

Volume 62, Issue 9
September 2023



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



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

Greetings all!

Fall starts in a few weeks and the temperatures are winding down. School is back in session and the School Zone signs are flashing – watch for them!

The August meeting was one for the books! So many attended that we had to move the meeting into the ballroom at The Summit Club. Many thanks to those of you that attended and to those who donated libations for the tournament Silent Auction! Not to mention that the speaker, Representative Dale Strong, was great – short political announcement and then quickly into fielding the many questions from membership! The Summit Club did a great job of shifting the venue and in preparing a very tasty meal! Hopefully you all enjoyed the meeting as much as I did.

I did get a chance to talk to both Representative Strong and his military legislative assistant about the lingering medical care facilities reductions and the possibility of dramatic increases in costs for retirees on Medicare and TFL. I believe several others of you all did the same.

Our next meeting is September 27th – see details on page 13. Our guest speaker will be **Madison County Sheriff Kevin Turner**. This should be a good meeting so get your questions ready. **RSVPs are open!** Please send them to our new Programs Chair, John Vanderbleek, at jvbleek78@gmail.com or call (256) 893-1565.

By the time you read this, there will be one week left until the Golf Tournament. Preparations are going well, and we are looking forward to a great turnout. Many thanks to all those that helped with preparations and donations and sponsors! Now we just need to pray to the weather gods!

As always, many thanks to all of you for being members of the **biggest and BEST MOAA Chapter in Alabama!**

Have a happy and safe Fall! Watch out for those young ones heading to school!

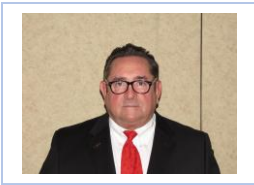
Rick

The next member meeting is on 27 September – the guest speaker is Madison County Sheriff Kevin Turner

In This Issue

President's Message	1	Membership Application	11
Legislative Corner	2 & 9	Chapter Happenings	12
Concerns	3	Guest Speaker	13
PX/Commissary	3 & 12	Birthdays	14
Advertisements	4, 6 & 12	TAPS	15
Fox Army Health Clinic	5	RSA Request for Volunteers	15
Surviving Spouse Luncheon	7	History of Labor Day	16
Surviving Spouse Corner	7	Fall Equinox	17
Chaplain's Corner	8 & 14	TRICARE	18-20
Membership Statistics	8	Chapter Objectives	21
Treasurer's Report	10	Important Dates	22

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



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

The fight over whether Alabama’s congressional map complies with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 now shifts back to federal court as state Republicans submit their new plan to the same three-judge panel that struck down the previous districts.

The outcome could have consequences across the country as the case again weighs the requirements of the VRA in redistricting. It could also impact the partisan leanings of one Alabama congressional district in the 2024 elections with control of the U.S House of Representatives at stake.

The state’s Republican legislative supermajority boosted the percentage of Black voters in the majority-white 2nd Congressional District, now represented by Republican Rep. Barry Moore, from about 31% to almost 40%. The plan also dropped the Black voting-age population in the state’s sole majority Black district, now represented by Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, to 50.65%. Alabama will argue that the map complies with the court order and adheres to other redistricting principles such as keeping districts compact and not dividing communities of interest.

“The Legislature’s new plan fully and fairly applies traditional principles in a way that complies with the Voting VRA. Contrary to mainstream media talking points, the Supreme Court did not hold that Alabama must draw two majority-minority districts,” state Attorney General Steve Marshall’s office said in a statement. “Instead, the Court made clear that the VRA never requires adoption of districts that violate traditional redistricting principles.”

Republicans, who have been reluctant to create a Democratic-leaning district, are gambling that the court will accept their proposal or that the state will prevail in a second round of appeals. In his letter, Marshall noted that Justice Brett Kavanaugh only partly joined with the Supreme Court’s 5-4 ruling against Alabama. “I’m confident that we’ve done a good job. It will be up to the courts to decide whether they agree,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Reed, a Republican from Jasper.

Edmund LaCour, Alabama’s solicitor general, said the redrawn map was as “close as you get” to creating a second majority-Black district without violating the U.S. Constitution or traditional redistricting criteria. “I think it is close as you get without violating the Constitution,” LaCour said. LaCour accused the plaintiffs of seeking a “racial gerrymander” over traditional guidelines for drawing districts, such as keeping districts compact and keeping communities of

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

1st Vice President: CW4 Edward J. Banville, USA-Ret, 256-683-4127, ed.banville@hotmail.com

2nd Vice President: COL Gene Lesinski, USA-Ret, 845-725-3677, gene.lesinski@gmail.com

Secretary: COL Michael C. Barron, USA-Ret, 337-422-8862, m.barron468@gmail.com

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

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

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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, brobinso1976@gmail.com

Programs: COL John Vanderbleek, USA-Ret, 256-893-1565, jvbleek78@gmail.com

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

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

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

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: Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret, 334-467-6860, mckinnewd@gmail.com

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

FAHC Liaison: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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ROTC/JROTC: COL Gene Lesinski, USA-Ret, 845-725-3677, gene.lesinski@gmail.com

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

The *SENTINEL* Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobinso1976@gmail.com

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2026)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2024)

Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net (July 2025)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Check your Exchange for discounts on TV's – before the games start. The Exchange store may not have the latest – so be sure and check <http://www.shopmyexchange.com> – where I did find the latest in new technology TV's.

Be sure to look at the clearance sections of all the areas of your Exchange. Sometimes there are managers specials – where the more you buy the more you save. At the gun shop they have a “clear the vault” sale going on through Sept 10th. Be sure and stop in on Friday when every two weeks they seem to be starting a new gun sale. Apply for you STAR card and get at least 10% ALL your first day purchases – including sale and clearance items. I would make a list now and be ready for the Exchange Black Friday sales. Plus, each time you use it through Dec 31, you will automatically entered to win getting your Star Card bill paid in full!

You can also "SET UP A SUBSCRIPTION" and choose how often you want your often used items delivered. In the Shopping Cart, your subscription frequency choice appears under "SUBSCRIPTION SETTING". Click "Edit" to modify your delivery frequency. Manage your subscriptions by going into Your Account (you must be logged in) and clicking on the Subscription link in the navigation menu. Items set up for subscriptions will show the frequency, shipping address, credit card used and the next ship date. If your subscription item is promotionally priced at the time of shipment, you will be charged the promotional price for that item. Once the promotion ends, on your next shipment you will be charged the regular price for the item. You can always change, or cancel, the next shipment.

Shopette

Check out the “sip and savor” and Liquor and wines of the month section of the Shopette. Specialty drinks – sometimes only there for a limited appearance. Also check out the smaller size samples (next to the wine aisle). Smaller samples of items you might want to try before buying the full-size items.

The gas pumps are open 24/7 for credit cards (including the STAR card). While at the Shopette you can rent carpet cleaners and rent your favorite movies 24/7 at the outside RedBox. Download the RedBox app and you can reserve your movies for pickup.

I have found the two air pumps next to the gas pumps are intermittently working with one almost always not operating.

Continued on page 12

Need Addresses

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.

None this month

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:
LTC Nicholas M. Mikus
256-604-7767
nicholasmikus@comcast.net

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

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

Personal Affairs Officer
Lt Col Gerald Haynes
256-882-7857
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CONTACT:

GERMI CLOUD,
NSSA, CRPC
VICE PRESIDENT, WEALTH ADVISOR
256-715-0094
germie@cloudfinancial.com



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



ATTENTION

~Shared Dignity and Respect~

The Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*
provides a clear understanding of what patients should expect from the Fox
Team and their medical care.

It is also a patient's responsibility to work with our team in a professional and
caring way.

- The FAHC Command Team **will not** tolerate our staff treating any patient with anything less than the utmost professionalism.
- Similarly, we **will not** tolerate any patient who fails to afford our team members the same level of **dignity and respect**.

**Every employee has the right to feel safe and respected when
they come to work in our facility.**

When a patient fails to treat our staff in a dignified and respectful manner, the
following steps may be taken in an attempt to correct the behavior:

- Private counseling with the Chief of Security.
- Documentation of offensive behavior.
- Notification of ADSM Chain of Command.
- Elevation to the level of the Command Team to consider disengagement from FAHC.

Thank you for choosing kindness & respect!

*You can find the Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities on-line at:
<https://newsroom.tricare.mil/About-Us/Patient-Rights-Responsibilities>



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HEALTH
CENTER**

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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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Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

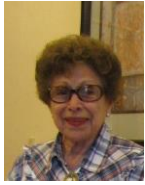
Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

2045 Cecil Ashburn Drive S E
Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

There was no luncheon in August.

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, 21 September,
At Rolo's Café, 975 Airport Rd SW Suite E, Huntsville, AL.

Phone: [\(256\) 883-7656](tel:2568837656). We will meet at 11AM. Everyone will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Calling All Bibliophiles

Summertime is the perfect time to catch up on reading. Whether you read e-books or enjoy turning the pages of books or magazines, there are so many wonderful stories to enjoy.

MOAA's summer reading list is available in *Military Officer* magazine each year (Premium and Life members can access the digital version of the July issue [at this link](#)), and you can find great suggestions from libraries, magazines, or recommendations from friends and family.

Do you enjoy fiction, nonfiction, biographies, or self-help genres? It's often fun to select something you would not normally choose. For those who want a shorter read, there are some great articles in *Military Officer* and other publications. Perhaps you've attended an event where the author signs and reads from their book – or maybe you have considered writing a memoir or fiction story of your own.

Another way to enjoy a good read is to join a book club. Online book clubs are very popular and turn a solitary experience into a social party. Bookworms from across the country, and around the world, can find a platform to enjoy a conversation about a favorite book. Book club apps can match you to a group that enjoys the same kinds of books.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter just initiated a book club that meets monthly. They alternate between fiction and nonfiction titles and vote as a group on the next selection to read. The conversation offers perspectives of the book that you might not have considered. The social aspect of the discussions makes reading much more fun. All Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter members are welcome to attend these gatherings monthly on Zoom.

This month's selection is *The Confidant: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America* by Christopher C. Gorham.

Please join us for a Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meeting. Come prepared to stay after the meeting to join the book discussion (or learn about the book if you haven't had time to read it).

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter was founded in 2018. Interested in applying? Download membership materials [at this link](#). You can also join MOAA's Surviving Spouses Facebook group.



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Proverbs 15.18:

Those who are hot-tempered stir up strife, but those who are slow to anger calm contention.

Proverbs 26.21:

As charcoal is to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

Proverbs 29.22:

One given to anger stirs up strife, and the hothead causes much transgression.



Hot, Hot, Hot! That seems to be the word for these, the dog days of summer!. And while the word is most often associated with the weather, it also refers to our temperament. And in today's political scene, we see lots of hot temperament.

First and foremost, please watch out for each other in this hot weather. And make sure to stay safe and hydrated.

As our country continues to polarize during this political season, we see heated temperaments appearing. And some of these come quickly in reaction to a news story that was just published. Whether right or wrong, we react. Heated temperaments don't just happen in the political world, they also happen within our families, our churches, and our friendship circles, whether intentional or unintentional.

I was charged to do several high-level investigations in my Air Force career. And almost always, anger was a factor that had to be acknowledged. And sometimes it was a

Continued on page 14

Memorials

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to: Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 309
Regular Members: 260
Surviving Spouses: 49

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

Welcome New Members to Huntsville Chapter MOAA

MAJ Mark Sachs, USA

Recruiting

You are our best recruiter. If you have a friend, colleague or co-worker who is eligible to join MOAA, or who already belongs to MOAA National – bring him/her to a Chapter meeting. You would be doing both them and the Chapter a favor.

of interest together.

Gambling anyone? Rep. Andy Whitt, R-Harvest, says he’s recently purchased bogus scratch-off lottery tickets in multiple Alabama counties. And on a day trip to one north Alabama county, he visited 12 illegal gambling sites with electronic bingo machines. Over the last six months, Whitt said he’s traveled around much of the state to see what gambling operations — legal and illegal — exist. “I’ve concluded that it’s simply the wild west in Alabama when it comes to gaming,” Whitt told Alabama Daily News recently. He and Rep. Chris Blackshear, R-Phenix City, are part of an informal group of House members studying what lottery and gambling legislation might, finally, pass their chamber. They’ve continued to work this summer with the goal of legislation early in the 2024 session.

Whitt said no draft legislation has been written yet, but it’s about time to put pen to paper and get it ready for the regular session. He said the group has had only brief conversations with representatives from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, who in previous versions of gambling legislation would have gotten to expand their casino operations, and other gaming interests.


After passing lottery and gambling bills in multiple years only to have them die in the House, Senate leadership has indicated the House has to move first on any new legislation. If a bill does get through both chambers, Blackshear said they’d like to see a lottery constitutional amendment on the November 2024 ballot. “We want the highest potential voter turnout to have a vote on this,” Blackshear said.

On the national scene. Both the House and Senate addressed one of MOAA’s top priorities – cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy network – in their mark-ups of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Language in both versions requires reporting on the beneficiary impact of the narrowed network, which shrank by nearly 25% in the last 12 months.

After the October 2022 departure of approximately 15,000 independent pharmacies from the TRICARE network, hundreds of MOAA members and other TRICARE beneficiaries reached out to us expressing anger and disappointment with yet another TRICARE cut. A Congressional Research Service report later revealed the network reduction was driven by reduced network requirements in the new TPharm5 contract: The Defense Health Agency (DHA) dropped the minimum number of network pharmacies from 50,000 to 35,000 as a cost-cutting measure, allowing Express Scripts to construct the narrowed network.

This has created access challenges for rural residents, the elderly, and those with serious, chronic medical conditions. With both Walgreens and CVS currently in network, most healthy families in metro areas can still access medications for their occasional prescription needs, but they recognize the network cut has reduced the protections TRICARE should provide.

Many affected beneficiaries already use mail order for maintenance medications, but they now face challenges in obtaining prescription drugs for acute conditions. For instance, MOAA recently heard from a beneficiary in Idaho whose town had two independent pharmacies in the TRICARE network; he now has to drive nearly 27 miles, one way, to get to the nearest network pharmacy.

The July 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released 10 August, was 299.899, 2.7% above the FY 2023 baseline of 291.901. The next CPI-W release is set for 13 September. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2023) will be compared to the FY 2023 COLA baseline to calculate the 2024 COLA. 



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report July 2023

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

1. The July 2023 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$18,456.49	\$ 1,702.22
Income	\$ 0.00	\$.21
Expenses	\$ 765.50	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$17,690.99	\$ 1,702.43

3. Notable income: None

4. Notable expenses: Two checks were re-issued because the recipient failed to make a timely deposit. One was for re-imbursement for travel and the other was for a deposit into the HCMOAAASF.

5. Chapter Saving account activity is limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$15,000 from Wells Fargo on 8 June 2023. The CD was for 5 months at an interest rate of 4.4%. To date the interest earned is \$54.34. The CD matures on 8 November 2023.

7. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$3,091.68 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from previous donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

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 area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at rickw675@att.net or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year basis. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible - 501(c)(3). **100% of all donations go toward scholarships.**

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.

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During August 2023

COL Michael C. Barron, USA (Ret.)
CAPT Timothy W. Howell, USN (Ret.)
LTC James H. McWhorter, Jr., USA (Ret.)

Total received for August: \$550.00
Total received CY23: **\$550.00**





Huntsville Chapter
 Military Officers Association of America
 P.O. Box 1301 - Huntsville, AL 35807
www.huntsvillemoaa.org



Membership Application or Renewal
 Yes - I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter!

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year \$10*	If New, how did you hear about us? <input type="checkbox"/> MOAA National <input type="checkbox"/> Local event <input type="checkbox"/> Letter / e-mail from HCMOAA <input type="checkbox"/> HCMOAA website <input type="checkbox"/> Friend / acquaintance <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal**	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years \$20	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership***	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years \$30	

*New members joining after September 1st will have their membership paid through following calendar year
 **If renewing just update any address or phone changes, verify e-mail address, and sign the form
 ***Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (age-based)

_____	_____	_____
First Name	MI	Last Name
_____	_____	_____
Preferred Name	Birth Date	Spouse's Name
_____	_____	_____
Grade	Branch of Service	Period(s) of Active Duty (i.e. 1965-1990)

Membership in our MOAA Chapter is not the same as MOAA National membership. At a minimum, FREE "Basic" MOAA National membership is required. If you are not already a National member, we will add you as a Basic member. Again, it's FREE and provides several valuable benefits. Please contact us for more information.

_____ **MOAA National Membership Number**

<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> NG	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
Phone Number	E-mail Address	Signature			
_____	_____	_____			

Governing Board Vacancies

The Chapter has several vacancies on the Governing Board that we are looking to fill with volunteers from the membership. They include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison – responsible for keeping the surviving spouses of the Chapter informed & look out for their welfare – you do not have to be a surviving spouse to serve

Membership Chair – responsible for recruiting and retention of Chapter members – this is a key position

Webmaster – responsible for all aspects of the Chapter website – ideally this would be a member's child or grandchild who is website savvy – this is a key position

Publicity – responsible for advertising Chapter events – primarily the golf tournament

Chapter Happenings – August Membership Meeting



Congressman Dale Strong addresses the membership



Congressman Strong receives a certificate of appreciation from Chapter President Rick West

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3


The Shopette now has self-checkout lines but as usual be prepared to show your ID.

Commissary

When you enter the Commissary check out the table of coupons and sales flyers – you will find several coupons covering those football party necessities! 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. 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, mixed nuts, cashews and pistachios – all in a package you could also carry on a plane for snacks.

September has Labor Day promos on meats, butts and ribs, case lot sales, National Honey month promo, Hispanic Heritage month promo (promotion & likely a demo of Hispanic food).

Click 2 go checkout! Place your order on the website; the commissary selects your items and bags them; and drive to the Redstone Commissary to pick up your items in the special packing space (new drive-in entrance now open just past the Auto Detail Shop). Order online 24/7 up to 6 days ahead - \$4.95 service fee waived until further notice!

Check out the latest at [https://www.commissaries.com/How Commissary CLICK2GO works](https://www.commissaries.com/How-Commissary-CLICK2GO-works) | [Commissaries](https://www.commissaries.com) Keep track of what's going on and on sale at your commissary. <http://www.commissaries.com> or sign up at Facebook, Twitter @YourCommissary, Pinterest, Instagram, or YouTube for all the commissary information! Also visit <https://commissaryconnection.dodlive.mil/> for all services information. 



Membership Meeting
27 September 2023
1100 – Summit Club

Guest Speaker: Kevin H. Turner
Madison County Sheriff

Kevin Turner is a veteran law enforcement officer who started his career with the Madison County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy in 1992. Over the next 6 years he served as a patrol deputy, both a juvenile and adult investigator, and was appointed as North Alabama's first Gang Investigator after having received national certification from the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1998, Kevin was appointed as an investigator with the Madison County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Investigations Division and The Violent Crime Unit, where he continued his duties as a gang investigator and participated in the investigation of such crimes as Homicide, Robbery and Home Invasions with other local agencies. As a gang investigator, Kevin assisted in the development and implementation of the area's first gang intelligence database and oversaw the implementation of the area's first federal grant that focused on early childhood intervention in gang violence.

In 2004 Kevin was recognized during the National Gang Crime Research Center by receiving the Frederick Milton Thrasher Award and serving as the keynote speaker for the national conference. The Thrasher Award was created in 1992 to honor and recognize outstanding individuals for superior service, accomplishments, or leadership in the fight to make our society safer from the threat posed by violent criminal gangs.

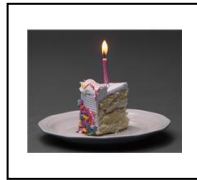
In September 2010, Kevin Turner was appointed as the Chief Investigator for the Madison County District Attorney's Office where he assumed command of a number of different units including the Criminal Investigations Division, The Worthless Check Unit, Restitution and Recovery, Computer Forensics Unit, as well as the Violent Crime Unit.

In 2022, the voters of Madison County re-elected Kevin to a second term as your Sheriff. During the last four years, we have added additional deputies, patrol vehicles, equipment and key staff to support our ever-changing public safety responsibilities. The men and women representing the Madison County Sheriff's Office showcase the best of public safety, unparalleled professionalism, and the most sincere concern for the citizens and visitors of our county.

Menu: Baked Chicken; Fried Catfish; Potato Salad; Whole Kernel Corn; Strawberry Cobbler; Cornbread; Assorted Drinks.

Cost: \$20 for Chapter members and families; \$25 for non-members / guests – pay at the door – cash or check only. **Exact change is appreciated.**

RSVP: COL John Vanderbleek, jvbleek78@gmail.com or (256) 893-1565, NLT 22 September 2023.



21 Birthdays in September

COL Robert M O'Donnell, USA
MAJ Larry N Levaas, USA
Mrs. Ursula Spicer
Col Donald F Kimminau, USAF
MAJ Richard C Hudgens, USA
Maj Leroy Huntington, USAF
COL Ronald R Sikes, USMC
COL Steven S Debusk, USA
Lt Col Claude R Baldwin Jr, USMC
Capt Steven E Lavender, USAF
LCDR Jesus M Rodriguez, USN

MAJ Mary L Shaw, USA
LTC Peter D Schofield, USA
COL Robert S Troth, USA
LTC John C Franks, USA
CPT Richard J Pella, USA
CW4 James E Keirstead, USA
LTC Andre M Cota-Robles, USA
Mrs. Ann Eittreim
LTC Robert E Ciccolella, USA
Mrs. Marylin T Setlow

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 brobinso1976@gmail.com so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

flippant remark that started the whole issue. What I found is that a person who was quarrelsome by nature caused much unneeded strife. And I saw that those who took time to listen and were slow to anger usually were the calming presence in their organization.

May we all be slow to anger and become a calming presence for those around us.

If you would like to share prayer requests or contact me I can be reached at MOAACHaplain@gmail.com or call/text (334) 467-6860.

Blessings, Dave





TAPS

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

None this month

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

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Seeking Retired Army Soldiers with access to Redstone Arsenal (with valid ID card)

Army Emergency Relief HQ Site Visit at Redstone Arsenal

Retiree Focus Group, 25 September, 1400-1500

Redstone Arsenal Pershing Welcome Center, Building 3443
Army Community Service Conference Room

Guests:

- LTG (R) Raymond Mason, AER Director
- CSM (R) Juan Jimenez, Emergency Assistance Administrator

IF INTERESTED please contact Olivia Pierce

olivia.n.pierce.civ@army.mil

or call 256-876-6299 or 5397

History of Labor Day

Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Early Adopters

Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. During 1887, four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York – passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

McGuire v. Maguire: Who Founded Labor Day?

Who first proposed the holiday for workers? It's not entirely clear, but two workers can make a solid claim to the Founder of Labor Day title.

Some records show that in 1882, Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, suggested setting aside a day for a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that machinist Matthew Maguire, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday.

Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey, proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

According to the New Jersey Historical Society, after President Cleveland signed the law creating a national Labor Day, the *Paterson Morning Call* published an opinion piece stating that "the souvenir pen should go to Alderman Matthew Maguire of this city, who is the undisputed author of Labor Day as a holiday." Both Maguire and McGuire attended the country's first Labor Day parade in New York City that year.

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

A Nationwide Holiday

Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, picnics and parties – festivities very similar to those outlined by the first proposal for a holiday, which suggested that the day should be observed with – a street parade to exhibit "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day.

Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

American labor has raised the nation's standard of living and contributed to the greatest production the world has ever known and the labor movement has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker.

Autumnal Equinox 2023: The First Day of Fall

Facts & Folklore About the Fall Equinox

When will summer end and the cooler days of fall begin? The autumnal equinox—also called the September equinox—arrives on Saturday, September 23. Not only do temperatures fall, but also plant life slows down and so do we. Read about the signs of fall and the ways we will mark the equinox.

When Is the Autumnal Equinox?

The fall equinox arrives on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 02:50 A.M. EDT in the Northern Hemisphere. The equinox occurs at the same moment worldwide..

What Is the Autumnal Equinox?

The **autumnal equinox** is an astronomical event that marks the start of autumn (or “fall”). In the Northern Hemisphere, the autumnal equinox occurs in September; in the Southern Hemisphere, it occurs in March.

What Is an Equinox?

During an **equinox**, the Sun crosses what we call the “celestial equator”—an imaginary extension of Earth’s equator line into space. The equinox occurs precisely when the Sun’s center passes through this line. For those in the Northern Hemisphere, when the Sun crosses the equator going from north to south, this marks the autumnal equinox; when it crosses from south to north, this marks the vernal equinox. In the Southern Hemisphere, it’s the reverse.

After the autumnal equinox, days become shorter than nights as the Sun continues to rise later and nightfall arrives earlier. This ends with the [winter solstice](#), after which days start to grow longer once again. The word “equinox” comes from Latin *aequus*, meaning “equal,” and *nox*, “night.” On the equinox, day and night are roughly equal in length. (See more about this below.)

The Harvest Moon & the Equinox

One of our favorite pieces of trivia surrounding the autumnal equinox involves its relationship with the full Moon. Curiously, the full Moon that occurs nearest to the autumnal equinox is always called the “**Harvest Moon!**” Why is that?

Surprise, surprise: it has to do with farming! Around the fall equinox, the full Moon rises around sunset for several nights in a row, which traditionally provided farmers with just enough extra light for them to finish their harvests before the killing frosts of fall set in.

Normally, the Moon rises about an hour later each night, but around the time of the fall equinox, the angle of the Moon’s orbit and the tilt of the Earth line up just right and cause the Moon to rise only about 20 to 30 minutes later each night for several nights in a row!

An Astronomical Moon Name

The Harvest Moon is one of only two Moon names that are astronomical terms and aren’t tied to one specific month. Because it’s always the full Moon nearest to the equinox that’s called the “Harvest Moon,” either September or October’s full Moon can take on the name. (The other astronomical Moon name is the [Hunter’s Moon](#), which is the full Moon that directly follows the Harvest Moon. It can occur in either October or November.)

Stay on Top of TRICARE Prescriptions with Express Scripts App

Do you need help managing your prescriptions? Express Scripts, the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, has a free, easy-to-use app that can help. The [Express Scripts Pharmacy mobile app](#) is a secure way to stay on top of taking your medication.

The app is full of useful features, like dose reminders and the ability to approve refills. Here's a look at some of the ways the app can help you.

1. See your prescriptions and order them

Go to "Prescriptions" to find a list of all your prescriptions. From here, you see how much money you can save if you fill your prescription through [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#). You can also order your prescription from this menu.

2. Approve your refills

If you need to refill your prescription, you must approve it before Express Scripts will mail it to you. The Express Scripts mobile app makes it easy to [approve refills](#).

3. Check your order status

Want to keep track of when you'll get your home delivery prescription? Go to "Recent Orders" to see when your order is placed, processed, shipped, and delivered.

4. Manage delivery address

Need to change your shipping address? You can do this in the app. You can even set up shipments to a temporary address during deployment, relocation, or vacation.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will ship to any address in the U.S. and U.S. territories and APO/FPO/DPO addresses. Keep in mind that there are some limits to using home delivery overseas. Go to [Home Delivery](#) to learn more.

5. Make payments

Go to "Pay a Bill" if you need to pay for your prescription or set up automatic payments for your home delivery orders.

Don't forget that active duty service members pay no copayments for covered drugs filled through home delivery, [military pharmacies](#), and [retail network pharmacies](#). All other eligible TRICARE beneficiaries pay copayments for prescriptions filled through home delivery and retail network pharmacies, as outlined in the [TRICARE Costs and Fees Fact Sheet](#).

6. Set dose reminders

Need help remembering to take your prescription? Go to "Dose Reminder" to set up automated reminder alerts. Alerts can be daily, weekly, or monthly.

You can [download the Express Scripts Pharmacy mobile app](#) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The app is free, and you can sign in with your TRICARE Express Scripts username and password. If you don't have an Express Scripts account, you can [create one](#).

To learn more, go to [tricare.mil/pharmacy](#) and the [TRICARE Express Scripts website](#). If you have pharmacy questions or need help, call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303.

Have Other Health Insurance? Here's How It Works with TRICARE

Your TRICARE plan might be only part of your health care coverage. If you have additional coverage through your employer, your spouse's employer, or a private insurance program, you have [other health insurance](#) (OHI).

Here are six tips to help you learn how TRICARE works when you also use OHI.

1. How to report your OHI

Tell your doctor and TRICARE contractor if you have coverage in addition to TRICARE. This will ensure all claims are processed accurately. You can report your OHI using any of the options below:

- **By phone:** Call your [TRICARE regional contractor](#).
- **Online:** Fill out and submit your TRICARE contractor's [OHI questionnaire](#).
- **By mail or fax:** Complete and send the [OHI questionnaire](#).

2. Which plan pays first

In most cases, TRICARE pays after OHI. This is true for employer-sponsored insurance and private insurance. If you buy travel health insurance, TRICARE also pays after travel insurance. You or your provider should only [file a claim](#) with TRICARE after your OHI processes your claim. If TRICARE receives your claim before your OHI, TRICARE will deny the claim. If TRICARE pays first and then learns you had OHI, TRICARE will take back any payments it made and reprocess the claim after your OHI processes it.

How does OHI work with the Medicare-wraparound plan [TRICARE For Life](#)? As noted in the [TRICARE For Life Handbook](#), Medicare coordinates with your OHI. Whether [Medicare](#) or your OHI pays first depends on if your OHI is based on current employment. If your OHI pays after Medicare, you'll need to submit a claim for TRICARE to pay any remaining balance. TRICARE always pays last.

There are a few exceptions to the "TRICARE pays last" rule. File claims with TRICARE first if you have any of these benefits:

- Medicaid
- TRICARE supplemental plans
- State victims of crime compensation programs
- Other federal government programs identified by the Defense Health Agency

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3. How to use OHI as an active-duty service member

Active-duty service members can use OHI under [certain circumstances](#) and when in compliance with Department of Defense and service regulations. If you use OHI, keep in mind the following:

- You're responsible for all costs.
- TRICARE won't be second payer. There's no coordination of benefits with your OHI and TRICARE.
- You must disclose your military status to your OHI to avoid claim denials or recoupments.
- If you get care from a civilian provider, you must comply with service regulations.
- Any unauthorized care may affect your fitness for duty status.

4. How to coordinate your OHI with pharmacy benefits

When you have OHI with pharmacy benefits, your OHI pays first, and TRICARE pays second. Be sure to complete a [TRICARE Other Health Insurance \(OHI\) Form](#) and mail it to the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, [Express Scripts](#). You can avoid higher costs by getting your prescriptions filled at a pharmacy that's in both your OHI network and the [TRICARE retail network](#). Read "[How to Use TRICARE and OHI at the Pharmacy](#)" to learn more.


5. How to coordinate your dental plans

If you're enrolled in the [TRICARE Dental Program](#) (TDP), submit the [TDP claims form](#) to [United Concordia](#), the TDP contractor. United Concordia will work with your other insurance company to determine the coordination of benefits. Depending on the situation, TDP may pay first or second. Read the [TRICARE Dental Program Handbook](#) to learn more.

If you have dental coverage through the [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#) (FEDVIP), you may also have other dental insurance. Contact your FEDVIP dental carrier or your other insurance provider if you have questions about the coordination of your benefits.

6. What to do if you lose OHI

If you lose your OHI, TRICARE becomes the primary payer. If you have TRICARE For Life, TRICARE becomes the secondary payer. Remember to tell your TRICARE contractor that your OHI status has changed. Losing OHI counts as a [Qualifying Life Event](#). This gives you and eligible family members 90 days to change your TRICARE health plan.

If you haven't informed your TRICARE contractor about your OHI, do so now. When all parties are informed and working together, it ensures you get the proper benefit from your health care coverage. 

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

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

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

Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our 320+ 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 brobinso1976@gmail.com or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in September

- 1 September – Hitler invaded Poland, starting World War II (1939)
- 2 September – The Great Fire of London destroyed over 13,000 homes (1666)
- 2 September – US Treasury established (1789)
- 2 September – General Sherman captured Atlanta (1864)
- 2 September - Formal Japanese surrender aboard the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay (1945)
- 3 September - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany (1939)
- 4 September - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson (1609)
- 4 September – Football season kick-off - Alabama vs. Miami
- 4 September – Labor Day
- 6 September - Leningrad was renamed Saint Petersburg (1991)
- 7 September - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal (1822)
- 8 September - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed (1883)
- 8 September – Scholarship Golf Tournament – Links – 0830**
- 9 September – Monthly Breakfast – City Café Diner – 0900**
- 9 September - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established (1948)
- 11 September - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history (2001)
- 12 September - John F. Kennedy, 36, married Jacqueline Bouvier, 24 (1953)
- 13 September – Francis Scott Key wrote the National Anthem (1814)
- 14 September - Eight days after being shot, President William McKinley died (1901)
- 14 September - Princess Grace of Monaco died in a car accident (1982)
- 14 September – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café – 1100**
- 15 September - Tanks were first used in combat (1916)
- 15-17 September – Redstone Arsenal Oktoberfest
- 16 September - The *Mayflower* departed from England with 102 passengers (1620)
- 16 September – General Motors was founded (1908)
- 18 September - The U.S. Air Force was established (1947)
- 21 September - The People's Republic of China was established (1949)
- 23 September – First day of Autumn
- 25 September - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa first sighted the Pacific Ocean (1513)
- 26 September - The first-ever televised presidential debate (1960)
- 27 September – Monthly Member Meeting - Summit Club - 1100**
- 29 September – US Army established (1789)
- 30 September - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights (1949)

