



Aug/Sep 2019

The MOAA Airways is the bimonthly newsletter of the Fort Rucker Chapter, MOAA which is an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliates are nonpartisan.

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER**  
**AUGUST 17—1800 HOURS**  
**AT THE LANDING**  
**WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! COME JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MOAA DINNER AND BRING A FRIEND.**

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**COL (RET) DENNIS**  
  
**NEWTON**

**AGENDA & MENU**  
*Social: 1800*  
*Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: 1845*  
*Dinner: 1900*  
>>Caesar Salad  
>>Stuffed chicken breast w/ spinach & Mozzarella wrapped in bacon  
>>Rice pilaf, fresh zucchini & squash medley  
>>Rolls & butter  
>>Strawberry shortcake  
>>Unsweet Tea, Water, Coffee  
**Cost: \$22 per person**

Please make your Reservations by noon Wednesday, August 14th to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966.  
**Cash or personal checks only!**  
  
Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on the Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the meals.



**President's Corner** by Lisa Bailey

*I recently attended our quarterly meeting of the Alabama Council of Chapters for MOAA. One of the agenda items that really got my attention was a discussion of the suicide rate of veterans in this state. The new State of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, RADM Davis, USN (Ret), has made this a top priority for his office. The following is a July news release from the VA Department Public Information Officer.*

**“Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Appoints Chair of Task Force on Veterans’ Suicide**

**“MONTGOMERY**— It’s estimated that an average of 20 veterans take their lives each day in the United States. Most of those are veterans who don’t have contact with VA in the months leading to their suicide, meaning outreach efforts could save the lives of veterans.

“Kent Davis, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, recently selected Paulette Risher, chief executive officer for Still Serving Veterans and a retired Army major general, to lead the new Task Force on Veterans’ Suicides. The task force will study ways to reduce veterans’ suicide as well as the causes of suicides among returning Alabama veterans. The task force **(continued on page 2)**

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**(President's Message continued from page 1)** will then make recommendations to the Legislature.

"I am extremely honored to be selected to serve in this position. I am so thankful to Governor Ivey and our Legislature for recognizing the importance and urgency of addressing Veteran suicides among Alabama's large Veteran population. It is heartbreaking to think that a service member can risk their life in service to the nation only to come home and take their own life,' General Risher said.

"I believe that the Task Force on Veterans' Suicide will help us better understand the risks, contributing factors, and demographics to develop concrete actions which not just our legislators and State officials, but our local community leaders can implement to turn the tide on Veteran suicide,' Risher continued. 'Through partnership, collaboration, and mutual service to Veterans we can make a difference.'

"Rep. Neil Rafferty submitted the House resolution to create the task force. House Joint Resolution 151 noted that the veteran suicide rate in Alabama was 60 percent higher than the rate for civilians and 9 percent higher than other southern states. More than 16 percent of all suicide deaths in Alabama are veterans.

"Alabama ranks 2nd in the nation for veteran suicides in the country. This devastating statistic has a

particularly personal effect because of the friends and fellow Marines we have lost,' Rafferty said. 'The task force aims to bridge the gaps among multiple agencies and community stakeholders to have a coordinated evidence-based and community-informed strategy to more effectively address the crisis of veteran suicide in the state.'

"In addition to Risher, the task force will have one representative or veteran appointed by each of the following: the governor, Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House, president of the Senate, Senate Minority Leader, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, State Health Officer, and Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources."

*It is a great beginning. Our discussion included information that many of the affected service members are enlisted and may have been frustrated by the process of application to the VA. One of the initiatives that the Commissioner is working on is to fill all remaining vacant county slots for State VA representatives to help veterans at their local level. These personnel can help veterans to navigate the processes of application and to be available to listen and get the best resources possible for all veterans.*

*If you or anyone you know have any ideas about how our MOAA members can help with this crisis for our brothers and sisters, please contact me and I will facilitate or put you in touch with people who are working on the task force.*



### Legislative Report by Charlie Wigglesworth

hard to protect our benefits.

Summer is here and pray all will have a safe summer. Our leadership at the National Headquarters continues to work

presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

### News for MOAA:

The House of Representatives passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), sending the measure - which includes many MOAA-supported initiatives - into negotiations with the Senate that will produce a final bill. MOAA and other veterans' groups pushed for the passage of the House bill so that a number of key issues for the military community would reach the conference stage - now it will be up to the conferees to resolve differences. Here are some issues the House addressed that were not included in Senate legislation they passed in late June. A couple highlights are below:

The elimination of the "widows' tax" an unfair offset that costs more than 65,000 military survivors and their families about \$12,000 a year in much-deserved benefits. MOAA aggressively advocated on behalf of military widows, and many of our members and supporters sent letters to their members of Congress. **(continued on page 3)**

### Department of Veterans Affairs News:

The VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service in June celebrated a decade of the VetSuccess on Campuses which supports service members, Veterans and eligible dependents they complete their education and obtain viable careers.

The VA is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for "Blue Water Navy" who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act Of 2019. which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a



## Membership Report by Othan Gilbert

I am pleased to report several new chapter members: **COL (R) Mark Levine and his wife, Gretchen**, from Enterprise; **LTC (R) Larry Maynard and his wife, Ann**, from Enterprise; **CW4 (R) Robert Smith and his wife, Shannon**, from Enterprise; **CPT (R) Danny Donaldson** from Opp and **LTC (R) Benny Jones and his wife, Peggy**, from Dothan. LTC Jones transferred from the Dothan MOAA Chapter. We are hopeful that others from the former chapter in Dothan will join us. The Dothan Chapter recently decided to dissolve.

I regret to report that the wife of one of our most faithful couples, **Mary Apel** of Enterprise, died on 6/23/19. She and her husband, MAJ (R) Al Apel, have been some of our most faithful attendees to our bi-monthly chapter dinners at The Landing. She will be very much missed. She was also a very faithful member of and contributor to the Fort Rucker chapel community. Our condolences are extended to Al and her family.

I would like to congratulate one of our chapter members, **MAJ (R) Carlie Bryant**, who was recently awarded the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal on 6/13/19 to honor him for his service in the Korean War. It was presented to him by the Mayor of Enterprise, Bill Cooper. Congratulations, Carlie, and thank you for your service!

To remind everyone about the upcoming chapter bi-monthly dinner, we send out a recorded message to all members using a calling service company, Calling Post. After recording a message (less than 50 seconds), I generally send it out about a week before the dinner and a few days before the deadline to make a reservation. I try to time the outgoing call about midday, the Saturday before the dinner. So, if you get a call identified as Calling Post, it is a call from us.

Our chapter membership total at the time of this writing is 167. This only includes active members entitled to vote. We also send our bi-monthly newsletter to 29 surviving spouses plus the Fort Rucker Garrison Commander. We also have 9 sponsors/supporters of our newsletter.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortrucker-moaa.org. Please check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

### (Legislative Report from page 2)

Language that would force the DOD to fully explain and study the effects of plans that would eliminate 18,000 - about 1 in 5 - military medical billets. This language is a critical path to congressional oversight on a process that could reduce the quality and availability of medical care for military retirees and military families throughout the nation.

The end of the so-called "Feres Doctrine," meaning servicemembers would be allowed to sue in the event of alleged

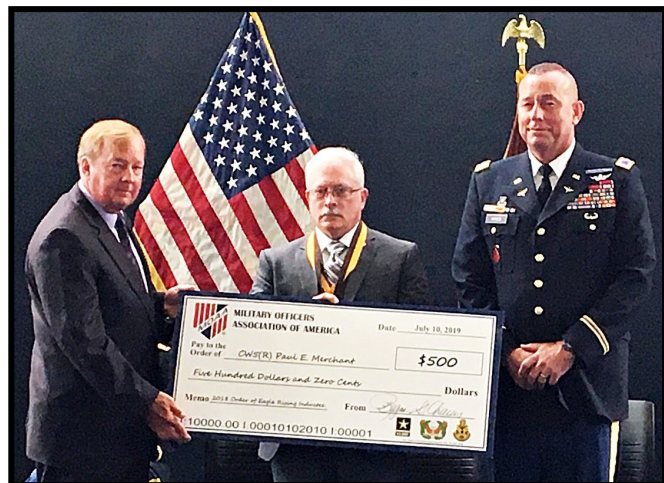
malpractice by military medical personnel.

Like the Senate version, the bill also includes a MOAA-supported 3.1% pay raise for servicemembers, making this the largest raise since 2010.

The House bill passed 220-197. The Senate bill, which includes \$750 billion in defense funding compared with \$733 billion in the House version, passed 86-8. President Donald Trump has threatened to veto the NDAA if it clears both chambers without the top-line funding he requested, and as acted upon by the Senate.



LTG (Ret) Dana Atkins (left) presenting CW5 (Ret) Paul Merchant (center) with Order of Eagle Rising Society awards, with COL Kelly Hines, USAWPC Commandant assisting (right).



**TREASURER'S REPORT** by *Loel Ewart*



**AWARDS & GRADUATIONS**



LTC (Ret) Othan Gilbert presents the MOAA Award to the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Warrant Officer Candidate School, Class 19-08, WO1 Guillermo Garcia-Galdamez



MAJ (Ret) Lisa Bailey presents the MOAA Award to the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Warrant Officer Candidate School, Class 19-09, WO1 David Ries



CW5 (Ret) Charlie Wigglesworth presents the MOAA Award to the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Warrant Officer Candidate School, Class 19-10, WO1 Thaddaeus Hendershot

**Date: Monday July 8, 2019**

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 07/08/2019 is **\$30,651.71**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the All In Federal Credit Union (All In FCU).

**Activities Since Last Report:** (06/11/19) **Starting balance of;** \$28,505.38

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
06/14/19	MOAA National deposit (2018 Membership retention bonus)	\$250.00
06/18/19	MOAA June Dinner (deposit) (Sch Fund \$96)	787.00
06/27/19	Ron Kaita (Donation)	1,800.00
06/30/19	Money Market Interest	8.93

**Deposits Total** **\$2,845.93**

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1853 06/20/19	IMWRF (June Dinner)	\$699.60
	<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b><u>\$699.60</u></b>
	<b>Net Increase</b>	<b><u>\$2,146.33</u></b>

07/08/19 **Current Total Balance of;** **\$30,651.71**  
 All In checking 6,481.32  
 All In Savings \$5.41  
 All In Money Market \$24,164.98

**Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve) -\$24,164.98**  
 Life Membership \$10,510.00  
 MOAA reserve, \$13,654.98  
**Minus Savings: \$5.41 -\$5.41**

**\*\*\*\*Usable Funds as July 08, 2019 (Minus reserve/savings) \$6,481.32**

**Other News\*** No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$240.00

**Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019**



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bimonthly Dinner Meeting
12 Aug 2019		17 Aug 2019
9 Sep 2019	18 Sep 2019	
7 Oct 2019		19 Oct 2019
4 Nov 2019	13 Nov 2019	
9 Dec 2019		14 Dec 2019

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT!**

- What Speeds Up Aging—**
- > Inflammation
  - > Metabolism
  - > Macromolecular damage
  - > Proteostasis
  - > Stem cells
  - > Stress response

- What Slows Aging Down—**
- > Fruits & vegetables
  - > Lean protein
  - > Strength training
  - > Aerobic exercise
  - > Sunscreen & shade
  - > Weight loss
  - > Vacations

From *AARP Magazine*, June/July 2019

**GUEST SPEAKER**—Dennis R. Newton grew up in Whittier, California in a family that spent time in the outdoors. He graduated with a BA in History from San Diego State University and a Master of Divinity in Church History from Talbot Theological Seminary, BIOLA University, La Mirada, California. He holds certificates in various Tech disciplines. His military education includes completion of Chaplain Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Service Staff School, Command and General Staff College and the Force Management Course. He is endorsed by *CBAmerica* as a Trail Chaplain.

Over the course of 42 years starting in 1972 Dennis was a Chaplain's Assistant in Germany at Camp King Chapel and Headquarters, 4th Transportation Brigade, Oberursel. He joined the US Army Reserve as a Chaplain Candidate in 1982 until he returned to active duty in 1985. He served with 2-502d at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and at 1-72d Armor Battalion Chaplain at Camp Casey, Korea. During OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD/STORM, Chaplain Newton served as the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery Chaplain, then 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Chaplain (1991), 86<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital Chaplain deploying to Somalia, Africa (1993). Later at the US Army Chaplain Center and School as an Instructor and Developer for the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Then as the Chaplain Resource Manager at Fort Campbell and then as Force Structure and Chaplain Resource Manager for US Army Europe. He went back to operational units joining the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry as Regimental Chaplain and Deputy Installation Chaplain at Fort Irwin, California. That led to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he was the Deputy I Corps Chaplain, back to Fort Campbell as the Deputy Garrison Chaplain, and finally to Fort Rucker as the Garrison and Installation Chaplain for Aviation Center and School.

He retired in 2014 and since has maintained an Endorsement from *CBAmerica* as a Trail Chaplain.

He hiked the full 2059 miles of the Appalachian Trail in 2015 and the Benton Mackay Trail in 2017. Dennis had hike Section A of the Pacific Crest Trail this year and has hundreds of hikes on Section C in the San Bernardino Mountains of California and in the Olympics of Washington.

Chaplain Newton's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (Eight Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (Third Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal (Two Bronze Stars), Korea Defense Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (Two Bronze Stars), Global War On Terror Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Joint Meritorious Unit, Air Assault and Airborne Badges. He wears the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) and 44<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade Combat Patches.

Chaplain Newton is married to the former Kathleen Christena Martin, of Oceanside, California and has one son, Sean, who lives in California and works for as a Database Consultant.



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# PICTURES FROM JUNE 15th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



*Blake Bushin & Lisa Bailey*

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*Benny & Peggy Jones w/ Dan Petrosky*



*Benny & Peggy Jones*



*Martha & Ben McKee*



*Mary Rutkowski & Loel Ewart*



*Linda & Robert Littlefield*



*Barbara Petrosky & Ann Estes*



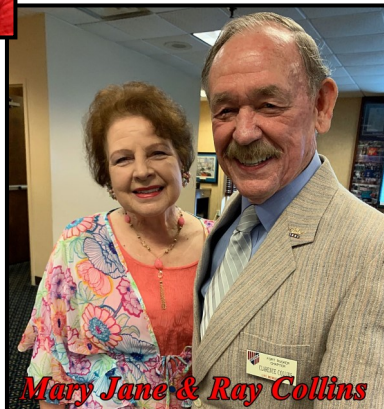
*Fred Latremore, Charlie Wigglesworth, & Carolyn Wooley*



*Don & Susan Cullen*



*Lisa Bailey & Claudia Wigglesworth*



*Mary Jane & Ray Collins*

The Dothan MOAA Chapter has disbanded. There are a number of their former members who might want to join the Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA. If you know someone from that chapter, please invite them to join us at our next dinner.

**Coffee County Arts Alliance**  
and  
**Center Drugs & Home Health**  
*Present*

<b>SEASON OPENER</b> <i>Featuring Local Performers &amp; A Silent Auction of Art and Crafts from Piney Woods</i>	<b>Aug 18</b> 2 PM 2019	Enterprise State Community College
<b>A NEW SEASON OF 4 PERFORMANCES</b>	<b>Beginning Sep 25</b> 2019	Enterprise High School

**Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)**  
[www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com](http://www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com)

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**Fort Rucker Chapter**

**Fort Rucker Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**  
**PO Box 620075**  
**Fort Rucker, AL 36362-0075**

Enclosed is my check, in accordance with the schedule below, for membership in the Fort Rucker Chapter of the *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*.

Individual joining: 1 Dec – 28 Feb \$12.00; 1 Mar – 31 May \$9.00; 1 Jun – 31 August \$6.00; Membership 1 Sep – 30 Nov \$3.00.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP #\_\_ National Life Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in the National MOAA is required for membership in our local Chapter. If you are a member of National and do not know your membership number so indicate and we will obtain it from National.

**Make checks payable to Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA Thank you for your support!**

**Web address: [www.FortRuckerMOAA.org](http://www.FortRuckerMOAA.org)**