

December 2023 - January 2024



President's Message by Ron Kaita Medicare/Humana Information and

This year again has been a banner year for our Chapter. Though we have lost a few chapter members over this year, we continue to find new members to join which keeps our chapter alive and well. I have to recognize the outstanding job our chapter board members perform and who always work diligently to keep everyone informed of our business, news, and activities. There is no way I could succeed leading this outstanding chapter without them.

One of the actions/activity your chapter has been involved in was supporting the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). Dennis Newton and I enjoyed signing up new Basic MOAA members and seeing all the services that various entities on Fort Novosel provide to retirees, especially our medical teams from Lyster Army Health Clinic. If you hadn't had this year's flu shot, they were prepared to vaccinate all those desiring one. The Commissary, Educational Services, Insurance providers, Tricare for Life and

many other vendors to name a few were also present along with MOAA. The organizations with tax exemptions, like us, were given a huge discount to have a table for the event. Next year's RAD will surely be even larger with more offerings for our retirees.

We will continue to provide support to our Soldiers and their families with a holiday food basket for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. We also will fully fund our annual College Scholarship with MOAA National for interested high school senior looking for monies to fund their college tuition this coming spring. As far as changes...not much with the exception that we will revert to dinner meetings for 2024, and if you need a ride to the dinner meeting just let Mary Rutkowski know, and we will do our best to plan to pick you up and return home.

As usual, our chapter activities have mostly centered around supporting the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) events. Our recruiting of Warrant Officer

Candidates has been very good adding Basic MOAA Membership numbers for our association with the last two recruiting efforts from WOCS 24-01 and WOCS 24-02. We garnished 124 Basic members for Oct/Nov so far, with eight signed up during the Retiree Appreciation Day.

As a shout out reminder to our membership, I am still looking for someone to volunteer to become our next Chapter President. We will be in need as a minimum a new Chapter President and a new Chapter Vice President as elections for these two positions. I would be excited to announce those interested in assuming these positions during December's dinner meeting. If you had a chance to review our Treasurer's report on our chapter website, you will notice we are doing very well so our funding for this year's Holiday (Thanksgiving and Christmas) Food Donation for junior Soldiers through Fort Novosel's Army Community Service (ACS) and our annual donation to MOAA Nation for student scholarships is some of the (see **President's Corner, page 2**)

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, *SATURDAY DECEMBER 16, 2023*, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSSEL, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU
 Social: 6:00pm..... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm.....Dinner: 7:00pm
 >Mixed green salad w/cucumbers & assorted dressings
 >Prime rib
 >Green beans & crispy onions
 >Baked potatoes w/sour cream, butter, & shredded cheese
 >Rolls & butter
 >Cheesecake w/assorted toppings
 >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee
 Cost per meal: \$25.00/person


 Please make **Reservations by noon *Monday December 11th*** to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966.
Cancellations must be made by NOON *Friday December 15th*. Cash or personal checks only!
 Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.

Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is 131.

I am pleased to report the addition of two new chapter members: LTC Roy Templin who lives in Enterprise with his wife, Leslie, and CW5 Larry Jones who lives in Daleville with his wife, Marylou.

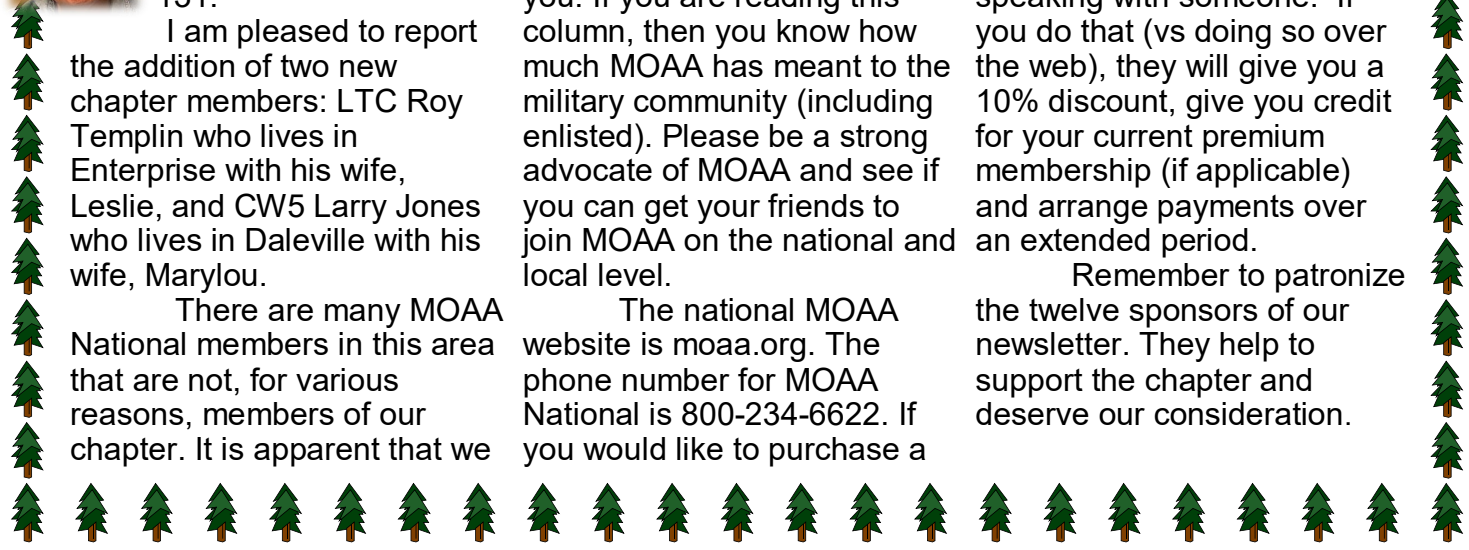
There are many MOAA National members in this area that are not, for various reasons, members of our chapter. It is apparent that we

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 twelve sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.



(President's Corner from page 1) reasons why we are awarded MOAA's 5-Star Level of Excellence streamer for 2022. Thank you all for everyone's contributions to make our chapter one of the best (Above the Best)!

Our next chapter dinner meeting will be centered on the Christmas spirit with songs hosted by Chaplain Dennis Newton and some door prizes to be held at the Landing on 16 December 2023, at 1800 hours with dinner served at 1900 hours. We look forward to dress with the Christmas theme and a superb Christmas dinner.

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 a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to your families, all retirees, and veterans to remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.

Membership Spotlight

COL (Ret) Frank Estes is our newsletter editor and lives in Ozark. He was born in 1938 in Gadsden, AL, and graduated from Spring Gardens High School in Cherokee County, AL. He graduated in 1960 from Jacksonville State University with a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in math and chemistry. While participating with the ROTC during his 4 years, he was also a member of the band, ROTC drill team and cheer leading squad. This is where he met Ann Oliver from Tallahassee, FL, his college sweetheart. Upon graduation, they married and Frank received his commission as a 2LT and entered into active duty at Fort Sill, OK, as an artillery officer. During his military career which included a variety of military courses, he also obtained a master's degree in public administration from Auburn.



During his 30 year Army career he served in many posts including battalion commander, brigade commander, instructor pilot, staff officer at the Pentagon (twice), Deputy Assistant Commandant (responsible for all Army Aviation Center training programs) and finally Chief of Staff at Fort Rucker. He accumulated 3,800 total flying hours including 1,000 combat hours (during 2 tours in Vietnam). He was instrumental as the principal author of the 960-page report that resulted in the decision in 1983 to create Aviation as a separate branch within the US Army. During his military service he was awarded a wide variety of medals/awards including the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and Purple Heart (twice).

Frank retired from military service in 1990 after 30 years of service and he and Ann have lived in Ozark ever since. They have one daughter and two grandsons. He has since worked in a wide variety of civilian jobs including positions with the military maintenance contractor for Fort Rucker and with various aerospace corporations as a subject-matter-expert and technical advisor. He has volunteered and worked with many civic and community organizations including the First United Methodist Church of Ozark and the Ozark Boys and Girls Club, to name only two. In addition, he is an avid turkey hunter and outdoor sportsman. He hunts frequently on family property in Florida.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Good morning everyone! Autumn has given us a Divine Magnificent Autumn beyond measure with glorious beauty of colors appearing on the trees and lands. From red to orange to yellow to purple to lavender and sturdy green.

It is a time to enjoy along with Thanksgiving and the bounty of food, family gathering, friends, and sharing with others in need. We also need to remember the trials and tribulation of Israel and other nations. Our military and other friendship nations stand firm in strength, honor, and faith. Let us ever remember those who have served and sacrificed for others. Our America gratefully honors the Veterans each year in November to acknowledge their service. With so many in danger in Israel and others areas, it reminds us of the first World War. In 1915 a young Canadian doctor and surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote a famous poem entitled *In Flanders Field*. Some of the poem are included """"The Fields in poppies grow""""

""""Larks. bravery sing and fly """"

""""Take up our quantity with the Foe """"

""""We shall not sleep tho poppies blow""""

This season in November gives us nature with peace and joy while Thanksgiving comes with family, friends, delicious foods and help for others in need. After November there is even more special times as December arrives with gifts and special remembrance of the birth of the Lord. It is a special time to remember. Along with a time to be thankful for the blessings of the year, we prepare with nature to rest during the time of renewal in the new year.

Another special time to remember was celebrated with the current Retired Officers Wives Association together on Tuesday November 14. 2023 the ROWA members met at the Silver Wings Golf Course luncheon to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of ROWA. The Retired Officers Wives Auxiliary was developed by Mrs Olive Townsend. Her insight and purpose brought her as the first President which would bring more Officers and friendships. ROWA would continue to grow over the years and there would be many times to serve. develop. and increase. ROWA continues and we look forward to the next Christmas meeting. Please remember to RSVP with Mary Rutkowski and bring a Christmas ornament. Guest are welcome.

May each of you have a blessed and joyful Christmas.



Legislative Report by Ray Collins

Legislative Affairs. We are now within a month of entering, once again, into the new year without a signed National Defense Authorization Act. Both the House and the Senate leave Washington on the 14th and 15th of December respectively for the Christmas break. Although the NDAA is one of our most reliable pieces of legislation, having been signed into existence for 62 consecutive years, it seems that it is being passed later each year and Continuing

Resolution is the norm rather than the exception. Failure to complete the NDAA process, even when Continuing Resolution is in effect causes tremendous stress on recruitment, retention and morale.

One of the hardship issues the House is attempting to at least begin correcting is adding a one percent raise in the percentage level of Basic Housing Allowance which would cap BAH at 96 percent of that authorized by rank.

Making up the 12 percent deficit that Dependency and Indemnity has fallen behind other veteran survivor programs has become a point of attention primarily due to veteran advocacy pressure. A bill in the Senate S 414 and the House H.R.1083, Caring for Survivors Act, bears witness to that fact. The PACT Act implementation has seen more than four million toxic screenings accomplished since September of 2022. Of the 551 thousand claims filed 78 percent have been approved.



2023 Officers & Directors

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RETIREE AFFAIRS—Ray Collins, 334-774-2101, hospitality@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 11/13/2023 is **\$28,887.65**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (10/09/23) **Starting balance of;** **\$28,580.03**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
10/19/23	NL Sponsor (AlerisLife)	\$150.00
10/23/23	MOAA Dinner Receipts	569.00
10/31/23	MM Interest for October	<u>10.12</u>
Deposits Total		\$729.12

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
10/23/23	1985 IMWRF (MOAA Dinner)	<u>\$421.50</u>
Expenditures Total		\$421.50
Net Increase		\$307.62

(11/13//23) **Current Total Balance of;** **\$28,887.65**

All In checking	\$7,211.26
All In Savings	\$5.45
All In Money Market	\$21,670.94

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve); **-\$21,670.94**

Life Membership	\$7,460.00
MOAA reserve,	\$14,210.94

Minus Savings: \$5.45 **-\$5.45**

***Usable Funds as of November 13, 23 (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$7,211.26**

No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$213.00.

Lyster commander talks Army medicine at MOAA

STAFF REPORT

FORT NOVOSEL—The modernization of Army medical care was the topic Lyster Army Health Clinic Commander Lt. Col. Garrett Holt discussed with those attending the Military Officers Association of America meeting recently held at Fort Novosel.

Holt explained the origin of the name of the medical clinic, spoke about recent improvements in the opera-

tion at Lyster, and discussed the modernization of Army medicine.

MOAA has a national membership of approximately 350,000 members and is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an advocate of a strong national defense and represents the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers.



Military Officers Association of America President retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ron Kaita, left, welcomes Lyster Medical Clinic Commander Lt. Col. Garrett Holt to the recent MOAA meeting at Fort Novosel.

CONTRIBUTED



WOCS Class 24-01 MOAA Awardees, 8 November 2023 - - - Distinguished Honor Graduate (Right) WO1 Charles J. Yavorski. Leadership Awardee (Left) WO1 Jenie S. Rowe.

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Retiree Appreciation Day 27 October 2023—Ron and Lark Kaita, Dennis Newton.

Photos from August 21, 2023 Dinner



Ron Kaita & LTC Garrett Holt,
Guest Speaker



Mary Rutkowski, Beverly O'Donnell, &
Susanne Bailey



Mary Jane & Ray
Collins



Ron & Lark Kaita



LTC Garrett & Alice Holt



Lou Hennies & Dick Kenyon



Dennis Newton, Susan & Thomas Day



Jacob, Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Carolyn Wooley & Dennis Newton



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Leslie & Roy Templin



Loel & Barbara Ewart



Dee Gilbert & Larry Jones



Lou & Connie Hennies

Important Dates for MOAA

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
11-13-2023	11-15-2023	
12-11-2023		12-16-2023
1-8-2024	1-17-2024	
2-12-2024		2-17-2024
3-11-24	3-20-2024	
4-8-2024		4-20-2024
5-13-2024	5-15-2024	
6-10-2024		6-15-2024
7-8-2024	7-17-2024	
8-12-2024		8-17-2024
9-9-2024	9-18-2024	
10-14-2024		10-19-2024
11-11-2024	11-20-2024	
12-9-2024		12-21-2024
Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.		

GET YOUR VA MEDICAL RECORDS ONLINE

Review, print, save, download, and share your VA medical records and personal health information with our online tools.

Sign in to manage your VA medical records:

Sign in with your existing **Login.gov**, **ID.me**, **DS Logon**, or **My HealthVet** account. If you don't have any of these accounts, you can create a free **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account now.

What you can do when you sign in:

- ◆ Download a customized Blue Button report with information from your VA medical records, personal health record, and in some cases your military service record
- ◆ Download a Health Summary that includes specific information from your VA medical records (like your known allergies, medicines, and recent lab results)
- ◆ Build your own personal health record that includes information like your self-entered medical history, emergency contacts, and medicines
- ◆ Monitor your vital signs and track your diet and exercise with our online journals
- ◆ Share a digital copy of the personal health information you entered yourself with your VA health care team through secure messaging

Extracted from www.VA.gov.

Urge Legislators to Back Bill for Survivors of Veterans

Bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 1083/S. 414) would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments with other federal survivor benefits. DIC is a monetary benefit paid to the survivors of veterans with service-connected disabilities and survivors of



servicemembers who died while serving on active duty.

DIC is paid at a monthly rate of \$1,562.74, with additional allowances in certain circumstances. That works out to 43% of what a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability rating receives from the VA. By contrast, federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of

a civil servant's pay, computed as if the employee retired on disability at the date of death.

This disparity is unfair to the surviving spouses of veterans who lost their loved ones due to military service.

Ask your legislators to show their support for the Caring for Survivors Act and make a long-overdue correction to this injustice.



Scan here to go to MOAA's Legislative Action Center.



Extracted from *MOAA Magazine*, November 2023.



STEVE & PAM SCHISLER
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COFFEE COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE
— Presents —

A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL THREE ON A STRING	7:00 pm Nov 11, 2023	Enterprise High School
MESSIAH A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 3, 2023 5:00 pm	First Baptist Church
THE LETTERMEN 50 YEARS OF MUSICAL MEMORIES	Jan 22, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
DALLAS BRASS PATRIOTIC, ROMANTIC, DIXIELAND & POP	Feb 29, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 20 & 21 2024	ESCC

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



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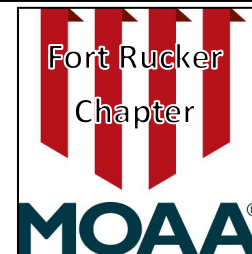
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MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Novosel, AL 36362-0075

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