



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.

Ft. Rucker Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 620075
Fort Rucker, Alabama 36322

Website: <http://www.fortrucker-moaa.org>
Email: moaa@fortrucker-moaa.org



2019-2020 Officers & Directors

PRESIDENT—Lisa Bailey,
334-406-9475,
l_wmurray@juno.com

VP For PROGRAMS—Ron Kaita,
334-677-6734,
ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil

SECRETARY—Carolyn Wooley,
334-443-0984,
ckwooley@troycable.net

TREASURER—Loel Ewart, 334-774-0328, lewart@troycable.net

MEMBERSHIP—Othan Gilbert,
334-432-3433,
ogilbert@troycable.net

BANQUETS & ROWA REP
Mary Rutkowski, 334-347-4966

PUBLIC AFFAIRS—Othan Gilbert, 334-432-3433, ogilbert@troycable.net

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Charlie Wigglesworth
cwigglesworth@troycable.net

CHAPLAIN/WEBMASTER
Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079
drnewton@fortrucker-moaa.org

SURVIVING SPOUSE AFFAIRS
Faye Swinehart, 334-774-8817
jswinehart712@troycable.net

ROTC/JROTC—Ron Kaita,
334-677-6734,
ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Frank Estes, 334-797-9196
estes@troycable.net

RETIREE AFFAIRS
Ray Collins, 334-774-2101
crc.dustoff51@centurytel.net

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER
DECEMBER 14 – 1800 HOURS
AT THE LANDING
COME JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MOAA DINNER AND BRING A FRIEND.

PROGRAM
Sing Along
Christmas
Music
with
Dennis
Newton
&
Silent
Auction

AGENDA & MENU
Social: 1800
Invocation/Pledge of
Allegiance: 1845
Dinner: 1900
>Tossed salad w/dressings
>Beef tenderloin w/ mushroom
demi-glace
>Roasted root vegetables
>Snap peas
>Rolls & butter
>Pecan pie w/ice-cream
>Unsweet Tea, Water,
Coffee
Cost: \$25 per person

Please make your
Reservations by noon
Wednesday, Dec. 11th
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.

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President's Corner by Lisa Bailey



On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 11:00 AM join us at Meadowlawn Memorial Park in Enterprise to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you. The US Army Warrant Officer Association Above the Best Silver Chapter and VFW Post 6683 and Auxiliary in Enterprise are spearheading this effort. Our Fort Rucker MOAA chapter has made a donation to Wreaths Across America to purchase wreaths. (more about Wreaths Across America on page 5) (continued on page 2)

(President's Corner from page 1)

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service, but to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for us to live freely. This year, there will be more than 1,600 participating locations placing wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 – with more than two million volunteers coming together. If you can't make it to the wreath laying, please go to Wreaths Across America Meadowlawn Memorial Park (ALMMPE) webpage and support this effort.

See you later that same date at the bi-monthly chapter meeting and what promises to be a fun evening. We be entertained with Christmas music and our own Chaplain COL (Ret) Newton leading us in song and playing his guitar. We will

also be supporting the MOAA Scholarship fund again this year with a silent auction. You still have time to get those item descriptions and estimated values to COL (Ret) Frank Estes, who is generously organizing the items and the bids for us. Bring your checkbooks to take home some wonderful items for those last minute special Christmas gifts and support a cause that comes back to Alabama in the form of scholarships every year.

In closing, my thanks to all of you for making this another special year. I hope to see many of you at our meeting who haven't been attending recently. We really do miss you and try hard to make the programs attractive to you. By the way, the new catering chef is doing a wonderful job and we are enjoying some especially delicious meals that our own Mary Rutkowski coordinates for us. Be sure to give her a special thanks for all she does for the organization.



Legislative Report by *Charlie Wigglesworth*



Thanksgiving is here and Christmas is around the corner. I pray that all the MOAA members have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

As I have reviewed the issues that MOAA is working, I find some interesting information to pass on. Some of the issues call for us to send letters to our elected officials. I encourage all MOAA members to read the MOAA magazine or go online to find more information.

Veterans with iPhones can now view their Department of Veterans Affairs medical records through their phone's Health app. VA and Apple began rolling out the capability during the summer but issued formal announcements around Veterans Day.

MOAA has renovated the national headquarters just outside of Washington, DC. The ribbon cutting was on 5 November during the annual membership meeting. The modernized building in Alexandria, Va. keeps MOAA close to decision-makers at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, while providing staff with the technological infrastructure to collaborate and engage with lawmakers and members. I would encourage you to stop and visit if you are in the Washington, DC area.

The wife of an Army officer who died in Afghanistan joined a senator who has pushed for the repeal of the "widows tax" for a cable news interview Oct. 30, continuing to garner public attention for an

end to the unfair offset. MOAA continues to fight to end this unjust tax. We need to contact of elected officials on this one.

Amid growing concerns lawmakers will be unable to come to an agreement on the annual defense authorization bill, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) introduced a "skinny NDAA" Oct. 29 to ensure essential defense programs continue uninterrupted. While the new, \$738 billion bill authorizes next year's 3.1% military pay raise, extends bonus and incentive pays, provides for quality-of-life programs for military families, and includes funding for military construction and acquisition programs, it leaves out several MOAA-supported issues that are addressed in either the House or Senate NDAA versions, or in both. This includes language that would:
Prevent the elimination of 18,000 medical billets.
End the "widows tax."
Require comprehensive military housing reform.
Stop changes and consolidations planned for the commissary and exchange system.
Fund necessary improvements to military spouse employment and education resources.
Again, have a wonderful holiday season.

God Bless, Charlie





Membership Report by Othan Gilbert

I regret to report the death of long-time member CW4 Albert Cooper of Enterprise who died 26 October 2019. CW4 Cooper was 91 years old.

Invoices for chapter dues for 2020 were mailed on 31 October to those whose membership expires this year. It will save me time and effort if all those billed will pay promptly (\$12 per year) and, if possible, pay for multiple years so I don't have to send you a dues notice again next year. Thanks for your consideration.

To remind everyone about an 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 163. 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 fortruckermoa.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.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins

Warmest greetings! Autumn is aglow with colors, crisp temperatures, and buttermilk skies. The harvest season has brought the cotton bales, and the gathering of peanuts, pecans, and beans, with the fields plowed for a period of rest. November carries the combined abundance of the year along with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. ROWA has now enjoyed two more meetings in Autumn. We met in October at Ingrid's, listed in Alabama's Food Guide, and enjoyed food, shopping, and jewelry displays there.

We were honored to have Command spouse leaders with us; Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Koziol. Alabama foods were noted from the pioneer days with wild game and cornbread to shrimp and grits, and fried green tomatoes. In November, we honored Veteran guests for their service and learned with request about their duty stations, specialty, and years of service. Regina Etheridge provided meaningful decorations and door prizes of vases with poppies flowers, wall canvas squared painted with poppies, and scrolls of the poem Flanders Fields.

As we approach Alabama's 200 year, we remember that 33 members of the armed forces from Alabama received the Medal of Honor. One example of many others, from Alabama is 98 year old veteran Ray Lambert who led his medic unit in the first wave of D-Day, saving the lives of many. In this 75th year anniversary of D-Day, Staff Sergeant (R) Lambert traveled

back to Normandy for a ceremony where a plaque was dedicated to him and his medic unit. Let us look forward to another year of freedom harvest ensured by our courageous Veterans and may we ever be thankful.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! We would enjoy seeing you at our next meetings.

Dec. 10, 2019—The Landing; Alabama's 200th Birthday; The Heart of Dixie; Ornament Exchange

Jan. 14, 2020—The Landing; A New Decade; Delicious and Nutritious

Reservations 334 347 4966





TREASURER'S REPORT by Loel Ewart



Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019-2020		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
9 Dec 2019		14 Dec 2019
13 Jan 2020	15 Jan 2020	
10 Feb 2020		22 Feb 2020
9 Mar 2020	18 Mar 2020	
13 Apr 2020		18 Apr 2020
11 May 2020	20 May 2020	
8 Jun 2020		20 Jun 2020
13 Jul 2020	15 Jul 2020	
10 Aug 2020		15 Aug 2020
14 Sep 2020	16 Sep 2020	
12 Oct 2020		17 Oct 2020
9 Nov 2020	18 Nov 2020	
14 Dec 2020		19 Dec 2020

Date: Monday, 4 November, 2019
 Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 11/04/2019 is, \$31,119.47. 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: (10/07/19) Starting balance of; \$30,436.53

DEPOSITS	ACTION		
10/08/19NL Sponsors, Mem. Dues (Houston Printing/AllIn/ Hagler Heating/Mem Dues)		\$522.00	
10/15/19NL Sponsor (Coffee County Arts)		150.00	
10/21/19MOAA Oct. dinner receipts		815.00	
10/31/19 Money Market interest (Oct.)		11.30	
	Deposits Total		\$1,498.30

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
1859 10/07/19Othan Gilbert (dues letters/ mailing)		\$55.36	
1860 10/23/19IMWRF (Oct. MOAA Dinner)		760.00	
	Expenditures Total		\$815.36

Net Increase \$682.94
(11/04/19) Current Total Balance of; \$31,119.47

	All In checking	\$6,907.31	
	All In Savings	\$5.41	
	All In Money Market	\$24,206.75	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);			-\$24,206.75
	Life Membership	\$10,170.00	
	MOAA reserve,	\$14,036.75	
Minus Savings:		\$5.41	-\$5.41

******Usable Funds as of November 4, 2019 (Minus reserve/savings) \$6,907.31**
 Other News *No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$404.00
 *CW4 Albert Cooper, deceased, \$170 moved into MOAA Reserve.

by the President of the United States.

MOAA's Scholarship Foundation has experienced great success for tomorrow's leaders in college grants and scholarships of our member's children. Over 8 million dollars provided to approximately 1300 students have been awarded, with grants of 1.2 million and its projected increase to 1.6 million for next year.

Lastly, our 55-year-old MOAA Headquarters building in a portion of Old Town Alexandria Virginia, located a stone throw from the Capital and the Pentagon, underwent a total renovation costing over a couple million dollars provided the transformation to a state-of-the-art capability for our headquarters staff and personnel. I was also able to establish contact with the primary scheduler for LTG (Ret) Dana Atkins, Ms. Genelle Cox, for coordinating future visits to our Chapter and the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising organizational event conducted by the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College.

DOUG JONES
SENATOR for ALABAMA

VETERANS TOWN HALL & RESOURCE FAIR

Monday, November 25, 2019

Join the Office of U.S. Senator Doug Jones, and stakeholders, for a veterans benefits and services community forum. The event will kick off with a resource fair and close with a paneled townhall.

Resource Fair opens at 4:00 PM and Town Hall begins at 5:30 PM

Lakeshore Foundation
4000 Ridgeway Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2019 MOAA Annual Meeting of Members

November 5, 2019 marked MOAA's Annual Meeting of Members. Opening remarks with highlighted remarks included the state of MOAA's recognition, by the Hill Newspaper, by MOAA's seemingly preeminent position for military advocacy for the 12th consecutive year as one of the top 50 lobbying organization in the country. The only military veteran or military organization so recognized. The top three priorities for MOAA continue to be the repeal of the "Widow's Tax", block Tricare increases, and pay and benefits of our military. The highly unfair Widow's Tax has seen a record number of co-sponsorship with 379 co-sponsors in the House, and 76 co-sponsors in the Senate. It looks good that this piece of legislation will finally pass and surely signed *(continued in column at right)*

EDITOR'S NOTE—Your MOAA newsletter is an apolitical publication. This notice of Mr. Jones' town hall meeting is provided because he is an elected official who desires to meet with and hear from veterans. Publication of the above announcement is neither support for nor against Mr. Jones.

SILENT AUCTION

To benefit our MOAA Scholarship applicants

Here are a few of the items we have so far.



Brass & semi-precious stone globe



Bichon - original oil

Crewel pillow



Antique mahogany sewing box w/crotch grain veneer



Painted Wood Box

If you are donating a Silent Auction item, email me a picture and description prior to December 11th: estesf@troycable.net

All Silent Auction items were donated by our MOAA Chapter officers & directors, and by local businesses. All proceeds go to our MOAA Fort Rucker Chapter's Scholarship Fund. BID GENEROUSLY!



Painted wood box



Very old handmade covered bucket



w/darning & mending yarns



Embroidered hand towels



Old sheet/pillow cases

Delicate & beautiful corchet work

Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day December 14, 2019

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 11:00 AM join us at Meadowlawn Memorial Park to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

The goal at Meadowlawn is to raise enough funds to place 1360 veterans' wreaths on the headstones of all the local heroes laid to rest there, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of our country never be forgotten and to bring the community together in patriotic commemoration.

Those interested in supporting this effort please contact the Enterprise Post 6683 VFW Auxiliary, USAWOA Above The Best Silver Chapter, or go to Wreaths Across America Meadowlawn Memorial Park (ALMMPE) webpage.

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service, but to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for us to live freely. This year, there will be more than 1,600 participating locations placing wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 – with more than two million volunteers coming together.



PICTURES FROM OCTOBER 19th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Lisa Bailey, Edwin Cox, & Reginald Rhodes



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Louise & Wendall Coursey, & Dee Gilbert



Martha & Ben McKee



Tim Bedsole & Dennis Newton



Tim, Dot & Ken Bedsole



Linda & Robert Littlefield



Dee & Rhonda Gilbert



Sam & John Newton



Minh & Gerald Colley



Eileen & Nick Barreca



Mike & Nance Milton, & Bill Carter

**Christmas Dinner
December 14th
See you there.
Make reservations.
Bring a friend.
Great dinner &
Silent Auction**



Laik & Ron Kaita

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.



Please support our sponsors. Let them know we care about them.



Ray Collins, Gail Berry, Mary Jane Collins, Peter Berry



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Looking for Warrant Officers, past and present



United States Army Warrant Officer Association
 Above The Best Silver Chapter
 Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362

PLEASE JOIN US
 Monthly meetings second Tuesday of every month.

Follow us on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA/>



Teresa King
 Branch Manager

1184 East Andrews Avenue
 Ozark, AL 36360
 tking@allincu.com
 334.774.4929 ext. 2100
 NMLS #989708

allincu.com

24 - Hr Emergency Service
334-774-8050
334-687-4550

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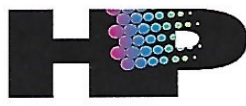
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Coffee County Arts Alliance Center Drugs & Home Health
 — PRESENT —

MASTERS OF SOUL A Motown Review Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Supremes & More	Jan 16, 2020 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN A Musical	Feb 18, 2020 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 4 & 5 2020	Enterprise State Community College

THE SEASON IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DR. EMMETT T. BRUNSON

Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)
www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com

MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075

Return Service Requested

MOAA Membership Application
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: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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