closed this chapter and is focusing on a lot of other issues important to our families."

In 2019, NMFA was among 27 groups in The Military Coalition who sent a letter to the House and Senate armed services committees saying that if costs of a merger were more than anticipated in that

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2018 analysis, the defense resale system might not be able to continue to provide low-cost groceries, and support for MWR programs on military installations.

The new report found that the previous analysis did understate the costs of a merger and overstated the savings a merger could achieve.

The new analysis found the consolidation would require an additional \$1.5 billion in costs that were understated in the <u>2018 analysis</u>, which was conducted by a DoD task force, primarily with consultants Boston Consulting Group.

Customers "deserve to know that every dollar they spend at the cash register is going to be well managed," Rossetti said. "DoD recognizes that. This study makes the case. Congress was wise to order the reevaluation. This yields a more realistic view that will serve the patrons better. If they had moved to [merge the organizations] with inaccurate numbers, it could have been a train wreck."

Among the underestimated merger costs were the costs for integrating the IT systems of each of the exchange systems and the commissary system. The 2018 report didn't address the cost of merging and relocating the headquarters of the organizations.

The 2018 analysis and recommendations led to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist giving the green light to consolidation in 2019, pending required changes in law that would allow consolidation.

But plans were put on hold. After questions were raised about the validity of the 2018 analysis, Congress ordered a review by the Government Accountability Office. GAO concluded that DoD and Congress needed more reliable information on the expected savings and costs of consolidating, which prompted Congress to order another DoD review.

The new DoD review states that DoD can get significant benefits for the resale systems and their customers "without the massive upheaval and investments of time, money and talent that consolidation would consume."

DoD instead intends to pursue additional savings and efficiencies like their Joint Buying Alliance, which began in late 2019. Since then, officials said, they've saved military customers \$75 million, including \$45 million by lowering prices on goods in several departments, such as health and beauty, and electronics: and another \$30 million by identifying special buys with vendors. This alliance includes the commissary agency, AAFES, NEXCOM, MCX and Coast Guard Exchange.

The 2018 business case analysis recommended eliminating 20 percent of products to save money but didn't identify any consumer research to justify that. In the 2021 report, DoD found that one otherwise successful commercial retailer tried to cut costs by eliminating 20 percent of its stock assortment, but the resulting customer reaction and drop in sales "quickly convinced the retailer to reverse course and reinstate the dropped products."

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This 2018 recommendation to reduce customer choices by eliminating some products is a dated approach, "in contrast with successful and fast-growing retailers who focus on the consumer and innovation. This contradicts the 2018 [business case analysis] assertion that customer experience would not be impacted," the new report found.

That 2018 report also double-counted some expected savings, which also contributed to the overestimates of the savings through a merger.

Risks and Impacts

The 2018 report didn't include any assessment of the risks a merger would pose to the commissary and exchange benefits — nor did any of the previous studies on consolidation. The new report did, stating: "The department has identified unacceptable risks and consequences associated with consolidation."

Between 60 percent and 90 percent of corporate/commercial consolidations have failed completely, or at least failed the pre-consolidation financial and operational goals, according to the 2021 working group's extensive literature review.

Mergers that succeed usually improve a company's competitiveness, such as acquiring new technologies, buying out competitors, expanding to new customer segments, extending the operating footprint, or leveraging intellectual property. "None of these advantages that define successful mergers is relevant to military resale consolidation," the 2021 report states.

And merging these organizations is not as simple as merging two discount retailers. Among the many issues to be considered are the numerous lines of business between the entities, such as selling groceries, and varying retail operations such as retail stores, restaurants, lodging facility operations, movie theaters, convenience stores. Each exchange has at least three lines of business that would normally be separate commercial companies, the 2021 report notes.

"As a result, consolidation of defense resale is really a 10-plus way consolidation over a worldwide footprint." The risks "have the potential for very significant unintended consequences and long-term negative impacts on the resale organizations," the report stated.

Yet another complexity: the commissary system is "radically different" in fundamental areas from the exchange operations, to include the fact that the commissary agency gets the majority of its operating funds from taxpayer dollars and isn't focused on making a profit. Commissaries sell most of their products at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge at the cash register.

Unlike commissaries, exchanges sell their goods at a profit. They rely on sales and other revenue, to cover operating expenses. Revenue generated by the exchanges also helps fund certain morale, welfare, and recreation activities.

And the stores have a variety of impacts on the military mission, some of which were starkly apparent during the pandemic, which started well after the 2018 report. For example, commissaries were designated as "mission essential" and have stayed open for the most part during the pandemic.

Chapter Happenings – Scholarship Golf Tournament



Some ladies enjoying the golf & some nice weather

Chapter members John Fairlamb (far left) & Bruce Robinson (far right) enjoying lunch after the golf





Chapter President Rick West passing out awards

Military Truisms

From the Army

- Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
- Success occurs when no one is looking, failure occurs when the General is watching.
- No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection.

From the Navy

- Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.
- There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky.
- Weather forecasts are horoscopes with numbers.

From the Air Force

- It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.
- The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.

• If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter –and therefore, unsafe. From the Marines

- When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.
- Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
- "You, you, and you...panic. The rest of you, come with me."

News of the Weird

Suspicions Confirmed – In January, Demetra Street of Baltimore attended a memorial service for her husband, Ivan, complete with a photo of him next to an urn at the front of the room at Wylie Funeral Homes. But after the service, funeral home personnel whisked the urn away and wouldn't turn over Ivan's ashes, she told The Washington Post. Now she thinks she knows why: Ivan's ashes weren't in the urn. Instead, his body had been buried three days earlier, according to the wishes of another woman who claimed to be Ivan's wife, at Baltimore's Mount Zion cemetery. In early August, Street filed a lawsuit against the funeral home for \$8.5 million, calling the urn displayed at the memorial service a "sham." The funeral home's president, Brandon Wylie, denies the accusation: "We vehemently deny the claims advanced by Ms. Street and assert that the underlying matter was handled with the utmost sensitivity toward the loved ones of the deceased."

Say What? – The Guardian reported on 19 July about a phenomenon among American preschoolers called the Peppa Effect. The hypothesis is that children who watched a lot of "Peppa Pig" during the pandemic lockdown have developed British accents and started using British terms like "mummy" (mommy), "give it 107 a go" (try it) and "satnav" (GPS). Wall Street Journal reporter Preetika Rana tweeted that her niece "had an American accent before the pandemic. Now she has a posh English accent." One responder agreed: "And for Christmas I had to put out a freaking mince pie for Father Christmas, or, as we call him here in the States, Santa Claus."

Awesome! – In July, customers at Tesco supermarkets in England were greeted with motivational posters encouraging camaraderie during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Daily Record reported. However, some patrons were amused by the placement of the messages -- especially one reading "Together we can do this" found in a urinal stall in the men's restroom. Users posted the sign online, prompting replies such as, "Nah I got this one all by myself thanks Tesco" and "Ok, but only three shakes please."

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 330 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 <u>http://huntsvillemoaa.org</u> 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 <u>brucer76@knology.net</u> 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 Sergeant Alvin York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion (1918)
- 10 October Spiro Agnew resigned as Vice President (1973)
- 11 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 – Monthly Board Meeting - TBD

- 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)

27 October – Monthly Member Meeting – 1100 @ Summit Club

31 October - Halloween

