



August—September
2020

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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**THE AUGUST DINNER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
WE WILL NOTIFY OUR MEMBERSHIP IN TIME TO
PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DINNER MEETING.**

President's Message by Lisa Bailey



Board Activities/Meetings:

Your chapter executive board voted to cancel our Bi-Monthly Meeting and dinner in August. The recent uptick in Covid-19 infections continues to impact everyone and all facilities and activities at Fort Rucker. Our inquiries about the use of facilities for our meetings have been fruitless and there is no prospect that we will be able to meet as we normally do any time soon.

We held our 13 July Board of Directors meeting via Zoom teleconference. It certainly was interesting for many members as it was their first time using the medium. It seemed to work well for us, and it may be something we can consider for a wider audience or chapter meeting. Any input from you would be great. Ideas are welcome! Our Alabama Council of Chapters President, LTC (ret) Dave Jensen had our 14 July meeting via Zoom, as well. The meeting was well attended, and he donated a one-year paid Zoom account to the council. The paid account does not have a time limit like my free account does, so it was easier to manage the meeting. I did note that both meetings were shorter than normal—interesting.

LTC (Ret) Dave Jensen President Alabama Council of Chapters

If you are interested, the Alabama Council of Chapters has a website with a lot of great information about our efforts in affecting state legislation on behalf of our members. The website is www.alamoaa.org. Our state Council has two members who also serve on the Alabama State Board of Veterans Affairs. One serves on the committee that oversees state cemeteries and one on the Veterans Homes Committee. As you know, the State Board recently chose Enterprise as the next site for a state veterans' home.

The Alabama Council is seeking a representative for Surviving Spouses affairs. There is a lot of knowledge and mentorship that goes along with the learning to serve in the position. If you are interested, please let me know. You do not need to be a surviving spouse. A current spouse or any current member can serve.

Local Activities:

Locally we continue suspension of our in-person support of the Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations until further notice, although our Vice President, CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita is still preparing the certificates and coordinating the monetary awards with MOAA national and the cadre at the school. The cadre are presenting our MOAA awards for us to minimize our exposure.

The annual presentation of the Order of the Eagle Rising by Lt. Gen Atkins, our MOAA President and Chief Executive Officer, did occur on 7 July. The ceremony was held virtually with our own Vice President, CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita in attendance representing *(continued on page 3)*



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Legislative Report

by Charlie Wigglesworth



As we continue to work with the health care personnel involved with COVID 19 virus that is sweeping our Nation and the world, continue to be mindful of those measures that will help reduce the risk of exposure (masks, social distancing, hand washing). If we all do our part, maybe we will beat this virus. Now for news on the legislative front.

1. The Senate will vote on an amendment to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure. The amendment, put forward by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), would add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of veterans' diseases associated with Agent Orange. Tester's office announced the amendment in a press release just before Independence Day.

2. MOAA joined with several other military service and immigrant advocacy organizations in a recent letter to Capitol Hill leaders asking for permanent legislative solutions to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program as it pertains to service members and their families. The Supreme Court recently issued a ruling to preserve the DACA program. DACA provides protections for individuals commonly known as "Dreamers" -- undocumented immigrants who arrive in the U.S. as children. The program allows them to apply for deferred action and a work permit if they do not have a serious criminal record.

3. Tricare users with lower back problems may soon be able to get free physical therapy to help ease their pain -- if they live in certain states. Officials with the healthcare program for military families and retirees announced they will begin a pilot program in January 2021 that allows members to receive up to three free physical therapy treatments for lower back pain. The program is scheduled to run for two years and will be available in ten states. The states where the pilot program will occur are: Arizona; California; Colorado; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; North Carolina; Ohio; Tennessee; and Virginia. These states were chosen for their large military retiree populations. We need to work with our representatives to get Alabama added to the list.

4. The House version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) puts the brakes on DoD's fast movement toward consolidating the back-office operations of the commissary and exchange systems. The House provision would require DoD to conduct a new business case analysis (BCA)



incorporating the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in its latest report. The provision also would require additional comments from the military services to be made available alongside DoD's final recommendation on reform efforts to better inform the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on all consolidation perspectives. DoD would not be able to move forward on reform efforts without congressional approval after reviewing a renewed BCA.

The above information is from the MOAA homepage news. You can review this information and much more on their page. I am only hitting some highlights that affect us locally.

God Bless and be safe.



Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is currently 149. I regret to inform you of the death of three of our chapter members. All lived in Enterprise. MAJ (ret) William Schwartz (wife Doris) died 9 Sep 2019 at the age of 98. He was our oldest chapter member. COL (ret) Thomas Bailey (wife Sue) died 24 May 2020. COL (ret) Ken Bedsole (wife Dot) died 2 July 2020. Our condolences are extended to all three families.

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 past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

Remember to patronize the nine sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Hope everyone keeps safe during this difficult period.

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019-2020



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
13 Jul 2020	15 Jul 2020	
10 Aug 2020		CANCELLED
14 Sep 2020	16 Sep 2020	
12 Oct 2020		17 Oct 2020
9 Nov 2020	18 Nov 2020	
14 Dec 2020		19 Dec 2020



2019 Order of the Eagle Rising Society Inductee

On 7 July 2020, CW5 (Ret) Robert (Bob) J. Letendre (left) was inducted as the 23rd Order of the Eagle Rising Society inductee for 2019. The presentation was held in the Army Aviation Museum, and broadcasted live via Facebook, with Lt Gen (Ret) Dana Atkins President and CEO for the Military Officer Association of America inducting Bob from his office in MOAA Headquarters, Arlington Virginia. His Eagle Rising medallion and framed certificate was presented by Colonel Ross F. Nelson, Commandant of the US Army Warrant Officer Career College. The Order of the Eagle Rising Society was established in 2004 as a joint venture between MOAA and USAWOCC, and annually awarded to an individual who has contributed significantly over his/her lifetime to the outstanding promotion of the warrant officer community. In attendance was his dear wife Lucy.

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1) our local effort. We also donated to help offset the cost of the festivities for the awardee and his family. More about this prestigious award and the ceremony in another article.

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Dana Atkins President of MOAA

We continue to try to plan for activities for the chapter. No word yet on the annual Retiree Activities Days at Fort Rucker. The announcement has just been made that the annual Level of Excellence Awards usually held in September will probably be held virtually. The national organization of MOAA has technology to support this effort. We submitted our application in May and hope to again receive this prestigious recognition. Your efforts do make a difference.



Officer Elections:

Speaking of your efforts, we are going to have elections for officers in December and will need to appoint a nominating committee in September. I would love to have a volunteer to take on this task. Many of the folks in the current positions have volunteered to take on yet another term, but we do not have a full slate at this time. We sure would love to have some help on the Board. It would be great to have some new efforts and new ideas to serve you and our area.

Dothan Ed Burkhalter Chapter:

Our area may just get larger, too. The recent loss of MAJ (Ret) Danny Odom, the President of Dothan's Ed Burkhalter Chapter, is bringing that chapter activity to a close. If you know of a member in the area who is no longer affiliated with a chapter, please either contact LTC (Ret) Othan Gilbert, our membership chairman, or one of the other members of the

Board to help recruit them to our chapter. There is a lot of information on our website, at fortrucker-moaa.org, to include an application for membership.

Our chapter members must be members of the national organization. The website for our national organization is www.moaa.org and if you haven't visited it recently, there is an amazing amount of information available on the website. For prospective members, the information on the website includes a great why join page. There are free memberships! No reason not to join the hundreds of thousands of members whose voices are heard and represented on our behalf in Washington. No time like the present to be heard. Recent lobbying by MOAA has favorably affected the current NDAA negotiations.

Some sad news. We are mourning the recent death of our long-time member, COL (ret) Ken Bedsole. He and his wife Dorothy (Dot) were in regular attendance at our chapter meetings. Please keep his family in your prayers.



*Dr. William Keneith Bedsole COL (Ret)
US Army*

As I stated in the last newsletter and again in this one: So here we all are, awaiting the daily reports of all kinds of numbers and statistics, and seeking a silver lining in this sickness and its economic impact on our country and throughout the world. I have great hope and belief that our leadership is doing their absolute best to defeat this monstrous pandemic and to head off economic collapse. From the time that I sit at my computer writing this to the time it is published, many things will have changed, and my prayer is that it is for the better.

And I continue praying. Hope you are all well and safe.

Major Chains That Mandate Face Masks for Shoppers

by Andy Markowitz, [AARP](http://www.aarp.org), Updated July 17, 2020, from www.aarp.org; (partial list).

Walmart - Mask

policy: The nation's biggest retailer announced on July 15 that masks would be required at all Walmart and Sam's Club outlets starting Monday, July 20. The company said the move would "bring consistency across stores and clubs," about two-thirds of which were already subject to state or local mask requirements, and represents "a simple step everyone can take for their safety and the safety of others in our facilities." Employees will be stationed at store entrances to remind customers of the requirement and work with those who arrive without a mask.

Kroger - Mask policy: On July 15 the country's largest super-market chain issued a statement announcing a shift from encouraging to requiring masks, effective July 22. "We are taking this extra step now because we recognize additional precautions are needed to protect our country," the company said.

Costco - Mask poli-

cy: Since May 4 the members-only warehouse club has required that shoppers cover their faces. "We know some members may find this inconvenient or objectionable, but under the circumstances we believe the added safety is worth any inconvenience," President and CEO Craig Jelinek said in a statement on the company's website. "This is not simply a matter of personal choice; a face covering protects not just the wearer but others, too."

CVS - Mask policy: Citing "the recent spike in COVID-19 infections," the pharmacy chain will require masks in all stores starting July 20. "We're not asking our store employees to play the role of enforcer," Jon Roberts, the company's chief operating officer, said in a July 16 statement. "What we are asking is that customers help protect themselves and those around them by listening to the experts and heeding the call to wear a face covering."

Target - Mask policy: "Starting August 1, we're requiring guests to wear masks or face coverings in all of our stores, except for those with underlying medical conditions and young children," the company said in a July 16 update to its coronavirus response page. Stores will provide disposable masks to shoppers who arrive without one.

Best Buy - Mask policy: "Customers and employees are required to wear a face covering. We will supply a face covering if you don't have one," the electronics retailer states in an online rundown of its in-store safety measures. The mandate was announced July 14 and implemented the following day.

Publix - Mask policy: "Beginning July 21, customers are required to use face coverings over their noses and mouths while inside any Publix store," the supermarket chain said in a message posted July 16 to its web page on coronavirus shopping

TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 07/13/2020 is, **\$30,565.38**. 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:	(06/08/20) Starting balance of;	\$30,661.40
DEPOSITS	ACTION	
06/08/20	MOAA Wire Transfer	\$50.00
06/23/2020	MOAA Dues (R. Smith)	12.00
06/30/2020	Money Market Interest (April)	11.98
	Deposits Total	\$73.98
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1882 07/10/2020	Mrs. Dorothy Bedsole (Return of dues, deceased)	\$ 170.00
	Expenditures Total	\$170.00
	Net Decrease	\$96.0
(07/13 /20) Current Total Balance of;		\$30,565.38
	All In checking	\$6,258.38
	All In Savings	\$5.41
	All In Money Market	\$24,301.59
Reserve Total:	(Minus Reserve);	-\$24,301.59
	Life Membership	\$9,560.00
	MOAA reserve,	\$14,741.59
	Minus Savings:	-\$5.41
*Usable Funds as July 13, 2020 (Minus reserve/savings)		\$6,258.38

Other News* No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$235.00

protocols. "This new mandate is encouraged by the CDC for most individuals."


Dollar Tree - Mask policy: "In accordance with guidelines from the CDC, we are requiring all associates, customers and vendors to wear cloth face coverings when inside our stores," the discount retailer, which also operates the Family Dollar chain, said in a July 8 update of its coronavirus response page.

Verizon - Mask policy: "Customers are required to wear cloth face coverings" at Verizon's retail locations, according to the company's web page on store operations.

Kohl's - Mask policy: The department store will require patrons to mask up starting July 20. With government mask orders already applying to about 70 percent of its locations, "we've made the decision to take a consistent approach across our entire store fleet," the company said in announcing the policy on July 15.

Starbucks - Mask policy: The coffee chain's mask mandate took effect July 15. "We respectfully require customers follow social distancing and safety protocols recommended by public health officials, including wearing a facial covering when visiting our stores," Starbucks states on its COVID-19 information page. "It is our responsibility to protect our partners and comply with local public health mandates. As such, our partners have the right and responsibility to refuse service to customers who are not wearing facial coverings."

AT&T - Mask policy: "Masks are required to be worn by employees, customers and visitors in our stores (both in store and curbside) and will be provided to customers who need them," an AT&T spokesman said in an emailed statement.



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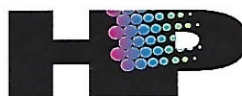
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MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter

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.

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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!

Webaddress: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org