

Volume 56, Issue 9
September 2017



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Fellow Members –

Labor Day, Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD), 9/11 remembrances. So many things occupy our time and effort. Your Huntsville Chapter is also one of the things YOU should be devoting at least some of your time and effort towards. The camaraderie, knowledge, and shared experiences make YOUR chapter gatherings must attend events! Our meetings are the last Wednesday of the month, with lunch at 1100, followed by a short business meeting at 1130, and then our featured speaker / entertainment. This month we have the Huntsville Blue Notes – see the details inside. For our October meeting a representative from Burritt on the Mountain will discuss all the great programs they have.

You also have an opportunity to join members for breakfast once a month at the Royal Rose Diner in Huntsville (next to COSTCO/Home Depot). The next breakfast is 9 September and we gather at 0900 – come hungry!

Your Chapter sponsored a bus trip to view the total solar eclipse last month. We had a full bus and the trip was flawlessly executed. This once in a lifetime event was a huge success! We welcome your suggestions for future trips. Our goal is to have interesting, informative, and usually educational trips that everyone will want to attend.

There is very little time left to sign up for our 21 September Scholarship Golf Tournament, which is part of the Redstone Arsenal Soldier for Life – Retiree Appreciation Days conducted 21-23 September. See the details inside.

In September, do yourself and the places you shop a huge favor! Tell them about our Chapter (usually there are several military members working in every establishment) and encourage them to advertise in our newsletter to over 400 members that could utilize their services!

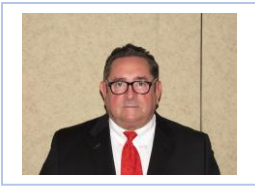
Also, check out our award-winning Chapter website for more information and updates: <http://huntsvillemoaa.org>.

Gerald Maxwell

Get Involved!

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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/>

As Lt Col Jerry Haynes warned last month, he has retired from the Legislative Affairs position and foolishly, I volunteered to take his place.

“All politics is local.” Or so said former speaker of the US House of Representatives Tip O’Neill. So with that thought in mind I want to inform you of the recent primary voting results for the US Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions. Former US Attorney Doug Jones, an Alabama grad and fellow fraternity brother of mine secured the Democratic nomination by 64% of the votes cast by Alabama Democrats and does not have to go through the runoff election set for 26 September. Our current senator, Luther Strange, a Tulane grad received 32% of the votes cast by Alabama Republicans. Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, a West Point grad, received 40% of the votes. The runoff vote on 26 September will determine whether Senator Strange or Roy Moore faces Doug Jones for the general election on 12 December.

So, in future articles it will be my intent to write a little about our state politicians and then plagiarize some source regarding state of federal current or pending legislation. We’ll see how that goes. If you have any thoughts on the matter let me know.

Prevent Steep TRICARE Fee Hikes – TAKE ACTION

The FY2018 national defense authorization bill negotiations are underway. The Senate's budget request includes large increases to TRICARE fees across the board. These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 National Defense Authorizations grand-fathering clause. The intention of the grand-fathering was to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in the service prior to 1 January 2018.

These fee increases are disproportional and do not reflect the service and sacrifice of the beneficiaries who have earned the health care benefit. Please send your legislators this MOAA suggested message to prevent these hefty fee increases from negatively impacting service members and their families. Write or e-mail your two US senators and your representative in the House of Representatives. MOAA National provides good templates for letters and e-mails one may use. Go to <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx> to view the issues MOAA would like for you to communicate with your elective officials in Washington DC.

Continued on page 9

2017-2018 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 850-496-6089, ctcbama76@gmail.com

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Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jreadway51@mchsi.com

Navy Representative: CW4 Louis J. Kubik, USMC-Ret, 256-859-3054, lkubik@mediacommbb.net

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, bige9292K@aol.com

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, cdowning@bellsouth.net

Programs: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, jreadway51@mchsi.com

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Public Affairs (Publicity): Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, janetecamp@aol.com

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

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FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinsot@mitre.org

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The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, brobinsot@mitre.org

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrt@comcast.net (June 2017)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte.washburn@heartlandits.com (July 2018)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, john.franks@ingenuityinc.net (July 2016)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

The Exchange is offering Labor Day specials - mattresses, TV's, exercise equipment, appliances, home, kitchen and maintenance items. Don't forget, you can save even more by signing up for the Exchange STAR card. The first day you use it – ALL your purchases are 10% off! Plus, every time you use the STAR card for gas at the PX, save five cents per gallon. Also, you always get 10% off at the food court! Watch for specials throughout the year when you use your STAR card.

The authors of the book "The Making of a Memorial" describing the Huntsville- Madison County Veterans Memorial will have a book signing 12-16 September from 1000-1500 in the Concession Mall.

Starting 11 November, formerly serving military can shop AAFES online! You can confirm eligibility status at <https://www.vetverify.org>.

The Exchange also has a monthly online sweepstakes. This month is \$500 in gift cards. Visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/UAFREEDOM> during the month of September to play.

Shopette

Tent sale – 21-23 September during Retiree Appreciation Days! Shop early for best selection. On sale now are various beers, Budweiser Rita family (grape, razber, lime, strawberry, and mango rita), and various wine box's. Also, be sure to check out the monthly specials. This month includes Glenkinchie and Speyside 12-year-old single malt scotch whisky, and Bird Dog and Old Camp Blended whisky. The first day savings when you use your STAR card also apply at your shopette.

Commissary

Feds Feeds Families continues - at the entrance of your Commissary you will find an opportunity to give back to your community. Pre-packaged bags for the Feds Feeds Families food drive. A wide variety of items bagged and convenient – all priced at \$10.19.

Continued on page 6

Need Addresses

None at this time

We have lost track of the above member. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

Concerns

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

None at this time

Persons to contact are:

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

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

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

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



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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



7 Ways to Get Smart About TRICARE

When you need information about your TRICARE health care benefits, turn to [TRICARE.mil](https://www.tricare.mil). In addition to this website, there are a number of resources to help you learn about your coverage and important health issues. Take a look at seven ways to get smart about TRICARE:

1. **Handbooks, Guides and Booklets:** When you have questions about TRICARE benefits, coverage or costs, visit the [TRICARE Publications page](#). You'll find handbooks, guides and booklets that cover eligibility, enrollment and health plans. For example, the [TRICARE Dental Program Benefit Booklet](#) gives details about dental benefits from preventive services to claim filing. There are also booklets if you use TRICARE [overseas](#) or [stateside](#).
2. **Fact Sheets:** The search words "fact sheet" on the [publications page](#) will lead you to short fact sheets that describe specific programs and benefits. The [Cost and Fees fact sheet](#) lists your costs for TRICARE programs and services. The [Appeals fact sheet](#) describes how to file TRICARE medical appeals.
3. **Newsletters:** Check out our [Health Matters newsletters](#). The overseas, stateside and dental newsletters feature seasonal articles, news and health information that impacts the TRICARE community.
4. **News Articles:** Stay updated regarding your TRICARE coverage by reading the latest [TRICARE news articles](#). The articles cover health and seasonal issues, ranging from childhood obesity to summer safety and help you use TRICARE to stay healthy.
5. **Videos:** Find videos about your medical and dental coverage on [TRICARE TV](#). TRICARE TV gives you short overviews of important topics, such as [well woman exams](#), [covered preventative services](#) or [avoiding mosquitoes this summer](#).
6. **Podcasts:** Listen to our weekly podcast, [TRICARE Beneficiary Bulletin](#). The podcast highlights [recent news](#), military health care and issues that affect TRICARE beneficiaries. Transcripts are available for each episode.
7. **Webinars:** Our monthly webinars let you listen to briefs by TRICARE subject matter experts. You may submit questions for the experts to answer. [Sign up for upcoming TRICARE webinars](#) and [watch previous archived webinars](#) on the Military OneSource website.

Don't want to miss anything? You can [sign up to get email updates](#). Also, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Google+](#). Plug in and stay informed—get smart with TRICARE.



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

The surviving spouse's luncheons resume this month. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

We will gather on Thursday, 22 September at 12 noon.

This month's restaurant is Kacey's Home Cooking at 10017 South Memorial Parkway in Huntsville.

Everyone will be called. Hope to see you there.

PX – continued from page 3

September is the start of football season! Your Commissary has you covered for all the chips, dips, sauces, marinades, steaks, chops, chicken wings and whatever else you might need to make your tail gating party one of the best. Also, when entering the Commissary check out the table of coupons and sales flyers – you will find many coupons covering those football party necessities!

During September, the Commissary will celebrate Retiree Appreciation Days, and offer a National Honey month promotion and a Hispanic Heritage month promotion. There will be refreshments for from 1100-1300 on 22 September. There will also be a Case Lot Sale: 21-23 September.

With Christmas coming up soon don't forget Gift Cards. Commissary gift cards, available in denominations of \$25 or \$50, are a great way to provide the necessities to your loved ones and friends conveniently and quickly.

Also, remember to get your commissary Rewards Card, which is an electronic medium that military personnel and their families can use to pre-load digital coupons for use at the Commissary. Customers must visit the Commissary website beforehand to download, or "clip", their desired promotions. III





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

The Last Request

A wounded soldier said to his comrades who were carrying him, "Put me down. Don't bother to carry me farther I am dying." They did as he requested and returned to the scene of battle. A few minutes later, an officer saw the man weltering in his blood and said to him, "can I do anything for you? Nothing, thank you? No, thank you. I am dying." "Isn't there anything I can do for you?" persisted the kindhearted officer. "Shall I write to your friends?"

"I have no friends that you can write to. But there is one thing for which I would be much obliged. In my pack, you will find a Testament. Will you open it at the 14th chapter, and you will find a verse that begins with 'Peace.' Will you read it to me?" The officer did so and read the words, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

"Thank you, sir," said the dying man. "I have that peace; I am going to the Savior—God is with me—I want no more," and he was gone.

"Watch, stand fast in the **faith**, be brave, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13, NKJV)



The Golf Committee needs you

Our annual scholarship fundraising tournament is fast approaching, and there is plenty that needs doing.

How can you help? Here are a few ways:

Donate directly to the scholarship fund. All donations are tax deductible.

Check around your house for any items (new and unused) that might be suitable for inclusion in a gift basket. Bottles of wine, food items, golf balls, cook books, body lotions, Alabama and/or Auburn logo items, and any other things you deem suitable for a gift basket.

Help us with sponsors. There are several ways to do this. When you visit the various businesses and vendors that you routinely see (restaurants, financial planners, doctors/dentists, auto repair shops, barbers, car dealers, department stores, and so forth), ask the manager if they would be willing to sponsor the tournament. For a monetary donation, they can sponsor a hole. They can also donate goods and services for our silent auction. If you are still working, check with your employer and see if they would sponsor the tournament.

Finally, sign up some golfers. Everyone plays. Let them know about our tournament.

BRING ADD IN AND GET 20% OFF ONE ITEM!!

FOR FASHIONS FINISHING TOUCH...

The little things really do count. Earrings, a belt, bag, hat or pin are the little things that complete the big picture of fashions.

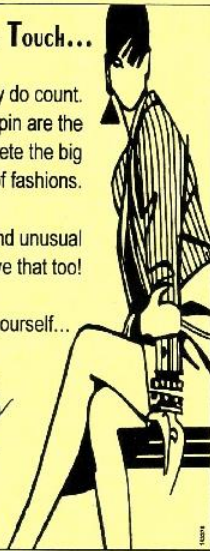
Looking for unique and unusual fashions-we have that too!

Visit with us and see for yourself...

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Help the Chapter Recruit New Members

Do you know someone who is eligible to be a Chapter member?

Bring him/her to the next membership meeting as your guest

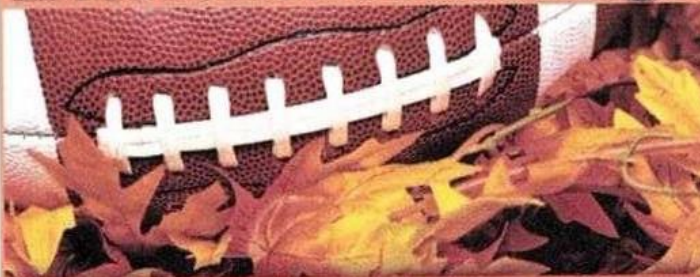
If they join the Chapter, lunch is on us at the next meeting

You are the Chapter's best recruiters

Attention Members

The best source of income for the Chapter comes from advertisers like the ones on this page. 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. All they can say is “no”.

Let Us Be A Part Of Your Tailgating Party Menu... Call Today!



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One Pound of BBQ Pork, Pint Potato Salad, Half Pint Cole Slaw, Hot or Mild Sauce, and 8 buns.

Two Pound Family Pack - 8 People \$37.95

Two Pounds of BBQ Pork, Two Pints Potato Salad, One Pint Cole Slaw, and 16 buns.

Three Pound Family Pack - 12 People \$54.95

Three Pounds of BBQ Pork, Two Quarts Potato Salad, One Quart Cole Slaw, and 24 buns.

With Beef Add \$1.00 • Turkey Add \$2.00 • Per Pound

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720493

The US Senate Proposes to Fund DoD Programs on the Back of Beneficiaries

What is the reward beneficiaries receive for a career of service and sacrifice? They get to pay more for their health benefit while also funding DoD's other programs! Sounds unbelievable, but sadly it is true - if the Senate gains traction with its proposed defense authorization bill.

The Senate, unlike the House, has proposed legislation to raise all TRICARE beneficiaries' health care fees and intends to use the funds to pay for other legislative fixes, such as the continuation of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

The practice of finding offsets by taxing beneficiaries to subsidize other budgetary items has become a familiar behavior by Congress. For example, a provision in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) raised TRICARE pharmacy copayments to fund lump-sum retirement payments for future entrants under the military's new retirement system.

Increasing the retail generic copayment for military beneficiaries to \$10 results in beneficiaries paying more than twice as much as civilians without health insurance pay for generic drugs at Walmart.

What does all this mean for beneficiaries? The Senate Armed Services Committee's draft bill telegraphs its intentions to continue to extract more money from you. This money would come directly through the repeal of the grandfathering of TRICARE fees for currently serving troops and through exorbitant increases in pharmacy fees.

Historically, DoD and some in Congress continue to assert TRICARE fee increases are needed based on concerns about potential health care cost growth and a desire to shift a greater share of DoD health care costs to beneficiaries.

MOAA believes the FY 2018 budget-proposed reversal of the TRICARE fee grandfathering and the additional pharmacy increase provisions in the FY 2018 NDAA are inappropriate for many reasons.

One of the main reasons is DoD health costs are declining, not rising. The Pentagon's own data from its annual reports to Congress show health care cost areas of the DoD budget continue to decline from past levels. Both TRICARE for Life and purchased care costs continue to decline. Data supplied by the Defense Health Agency (DHA), which oversees the TRICARE program, shows a more detailed view of how health care costs continue to decrease. The DHA is a relatively new organization, which was established a few short years ago and charged with consolidating duplicative functions within the three service medical departments.

Continued on page 17

HCMOAA Treasurer's Report July 2017



CAPT Richard C. West, USN (Ret.)

1. The July 2017 Treasurer's Report is presented as follows. It was approved at the 8/30/17 Membership Meeting.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings	Scholarship Fund
Starting Balance	\$ 7623.74	\$ 7997.93	\$ 6393.28
Income	\$ 1785.00	\$ 0.21	\$ 260.00
Expenses	\$ 959.07	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8449.67	\$ 7998.14	\$ 6653.28

3. Notable operating income included payments for Eclipse bus trip and membership meeting meal payments.

4. Notable operating expenses included Sentinel hard copy printing/mailing, potential membership mailing, ALCOC travel, Eclipse bus trip dry run gas reimbursement, and Eclipse bus trip contract down payment.

5. Chapter savings account activity was limited to interest.

6. Scholarship Fund checking account activity was limited to income from Tournament registration.

7. The Chapter holds an \$8000 (current value: \$8133.13) CD for reserve funding and advance dues protection.

Note: The FY2018 budget will be posted on the website by 15 September and voted on at the September membership meeting.

Scholarships

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one or more scholarships each year to a deserving student.

Please consider donating to our program. Contact Richard West for details.

Scholarship Fund Donations Received during August 2017

CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, USA (Ret.)
In Memory of COL James Chatfield, USA (Ret.)
(from his wife, Patti Chatfield)
Nell Parsons



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO
HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

**LCDR Manny Tsikalas, USN
1LT Megan Coley, USA
Mrs Elaine Miner
LTC Joseph Della Silva, USA
COL Steven DeBusk, USA**

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 424
Regular Members: 355
Surviving Spouses: 69

New this month: 5
Deaths this month: 2
Renewals: 0



**U.S. AIR FORCE
70TH BIRTHDAY
BALL**

Friday, September 22, 2017

The Jackson Center

6001 Moquin Drive NW, Huntsville AL 35806

6:00 Social Hour ~ 7:00 Dinner ~ 8:00 Music & Dancing
Black Tie, Military Uniform, or Suit and Tie

Individual Tickets - \$60

Reserved Tables, Non-Corporate - \$480 per Table

Corporate Sponsorship - \$600 per table
Seating for 8 per Table

MENU: Grilled Steak or Chicken Breast
Salad, Potatoes, Asparagus, Dessert
(Vegetarian/Gluten-Free Meal Upon Request)

**Reservation
Deadline:
Sep 8th**

**[Click Here to Make Your Reservation](http://afa-huntsville.org/)
or Visit <http://afa-huntsville.org/>
and Click on the Reservation Link**

Reservation POC: Jack Royster jroyster@knology.net / 258-721-9898
Information: George Krym, George.krym@yahoo.com, 258-783-2760

Chapter website: <http://afa-huntsville.org>

Like us on Facebook at: AFA TVC 335



Air Force Association
Tennessee Valley Chapter

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:

**Board Member
Position Open**

We have an opening on the board for a Secretary. The position is currently being filled on an interim basis.

The Secretary's duties mainly are to take minutes at the board and membership meetings to document the proceedings.

If you are interested in serving as Secretary, contact any board member.



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1301
Huntsville, AL 35807



Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation

Yes! I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Three Years	\$30	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Interested in a Chapter Life Membership Contact us for pricing (age-based) </div>			

*\$5 for New Members joining between 7/1 to 11/1

New Members joining after 11/1 will have membership paid through following calendar year

_____ First Name		_____ MI	_____ Last Name	
_____ Preferred Name		_____ Birthday	_____ Spouse's Name	_____ Period(s) of Active Duty i.e. 1965 – 1990
_____ Grade	_____ Branch of Service	_____ MOAA National Member #		
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> NG	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
_____ Mailing Address		_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip
_____ Phone Number		_____ E-mail Address		

Protect Yourself from Food Poisoning

The picnic table is packed with delicious summertime favorites. You're eyeing the deviled eggs and bratwurst. On such a hot summer day, though, you wonder how long the food has been sitting out. Before you pile food onto your plate, remember that foodborne bacteria thrive in summer temperatures and humidity. They can cause illnesses and pose a serious threat to your health. Learn about food poisoning risks so you can make informed decisions and protect yourself and your loved ones this summer. Know your treatment options under TRICARE in case you do get sick.



31 Birthdays in September

COL Robert O'Donnell, USA
COL Paul Mullek, USA
MAJ Larry Levaas, USA
LTC John Franks, USA
LTC Peter Schofield, USA
Maj James Stanley, USMC
COL Robert Troth, USA
LTC James Holland, USA
CAPT Brian Thrilin, USN
CPT Richard Pella, USA
Maj Leroy Huntington, USAF
COL John Fellows, USA
Col Kenneth Taylor, USMC
COL Everett Mosley, USA
Mrs Ann Eittreim
Mrs Margot Chabot

MAJ Mary Shaw, USA
LTC Lyn Tronti, USA
CDR Andre Coleman, USN
MAJ Joe Williams, USA
Mrs Ursula Spicer
LTC Jason Galindo, USA
CAPT Scott Witt, USN
LTC Andre Cota-Robles, USA
CDR Harry Puryear USA
LTC Linda Green, USA
Mrs Betty Ford
Col Donald Kimminau, USAF
LtCol Claude Baldwin Jr, USMC
CW4 James Keirstead, USA
Maj John Tynan, USAF

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 brobinso@mitre.org so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.



This 4-day event will take place on the Redstone Arsenal Activity Field

- Midway Carnival Games and Rides
- Authentic German Beer and Food
- Live Music

Enjoy the 5th Annual Craft Biergarten in partnership with Free the Hops.



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

TAPS

Lt Col George D. Schrader, USAF – 86, of Huntsville, passed away 18 August 2017 surrounded by his family. He was born in Hammond, Indiana. Survivors include his wife Biddie R. Schrader, son Dayton Schrader of Texas, daughter Kimberly Mastrianni of New Hampshire, and two grandchildren. Burial will be in the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

LTC William B. Sevey, USA - age 98, born May 13, 1919, passed away August 23, 2017 at Redstone Village in Huntsville AL. LTC Sevey, a native of Lawton, OK, retired from the US Army after 28 years of service. He served in World War II and the Korean conflict, was awarded three Bronze Stars, Joint Service Meritorious Medal, 10 Battle Stars, plus others. He later retired from Civil Service in 1981 after working 13 years at the US Army Missile Command in Huntsville Command, and retired in 1981. He is predeceased by his wife of 69 years, Bernice Sevey; daughter, Barbara Sokolosky; parents, Alan and Virginia Sevey; brother, Herbie Sevey; and sister, Anita Schnee. He is survived by his son, William B. Sevey, Jr.; sister, Mary Mohrweiss; three grandchildren, two step-grandsons, 8 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

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



Military Star Card Expansion



With a swipe of a MILITARY STAR card, retired Soldiers can make a difference for military communities and those who wear the uniform today. The card, designed exclusively for service members, their families and retirees, offers terrific benefits and is widely accepted at more than 120 Exchange main stores, 500 Express convenience stores and gas stations, 1,700 quick-serve restaurants and 3,300 concessions. It's also accepted online at shopmyexchange.com as well as Navy, Marine and Coast Guard exchanges and mynavyexchange.com. But that's about to change.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is working to make MILITARY STAR card the installation-wide credit solution of choice. The Exchange Credit Program is partnering with IMCOM G9 and the Defense Commissary Agency to allow for MILITARY STAR card acceptance at MWR facilities and the commissary.

Membership Meeting
27 September 2017
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Entertainment: Huntsville Police “Blue Notes”



There's nothing that warms the heart more than an amazing spiritual.

If you feel the same way, then this is singing group for you! They call themselves the Blue Notes 5, and they're an a cappella group made up entirely of police officers.

They have no formal training. They didn't start performing together until their graduation from the Police Academy, when they sang the National Anthem together. Now, they're all members of the Huntsville, Alabama police force and have performed 480 times.

While they're probably pretty happy with their day jobs, these guys could probably make a serious living if they went on tour! They function almost like a barbershop quintet, harmonizing their different vocal ranges to perfection.

Though they occasionally perform at benefits for the police force and other neighboring institutions, singing is primarily a hobby for these talented officers.

If you love the prayerful performance from the boys in blue, please SHARE on Facebook and spread the word about the Blue Notes 5!

Menu: Baked chicken, BBQ chicken, potato salad, pinto beans, cornbread, banana pudding and assorted beverages

Cost: \$15 for Chapter members and their guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

RSVP: CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, csdowning@bellsouth.net, NLT 23 September 2017

Chapter Happenings



CWC Super Sign-up



Scenes from the eclipse bus trip

Examples of these functions, termed enterprise-wide support activities (ESAs), include pharmacy programs, information technology, logistics, facilities, and research development and acquisition.

MOAA has strongly supported this consolidation for a number of years. By all accounts, DHA continues to succeed in increasing efficiencies and driving the cost of health care down - well ahead of schedule. *According to the data, the DHA's current six-year plan will deliver an estimated \$4.3 billion in cost savings and avoidance for DoD by 2019.*

The pharmacy program is one of the largest cost centers in the military's health system. A deeper dive into DoD's pharmacy program shows how military beneficiaries continue to do their part to drive pharmacy costs down.

Beneficiaries have directly contributed to these cost savings by 1) changing their prescriptions from the retail sector to TRICARE's home delivery program 2) changing some prescriptions from brand-name to generic medications, and 3) paying higher copayments. Again, these savings have been achieved well beyond what had been forecasted.

The bottom line is this: Congressional intent in last year's NDAA legislation was to pave the way for sweeping changes to the Military Health System and the TRICARE program. The reforms focused on improving the beneficiary experience, ranging from access to care to streamlining TRICARE benefit options. Part of MOAA's accepting this package of improvements meant acceptance of some fee increases. However, central to this package of sweeping TRICARE reforms was that all who had entered service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, would be grandfathered into the existing pharmacy fee structures. New entrants into the services after that date would be subject to higher fees in the future.

Now the Senate's proposed legislation wants to roll this back and have you pay not just more, but much more. Send your elected officials a letter or e-mail to prevent these steep increases.

There are two other topics I want to bring to your attention. They are:

- Congress is poised to expand Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits
- The Forever GI Bill is one step closer to law

The detail of these topics cover four pages and cannot reasonable fit in the Sentinel. However, the details of these topics are on our webpage at <http://huntsvillemoaa.org/legislative0.aspx>. Please take time to read them.

COLA Watch: The July CPI is 238.617, 1.5 percent above the FY 2016 COLA baseline. The CPI for August 2017 is scheduled to be released on September 14, 2017.

Note: Military retiree COLA is calculated based on the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), not the overall CPI. Monthly changes in the index may differ from national figures reported elsewhere. ■■■



In concert with the Retiree Services Office,
the Military Retiree Council and the Redstone Arsenal
Community Women's Club,

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military
Officers Association of America presents



The Links at Redstone

Soldier for Life – Retiree Appreciation Days

SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Entry Fee - \$75

Includes: golf/cart, lunch,
breakfast, door prizes ticket

- Prizes for: Top 3 Teams,
Longest Drive, Closest to
Pin, Hole in One
- Silent Auction
- Mulligans / Power Drive
packages for sale

Thursday

September 21, 2017

The Links at Redstone

0800 Shotgun Start

Registration begins 0630

4-person Scramble

Early Bird

Special:

Register by

September 6th for

\$65 per player

Don't Wait!

For more information, contact Bruce Robinson at brobinso@mitre.org / 256-426-0525 or Rick West at rickw675@att.net / 256-776-6901 or visit huntsvillemoaa.org

****If you need base access, contact Rick West****

To sign up, mail this form and your check made out to HCMOAA to: HCMOAA

P.O. Box 1301

Huntsville, AL 35807

Contact Phone Number: _____

PLAYER 1: _____ Email: _____

PLAYER 2: _____ Email: _____

PLAYER 3: _____ Email: _____

PLAYER 4: _____ Email: _____



**100% of net to the
HCMOAA Scholarship Fund**

Sponsorship does not imply endorsement by the
U.S. Army nor the Department of Defense.



Soldier for Life – Retiree Appreciation Days

Thursday, 21 September

Golf Tournament (Links at Redstone)

- Sponsored by Huntsville Chapter MOAA
- 0800 Shotgun Start

Friday, 22 September

Health Fair & Exhibits (Community Activities Center)

- 0800 – 1200 Health Screenings, Exhibits & Info
- Community Activity Field: Drive-thru Flu Shots
- Legal, Finance & ID Card actions at their normal place of business



**The Chapter will
have a table –
stop by for a
visit**

Honor Walk (Community Activity Center)

- Turning Point Consultants
- 0730 - 1200

Commissary

- Refreshments for Retirees: 1100-1300 22 September
- Case Lot Sale: 21-23 September

Retiree Dinner

- 1800-2000 – Summit

Saturday, 23 September

Speakers (Bob Jones Auditorium)

- 0630 – 0800 Free Breakfast (Cafeteria)
- 0800 - 0815 Senior Commander Welcome
- 0815 – 0845 Garrison Commander Update
- 0845 – 0915 FAHC Commander Update
- 0915 – 0930 Break
- **0930 - 1000 MOAA Speaker – CAPT Paul Frost, USN-Ret**
- 1000 – 1030 DFAS Update
- 1030 – 1100 Tricare Update
- 1100 – 1130 RSO - Survival Benefit Plan
- 1130 – 1200 Raffle Prizes

Exchange – 1300 – Cake, Punch, Gift Cards

21-23 September

Free vehicle checks at Auto Craft Center

Huntsville Chapter Objectives

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

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have about 450 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us, and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

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

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

Commissary Store Brands

Commissaries will be introducing two store brands, which means there will be Commissary-branded alternatives available on our shelves alongside the brand name products you're already used to seeing when you shop!

We'll begin rolling out the first of these products in the coming months, and gradually expand the selection from there. You'll be able to find food products under the name Freedom's Choice™ and household (non-food) products under the name HomeBase™.

Just look for these logos when you shop:



Important Dates in September

- 1 September – Hitler invades Poland and WWII begins (1939)
- 2 September – US Treasury established (1789)
- 4 September – Labor Day
- 4 September – Island of Manhattan discovered by Henry Hudson (1609)
- 5 September – Mother Teresa died (1997)
- 6 September – Leningrad renamed Saint Petersburg (1991)
- 7 September – Brazil declares independence from Portugal (1822)
- 8 September – Hurricane kills over 8000 people in Galveston, TX (1900)
- 8 September – Richard Nixon pardoned (1974)
- 9 September – North Korea established (1948)
- 9 September – Monthly Breakfast – Royal Rose Diner**
- 11 September – 9/11 terrorist attack (2001)
- 14 September – Princess Grace of Monaco died (1982)
- 14 September – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café**
- 14-17 September – Redstone Arsenal Oktoberfest
- 15 September – Tanks first used in combat (1916)
- 16 September – General Motors founded (1908)
- 17 September – Battle of Antietam – over 26,000 casualties (1862)
- 18 September – Air Force established (1947)
- 21-23 September – Redstone Arsenal Retiree Appreciation Days**
- 22 September – Autumn begins
- 26 September – First televised presidential debate (Kennedy-Nixon) (1960)
- 27 September – Monthly Member Meeting – Summit Club – Huntsville Blue Notes**