

April—May 2023



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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 36320
 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH - 11:00 AM LUNCHEON,
The Terrace at Grove Park, 101 Tulip Lane, Dothan, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 11:00 AM
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 11:45 AM
Dinner: Noon

- >Grilled Ribs. Alternate—Baked Chicken
- >Potato Salad
- >Green Beans
- >House Salad
- >Salad Dressing of Choice
- >Dinner Rolls
- >Strawberry Cheese Cake
- >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: FREE

Whoya Gonna Call?



Please make your Reservations by noon Friday April 14th and cancellations must be received by Tuesday April 18th to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966.




President’s Message by Ron Kaita



I thank all who attended our last dinner meeting last month and look forward to next month’s free luncheon meeting at the Terrace in Dothan. Highlights for February include Othan Gilbert accompanied by his wife Dee, and my wife Lark and myself attending MOAA’s Leadership Workshop in Birmingham, AL. Many topics were provided for both Chapters and Alabama’s Council of Chapters (ALCOC) touching on membership recruiting, effective chapter operations, media and tools MOAA provides to attendees to be familiar with, and overall health, agenda and legislative priorities MOAA will be engaging for 2023 with our representatives on Capitol Hill.

As you have had the opportunity to watch, listen or read the news lately, this year will be largely difficult for all of us to retain or sustain our current

benefits/entitlements due the heavy financial burden our Nation finds itself in with 31 TRILLION dollars in debt, major bank failures, and massive drop in market shares and stock values, and the cost of runaway inflation our household budgets endure. This is compounded by very negative news on the status of our declining military readiness and lack-luster service member recruiting efforts. This is not an inclusive list, but just to demonstrate the challenges MOAA has this year to represent our service men/women and their families, retirees, and veterans who have done the heavy lifting when our country has beckoned to secure our freedoms and liberties by keeping our Nation free and fighting our enemies in conflicts all around the globe. Be thankful we have MOAA fighting for us as they and the military coalition try their

best to hold back the cuts and cost increases we endure.

If you haven’t noticed, Fort Rucker will have its name changed to Fort Novosel on 10 April 2023 with a 1000 hrs ceremony in Veteran’s Park in front of the Aviation Museum. Does that affect our chapter’s name...No. We will continue to be called the Fort Rucker MOAA Chapter since chartered in 1959.

The good news is MOAA continues to maintain its membership over 350,000. This continues to be a challenge to retain our membership numbers for influencing those on the Hill. Remember, we are all recruiters for our association so please reach out to the many active-duty officers and retirees within our community and invite them to join. It’s free for life, the Basic Membership, as I can (see **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE page 2**)

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from page 1) provide the sign-up card for them to fill out. Just ask them to review MOAA's webpage for upcoming issues and priorities on the many needs and challenges ahead as MOAA works to protect and defend the earned benefits of our men and women in uniform and their families.

Our Chapter's major line of effort for MOAA continues to be the recruitment of US Army Warrant Officers. The US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) has this year's slate of Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) classes with graduation ceremonies on Wednesdays at 1000 hrs, March 15, 22, 29 and 19 April 2023 in the Aviation Museum. As usual, our chapter will support with the presentation of Leadership and Distinguished Honor Graduates from the WOCS. MOAA awards at every graduation for MOAA National in recognition of their achievements with a MOAA certificate, a \$100 check, and a three-year Premium membership. Please come out and witness the appointment of the Army's newest warrant officers. The ceremony is inspiring...guaranteed.

I would like to remind everyone to please check out MOAA's National homepage as to the many important updates and new offerings. The MOAA memorabilia store is now open and as they are constantly making new offerings for its members so, please check out the traveling opportunities and discounts offered by MOAA.

As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed keeping us safe and secure.



Membership Report


by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is currently 129.

In February Ron Kaita and I plus our wives attended a MOAA Regional Conference in Birmingham. I thought you might be interested in some membership information we learned during that time. There are 350,000 MOAA national members but only 15% belong to chapters and the average age of chapter members is 75. There are many MOAA National members in this area that are not, for various reasons, members of our chapter. It is apparent that we need to get some of our younger members to join our chapter. The best recruiter is you. If you are reading this column, then you know how much MOAA has meant to the military community (including enlisted). Please be a strong advocate of MOAA and see if you can get your friends to join MOAA on the national and local level.


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 past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life membership, it is better to do so by calling them direct and speaking with someone. If you do that (vs doing so over the web), they will give you a 10% discount, give you credit for your current premium membership (if applicable) and arrange payments over an extended period.

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

Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2023		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
4-10-2023		4-20-2023 (L)
5-8-2023	5-17-2023	
6-12-2023		6-15-2023 (L)
7-10-2023	7-19-2023	
8-14-2023		8-17-2023 (L)
9-11-2023	9-20-2023	
10-16-2023		10-21-2023 (D)
11-13-2023	11-15-2023	
12-11-2023		12-16-2023 (D)

L= Lunch on Thursdays @ 11:00. D= Dinner on Saturdays @ 1800.

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Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings Everyone!

The season of winter and times of rest has now given the hidden preparation of the earth's awakening and the beginning of spring as we march on in the month of March. Already the renewal of green foliage after the rains brings the fresh beautiful flowers that have awoken with cheerful colors shining from pastel to brilliant beauty.

Nature and March winds stir the atmosphere embodies progression for gardens, plans, and accomplishments.

March is a month of expectation, moving forward, inwardly growing, along with insight, renewed strength, and commitment of purpose. From there, purpose includes persistence to consider and contribute to the lives of others. St. Patrick gives us an example of purpose as history reviles his capture in youth to be isolated and tending sheep for seven years before escaping and becoming a minister to bring God's word to Ireland and around the world. The Spring Equinox holds the beginning of the Jewish Passover, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter the destination of the Lenten season marking the beginning of the spring season.

ROWA has enjoyed the month of March as we met on a bright sunny day at the Landing for luncheon and fellowship. Hostess Sandy Hefner provided colorful decorations for the table with sweet treats to enjoy for dessert. We shared thoughts and noted the ROWA donation for the Sweet Heart Bingo was very appreciated and heard how much those attending enjoyed the event. It was also noted that the MWR at Ft. Rucker will have a Leisure Travel display at The Landing Friday March 17. ROWA will meet again at The Landing April 11 and the last meeting of this term will be May 9. The new term will have the first luncheon September 12.

Members and Guests are invited. Please contact Mary Rutkowski for reservations at 334-345-4066. May March bring you blessings as St. Patrick said: *"May the Wisdom of God instruct us and May the Word of God direct us."*



Legislative Report

by Ray Collins



Well now we know how at least one element of the U.S. government would attempt to get our "run away" deficit spending under control. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has taken the easy road which is sadly "The road often traveled" to reduce deficit spending. In its biennial report to lawmakers the CBO has offered two options which would "enlist" TRICARE For Life recipients to help lower the deficit. Both of the proposals would cost TRICARE For Life recipients hundreds if not thousands of dollars. One of the proposals would require Medicare eligible beneficiaries who enroll in TFL to pay an annual enrollment fee of \$575.00 for individual coverage or \$1150.00 for family coverage. These fees would be indexed to grow at the same rate as Medicare costs.

The other CBO plan would introduce minimum out of pocket requirements including an \$850.00 deductible. TFL would not cover any of the first \$850.00 of beneficiaries Medicare cost sharing. After the deductible was satisfied TFL would cover only fifty percent of next \$7650.00 in Medicare cost sharing. What does that mean? TFL beneficiaries could face up to \$4675.00 in cost sharing per year.

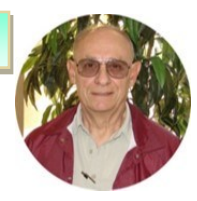
The question is to FSA or not to FSA (Flexible Spending Accounts). Many large employers including the federal government offer FSA's but not DOD. Flexible Spending Accounts allow for the payment of child care, health care and other cost using tax free income. Sounds like a good deal for service members but it might not be for some. This requires more study and like most issues study on an individual basis.

Maybe some good news if past situations are an indication. This year with the convening of the 118th Congress there will be more military veterans than in many years. There will be 97 military veterans occupying some of the 535 congressional seats.

COLA Watch: The December 2022 Consumer Price Index is 291.051 or 0.3% below the FY 2023 COLA



TREASURER'S REPORT *by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart*



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Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 03/13/2023 is **\$28,146.31**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (02/13/23) Starting balance of; **\$27,881.98**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
02/14/23 2023	dues for three (1 for 2 yrs)	\$48.00
02/21/23	MOAA dinner receipts (\$92 sch fnd; 1 dues 2 yrs \$24; 1 NL SP \$150)	926.00
03/08/23	Member Dues (one for 3 yrs)	36.00
Deposits Total		\$1,010.00

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1972	02/13/23 Carolyn Wooley (Printer Ink)	\$94.71
1973	02/21/23 Loel Ewart (Printer Paper)	43.46
1974	02/21/23 IMWRF (MOAA Dinner)	607.50
Expenditures Total		\$745.67
Net Increase		\$264.33

(02/13 /23) **Current Total Balance of;** **\$28,146.31**

All In checking	\$6,568.96
All In Savings	\$5.42
All In Money Market	\$21,571.93

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$21,571.93
Life Membership	\$7,900.00
MOAA reserve	\$13,671.93

Minus Savings:	\$5.42	-\$5.42
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***Usable Funds as of February 13 (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$6,568.96**

Other News*NO outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$92.00

MOAA Warrant Officer Candidate School Awards

WOCS Class 23-06 MOAA Awardees



(L to R) Ldershp WO1 Vlorim Aliu and DHG WO1 Benjamin Brady

WOCS Class 23-07 MOAA Awardees



(L to R) Ldershp WO1 Jaelen Truitt and DHG WO1 Samuel Means

MOAA FORT RUCKER CHAPTER'S PAST PRESIDENTS

1959	Henry A. Johnson Jr	COL USA
1960	Paul Miller	LTC USA
1961	Henry A Mooney	LTC USAF
1962	Thomas J Sabiston	LTC USA Deceased
1963	Thomas J Sabiston	LTC USA Deceased
1964	Jack Blohm	LTC USA
1965	Jack Blohm	LTC USA
1966	William H Smith	LTC USA
1967	Conway L. Ellers	LTC USA Deceased
1968	Edward McMaken	COL USA Deceased
1969	Herbert M Luckfield	COL USA Deceased
1970	Edward McMaken	COL USA Deceased
1971	William H Jenkins	LTC USA
1972	H Carroll Howard	COL USA Deceased
1973	Peter Venable	LTC USAF Deceased
1974	Samuel M Shaw	LTC USA Deceased
1975	Samuel M Shaw	LTC USA Deceased
1976	Samuel M Shaw	LTC USA Deceased
1977	Henry Davis	CDR USN Deceased
1978	Bill Monts	LTC USA Deceased
1979	Bill Monts	LTC USA Deceased
1980	Jack Stoutamire	COL USA
1981	William D Owens	CPT USN
1982	Glenn Dunlap	COL USAF Deceased
1983	Don McCabe	LTC USA
1984	Robert W Bailey	COL USA Deceased
1985	Bob Bailey	COL USA Deceased
1986	Glenn Dunlap	COL USAF Deceased
1987	Bill Lockwood	COL USA
1988	Joseph Koehler	COL USA Deceased
1989	Richard Kenyon	MG USA
1990	Virgil L Danielson	LTC USA
1991	Virgil L Danielson	LTC USA
1992	Andrew J Miller	COL USA Deceased
1993	Clyde A Hennies	BG USA
1994	Ward Coleman	LTC USA
1995	Ward Coleman	LTC USA
1996	Stan Heath	COL USA
1997	Rod Wolfe	BG USA
1998	Charlie Webb	COL USA
1999	Dave Swank	COL USA
2000	John Anderson	LTC USA Deceased
2001	Bobby Holland	LTC USA
2002	Mike Abbott	COL USA
2003	Steve Bolton	LTC USA
2004	Steve Bolton	LTC USA
2005	Joe Rutkowski	COL USA Deceased
2006	Joe Rutkowski	COL USA Deceased
2007	Ray Collins	LTC USA
2008	Richard Fougeron	CPT USA Deceased

2008	Charlie Block	COL USMC
2009	Charlie Block	COL USMC
2010	Mike Abbott	COL USA
2011	Scott Larese	COL USA
2012	Scott Larese	COL USA
2013	Larry Turnage	COL USA
2014	Larry Turnage	COL USA
2015	Othan Gilbert	LTC USA
2016	Othan Gilbert	LTC USA
2017	Charlie Wigglesworth	CW5USA
2018	Charlie Wigglesworth	CW5USA
2019	Lisa Bailey	MAJ USA
2020	Lisa Bailey	MAJ USA
2021	Ron Kaita	CW5USA
2022	Ron Kaita	CW5USA
2023	Ron Kaita	CW5USA



MOAA hears about Army Aviation Museum

At a recent dinner meeting of the Fort Rucker Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Robert Mitchell, the Director of the US Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, spoke about stages in the development of Army Aviation reflected in the museum and the current construction of the new Training Support Facility adjacent to the museum. MOAA has a national membership of approximately 350,000 members and is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It advocates a strong national defense and represents the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. Shown in the accompanying photograph is CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita, the President of the chapter, and Mitchell.

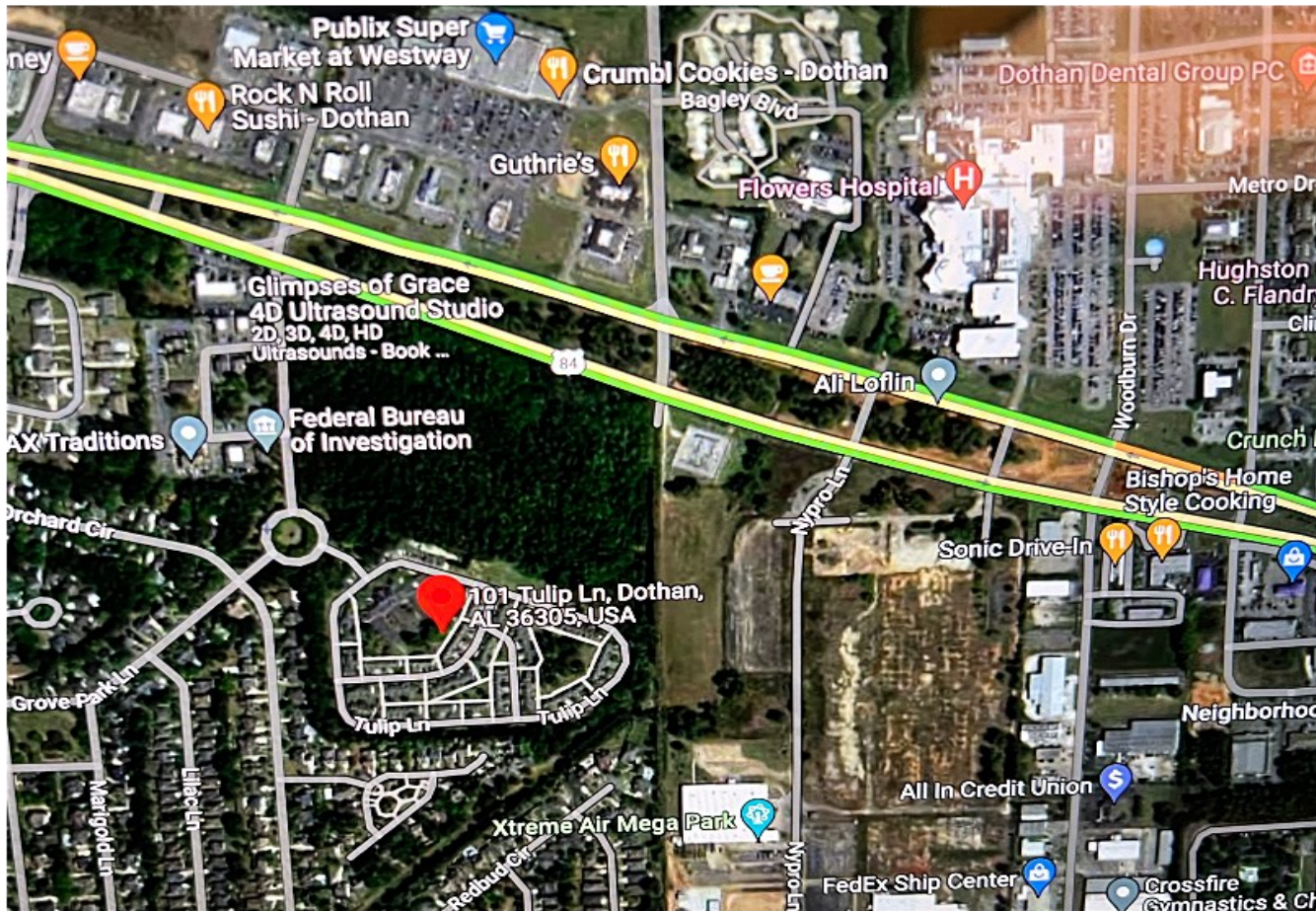
SBP Offset by DIC Eliminated—“If you are a surviving spouse eligible to receive both the SBP Annuity and the DIC from the VA, you should have noticed a change in your February 1, 2023 annuity pay statement. On January 1, 2023, the offset of the SBP annuity by the DIC was eliminated.

> You now receive your SBP annuity in full.

> The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) you have been receiving because of the offset stopped since the offset no longer exists.”

(Extracted from the *Army Echoes Newsletter*, Feb-Apr 2023)

The Terrace at Grove Park



101 Tulip Ln, Dothan, AL 36305

MOAA Leaders Workshop Birmingham, AL Feb 2023



(L to R) Ron & Lark Kaita and Ms. Kathy Partain (MOAA VP Membership/Marketing) Othan and Dee Gilbert attended the Workshop, but are not shown above.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Quite a number of years ago, a long-time Army friend of mine passed away after suffering a long term illness. A couple of months later, I saw our friend's widow at the Fort Rucker Officers' Club. Sometime during our conversation with her, she walked up to me, and while facing me grabbed me by both my upper arms and said: "The hardest thing I had to do when my husband passed away was write his obituary. Don't you make your wife do that when you pass away!"

Afterwards, I gave that a great deal of thought, and did as she asked - - - wrote my own obituary. Then, I got to thinking. There are many, many other things my wife would have to do. So, I began the arduous task of determining what those things were, and ultimately ended up with a 13-page document that lists and discusses such things as: personal info, SSN, former serial numbers, estate attorney, CPA/tax preparer, stock broker, Veterans' Affairs Officer, Casualty Assistance Officer, Retirement Services Officer, how to report death, SBP, key websites/phone numbers, checklist, preferred burial site, insurance policies and bank account numbers, phone calls to make, fraternal organizations to notify, newspapers to notify, where key papers are located, and similar items/actions.

The *Army Echoes Newsletter* is a great source of information for updating this 13-page document.

Photos from February 18, 2023 Dinner



Ron Kaita, Chapter President presents memento to Robert Mitchell, Guest Speaker



Robert Mitchell's presentation on the new Training Support Facility at Fort Novosel



Ron Kaita & Fred Draper



Dinner Guests



More of Mr. Mitchell's presentation.



Dinner Guests 2



& More Dinner Guests



More Dinner Guests



Rest of the Dinner Guests



Last of the Dinner Guests



Loel Ewart, Mary Rutkowski, & Susanne Bailey

Photos from February 18th, 2023 Dinner



Ron & Lark Kaita



Cecil & Charlotte Simmons



Charlie & Claudia Wigglesworth



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Ray & Mary Jane Collins



Jennie & Ryan Barr



John & Sam Newton



Kathleen & Ron Ferrell



Othan & Dee Gilbert



Earl Hyers & Dee Gilbert



Barbara Ewart & Sam Newton



Shelly & Paul English

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Coffee County Arts Alliance
— PRESENTS —

MESSIAH A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 4, 2022 5:00 pm	First Baptist Church Enterprise
FOREVER YOUNG <i>Your Life - Your Music</i>	Feb 7, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA AN IRISH HEART WITH Chloë Agnew	Mar 3, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
RESURRECTION - A JOURNEY TRIBUTE <i>The Best of Journey</i>	Apr 4, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 22 & 23 2023	ESCC

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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**