

June-July 2023



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 Novosel, Alabama 36362 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: http://www.fortruckermoaa.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

>President's Message 1
>Guest Speaker 1
>Membership Report 2
>Member Spotlight 2
>Burial in National Cemetery 2
>ROWA Report 3
>Legislative Report 3
>Treasurer's Report 4
>WO Awards 4
>Luncheon Pictures 5-6
>MOAA Chapter Calendar 6
>Sponsors' Ads 6-7
>Membership Form 8

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 11:00 AM
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 11:45 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
>Mixed green salad w/ assorted dressings
>Grilled pork chop w/parsley, peanut, & mustard seed sauce
>Southwestern roasted corn
>Rolls & butter
>Sorbet w/fresh berries
>Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee
Cost per meal: \$20.00

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, THURSDAY JUNE 15TH LUNCHEON, ST. MICHAEL ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSEL, AL

President's Message by Ron Kaita



I hope all is well with everyone and I am confident we are all quite busy planning travels, vacations, and get together with family during this wonderful summer we are enjoying. Rainfall has been nice to us unless you are like me fighting weeds in the yard, planting fruit trees, and flowerbed maintenance.

Our chapter activities have mostly centered around supporting the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) activities. Our recruiting of Warrant Officer Candidates has been very good adding Basic Membership numbers for our Association with usually two or three recruiting events each month.

As schools wind down their year for the summer, we have been busy with presenting MOAA JROTC medals and certificates to designated outstanding JROTC Cadets at Enterprise, Carroll, Daleville, and Rehobeth High Schools. We are also preparing for the upcoming Commissioning Ceremonies for the graduates of Troy University's U.S. Army and Air Force ROTC programs with 2LT bar kits and membership to MOAA. Another major event we support is the upcoming Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Society award (ERS) with the Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC) in July that is sponsored by MOAA National.

As a shout out to our membership, I am still looking for someone to volunteer to become our next Chapter President. I will be honest that it does require some work, but if you are willing to step up to the plate, I will ensure a smooth translation and provide all the assistance

for on-boarding since I'm not going anywhere as elections for Chapter officers are later in the year. If you had a chance to review our Treasurer's report on our chapter website, you will notice we are doing very well so there are no surprises to anyone interested in becoming a chapter officer.

Our next meeting will again be a luncheon at The Landing on 15 June 2023, at 1100 - 1230 hrs at The Landing's St. Michael Room. We will have the pleasure of hosting Mr. Chris Mendez, the Chief of the Moral, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Marketing as our guest speaker. I am looking forward to all the activities and offerings Fort Novosel is making available to Soldiers and their families, retirees, and our veterans in the Wiregrass area.

If available, please come out for the Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations that will be occurring for Class 23-14 at the Aviation Museum on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 and Class 23-15 at the Post Theater on Thursday, 1 June 2023. Both graduations start at 1000 hours. We present MOAA National awards at every graduation in recognition of their achievements with a MOAA certificate, a \$100 check, and a three-year Premium membership.

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. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, their families, retirees, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.

Whoa Gonna Call? Please make Reservations by noon Friday June 9th to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966. Cancellations must be made by noon Monday June 12th. Cash or personal checks only! Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on the Monday prior to the Luncheon Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Chris Mendez
Ft. Novosel Morale, Welfare, & Recreation (MWR) Update



Membership Report by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count remains at 129.

I don't know for sure, but I suspect many of you do not ever visit our chapter website located at fortruckermoaa.org. Behind the scenes, Dennis Newton works very hard to keep it updated with the latest news about the chapter. I have always felt that a website was worthless unless a website was kept up to date. Dennis spends many hours doing just that. It is loaded with all kinds of information about the chapter. Not only does it have photos from chapter events going back to 2011, but it also has chapter treasurer reports and board minutes from 2018.

AND, it also has a copy of our original 1959 charter certification and our tax exempt number confirmation from the IRS. How many local organizations provide that much detailed information about themselves on the web, do you think? I would guess not many. In any case, check out our website today. I think you will appreciate all the hard work that goes into making this a great local chapter.

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. 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 directly 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.

MOAA Ft. Rucker Chapter Member Spotlight

CW5 (Retired) Ronald Kaita:

- ▶ President, MOAA Fort Rucker Chapter.
- ▶ Over 38 years of active duty service in the US Army as a Military Intelligence and Imagery Intelligence Warrant Officer.
- ▶ Five years as an Army Personnel Security Assistant.
- ▶ Entered the US Army at Fort Bragg, NC as a PV2 and retired at Fort Rucker, AL as a CW5.
- ▶ Numerous combat deployments, highlighted by Operations Desert Shield/Storm in 1991, and Iraqi Freedom (OIF 1) with V Corps in 2003.
- ▶ Lifetime military affiliated association memberships include: MOAA as Chapter VP and President, USAWOA as Chapter VP and President, Enterprise VFW Post 6683, and a member of Dothan DAV Chapter 87 and Fort Novosel's Retiree Council.



VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Burial at a National Cemetery

No one wants to think about it, but have you made your final plans? Have you put them in writing for those you leave behind so they'll know what your wishes are once you pass away? There are steps you can take now to make it easier on them when the time comes.

First, determine whether you're eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery. If you're uncertain, go to va.gov/burials-memorials and click on "Eligibility" toward the middle of the page. Gather up your required documents -- you'll need several, including DD-214 -- and submit them with your application for a pre-need determination (VA Form 40-10007), which means the question of eligibility will be resolved beforehand. Choose a VA national cemetery. If you need help filling out the paperwork, call them at 800-535-1117.

Then be sure your loved ones know you've taken the pre-approval steps and where your documents will be kept.

Be sure your final paperwork includes information for the Veterans

Legacy Memorial website (www.vlm.cem.va.gov). The VLM currently has 4.5 million veterans memorialized. (For some unexplainable reason, this does not include veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and we'd love to know why.) Information on each veteran includes name, dates of birth and death, rank, war period, decorations and more. Friends and family are allowed to upload images, a bio, stories and any historical documents.

In your stash of documents you might include a favorite photo or two that you'd like to have added to the VLM later. There's even a "Follow A Veteran" feature to send email alerts if any additional content is added to a veteran's listing. The listing for a veteran is done the day of interment, and listings go back to the Revolutionary War.

As a note: Only veterans are listed in the VLM. Spouses buried with the veteran are not included.

For help accessing the VLM site and uploading documents or photos, call them at 866-245-1490.

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Above article was extracted from a recent copy of *The Southern Star*.

Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Hello Everyone. That Merry Month of May brings us close to summertime with bright skies, warmer days and outside walks by beautiful flowers of bright colors and greenery. The joyful music of birds appear while announcing newness and birth of nature. We have just celebrated Mother's Day with beautiful floral arrangements. There are memories and loving times past which refresh the soul and lift the spirit. There are also many blessings throughout life from childhood to adulthood day by day.

From family to friends, we carry on legacies. One of the ROWA legacies is appearing in this year as we celebrate the

beginning of the Retired Officers' Wives Association which will be 50 years ago this November. The beginning of the Retired Officers Wives Association was given by Mrs. Olive Townsend who was the first leader and President for the club. Monthly meetings were times to share with friends who enjoyed various lunches and games such as Bridge. The Landing was a cherished time to get together while husbands enjoyed golf.

As days and years marched on, other Presidents served and others joined. While times moved on, there were various ways of decorating tables and having speakers for lunch with many in attendance. Also donations for good purpose were given at times. There were special times when leading ladies including the

Commanding General's wife and other leading ladies would graciously attend. Over the years, there would be up to 62 members in attendance. From there with years beyond when many new military wives began to have a work commitment from 8:00 to 5:00, there were those who continued and welcomed new members as today.

The 50th birthday of ROWA is November 14, 2023. There will be a celebration and more information will be provided soon. All former members are invited and many memories shared.

More information will be given in July. Have a wonderful summer!

God bless



Legislative Report by Ray Collins



This month's report centers on the recently released presidential budget proposal for Department of Defense (DoD) which tips the scales at \$880 billion or 3.3% over last year's proposal. Of the proposed DoD budget, \$842 Billion dollars would go directly to DoD entities and the remaining \$38 billion would be controlled by DoD to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent.

The budget contains a 5.2% pay raise for uniformed service members. We will take it, but it remains 2.6% below the Employment Cost Index.

The budget also contains a 5.2% raise for federal civilian employees.

The overall military end strength for both active and reserve components increased by 12,355. The strength adjustments include a reduction in the Army Reserve by 2,200, and increases for Marine Corps of 683, the Navy by 6,247, and the Air Force and Space Force

combined by 7,625.

The budget also includes \$1.45 billion to subsidize Commissary operations. The budget requests \$325 billion for the Veterans' Administration (VA) which is a 5% increase over the previous year. This item contains \$142 billion discretionary funding, much of which goes to veteran health care. \$182 billion is in mandatory funding to cover compensation and pensions, insurance and indemnities.

The VA budget also contains recognition of 40,000 homeless and at-risk veterans for which it aims to provide permanent housing and access to health care and support services.

The bill would provide for the expansion of the National Cemetery capability with honors equal to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) prior to it running out of space. There is a move afoot to significantly reduce the ANC eligibility and once again break faith with the uniformed services community.

COLA Watch: February 23 is 1.1% above the FY 2023 COLA baseline.

2023 Officers & Directors

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TREASURER’S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 05/08/2023 is **\$28,232.92**.
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market
Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (4/10/23) Starting balance of; **\$27,906.16**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
04/30/23	MM Interest for April	\$9.76
04/11/23	Ron K. donation \$200, Dues \$12	212.00
04/25/23	Sch Fund \$60, Donation \$9.00	69.00
05/01/23	Dues for one for 3 years	36.00
Deposits Total		\$326.76

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
None this period		
	Expenditures Total	\$00.00
	Net Increase	\$326.76

(05/08 /23) Current Total Balance of;	\$28,232.92
All In checking	\$6,616.53
All In Savings	\$5.43
All In Money Market	\$21,610.96
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$21,610.96
Life Membership	\$7,900.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,710.96
Minus Savings:	-\$5.43

*** Usable Funds as of May 8 (Minus reserve/savings) \$6,616.53**

Other News* NO outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$152.00.

Warrant Officer Awards



(L) Leadership Award - WO1 Andrew C. Mesker
(R) Dist. Honor Grad Award - WO1 Matthew L. Cox



(L) Leadership Award—WO1 Assata A. Coward
(R) Dist. Honor Grad —WO1 John R. Goedmakers

Photos from April 20, 2023 Luncheon



Ron & Lark Kaita



Luncheon head table?



Vicky Turner, The Terrace Marketing Director & Host, & Ron Kaita, MOAA Chapter President.



Finally, the head table.



More luncheon guests.



Luncheon guests.



Dee & Othan Gilbert



More & more luncheon guests.



Benny & Peggy Jones



And more luncheon guests.



Earl Hyers & Bob Bunting



Dick Kenyon & Mary Rutkowski



Photos from April 20, 2023 Luncheon



Al Apel & Dee Gilbert



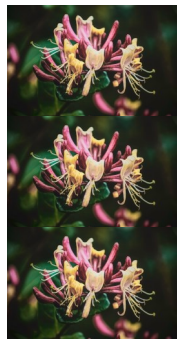
Ann & Frank Estes



More luncheon guests.



Loel & Barbara Ewart



Claudia & Charlie Wigglesworth



Susan Bailey & Faye Swinehart



Cecil & Charlotte Simmons



Rest of luncheon guests.

Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2023		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
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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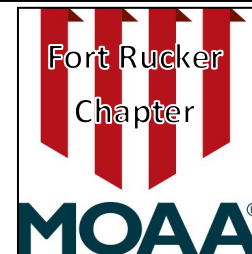


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Ft. Novosel, AL 36362-0075

Return Service Requested

MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter



Fort Rucker Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
PO Box 620075
Fort Novosel, 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!
Webaddress: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org