

February—March 2024



President's Message by Ron Kaita

Greetings chapter members and Happy New Year as we kick off another year of support to our military and its most important asset, our Soldiers. I open this report with great sadness. We will soon be experiencing current medical conditions of our chapter's board member for Banquet Activities, Ms. Mary Rutkowski. She has been a faithful, dedicated, and loving member of our chapter for so many years and with heavy heart I bring you this sad news. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Ms. Susanne Bailey has willingly assumed her duties on the board. Though we have lost a few chapter members, we continue to find new members to join to keep our chapter alive and well. I must recognize the outstanding job and leadership our chapter board members perform and who always work diligently to keep everyone informed of our chapter's business, legislative news, and community

activities (especially Othan Gilbert, Membership). Without their outstanding support our chapter would not nearly be as successful as we endeavor to support our valuable membership.

Some of the actions/activities your chapter has been involved in was supporting the holiday food basket program, managed by the Army Community Services (ACS), with a check presentation for \$1,000.00 for our Soldiers and their families for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. In addition, we participated in laying Christmas wreaths on all military grave sites at Enterprise's Meadow Lawn Cemetery. We will also 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 too. Remember, our dinner meetings for 2024 will be evening events. If transportation is an issue, please let me know and we will see if transportation can be available

for your attendance.

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 MOAA Basic Membership numbers for MOAA National with over 1,400 for 2023. We will start our recruiting efforts for 2024 in February as classes prepare for their graduations.

I have been re-elected as your Chapter President and Randy Godfrey has kindly accepted another term as your Vice President. Our Treasurer's report is on our chapter website for your review, and you will notice we are doing very well so our funding for this year's planned expenditures being covered for the year due to the spot-on management by our Treasurer, Loel Ewart. The chapter will be quite busy in the beginning of this year as we prepare to submit our packets for MOAA's 5-Star Level of (*See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, page 2*)

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, *SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024,*
ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSHEL, AL
 Guest Speaker—CW5 Stephen Napoli, Warrant Officer Career College Deputy Cmdt

SCHEDULE & MENU
Social: 6:00pm..... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm.....Dinner: 7:00pm
 >Mixed green salad w/assorted dressings
 >Roast pork w/ grilled scallion & citrus sauce
 >Scalloped potatoes
 >Green beans almandine
 >Red Velvet cake
 >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee
Cost per meal: \$23.00/person



Please make **Reservations by noon Monday February 12th** to Suzanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118. Cancellations must be made by **NOON Friday February 16th. 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 128.

I regret to report the death of two of our chapter members. LTC Robert Turner died 12/10/23 and CPT Allen Dunham died 12/19/23. LTC Turner lived in Ozark and CPT Dunham lived in Enterprise. Our condolences are extended to both spouses and families.

Have you ever wondered about what happens “behind the scenes” to produce the newsletter? If so, here is how it works.

It starts with Frank Estes, our editor who does a wonderful job. Throughout the month several of us provide input and articles. Usually, at each dinner meeting, I take photos of the tables but primarily photos of each couple or groups of attendees. When I get home, I edit (crop and resize) and label them with names of the individuals. Then I transfer them to a thumb drive and pass them along to Frank (for the newsletter) and Dennis Newton (for placing on our chapter website). During the

month Loel Ewart sends Frank the latest monthly chapter finance report and Ron Kaita and I send along our columns for inclusion in the newsletter. Throughout the month Frank picks up material for the newsletter that he thinks would be of interest to the readers including the menu, any speaker and the cost for the next dinner meeting. When finished and edited, he sends the finished product to Houston Printing (one of our sponsors) for printing. Normally we send paper copies to all attendees of the last dinner, the board members, those chapter members without email, and all sponsors. (Dennis sends a pdf copy to other members via email.) Once a year we send out paper copies to all members to confirm mailing addresses (this issue is going to

everyone). During this period I send Frank the mailing list and he prints mailing labels for me. Once Houston

Printing (they are in Dothan) has finished (including folding and tabbing all copies), they call me. Then I drive to Dothan, pick them up, bring them home, apply the mailing labels and postage stamps and then deliver to the post office for mailing.

Remember to patronize the twelve sponsors of our newsletter. In this issue we welcome a new sponsor: Yancey Parker's located in the Westgate Shopping Center in Enterprise. They have been a popular clothing business in Enterprise for many years and we hope you will visit them. We appreciate the support of all our sponsors who deserve our consideration.

Membership Spotlight

Carolyn Wooley

Carolyn was born in 1945 in Norfolk, VA and attended Princess Ann High School in Virginia Beach, VA. She graduated from high school in 1963. That same year she met and married a Navy sailor who was a Ship and Pipe Fitter. During the next 12 years they had two children (boy and girl) and lived in various Navy locations such as Midway, Iceland and Washington state. In 1971 he retired for medical reasons and they moved to Richmond, VA. In 1975 they were divorced. Carolyn worked in real estate while living in Richmond. She met her second husband, Bob, and was married to him in Richmond. Bob had previously served with the Air Force for 8 years and then joined the Army National Guard and served another 20 years until medically retired as a Warrant Officer 3. They moved to Ozark in 2006 and then he died in 2014 after 35 years of marriage. Both children live in Texas and she has 3 grandchildren.



Carolyn is very active with the First United Methodist Church in Ozark where she sings in the choir. She is also a member of ROWA and a Master Gardener. She loves cruises (traveling with friends) with over 40 to her credit. She is a member of the DAR, has a great interest in genealogy and enjoys working on Jigsaw puzzles. Last, but certainly not least, she has faithfully served for several years as our Chapter Secretary and prepares the minutes from our chapter board meetings.

(PRESIDENT'S CORNER from page 1) Excellence streamer for 2023 and our website presence for MOAA's Communication Award. 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 our very special Valentines in our lives and will be held at the Landing on Saturday, 17 February 2024 at 1800 hours with dinner served at 1900 hrs. Our guest speaker will be CW5 Stephen Napoli, the Deputy Commandant of the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC).

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 good health and happiness to your families, all retirees, and veterans to remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings Everyone and Happy New Year!

The MOAA Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all attending with food, fellowship and caroling. Members of ROWA attended and enjoyed the meeting as well. We are blessed in many ways at Fort Novosel such as the annual observance of Winter Fest on the Festival Fields.

With my family Christmas was a wonderful time together with children and family. With a three year old girl and a one year old girl and a six year old boy and a four year old boy, they were delightful and so happy with all the gifts. We were all together with each having a gift that was

enjoyed. It was a special time to remember and the food was delicious which we enjoyed. May the blessing of the Christmas season bring you joy and peace as the new year arrives with memories to cherish and accomplishments for seasons to come. Family members and friends have gathered throughout the season and enjoyed the gifts of being together with children and their excitement of gifts. As Christmas has come now the new year arrives with memories to cherish and winter which is a resting time for nature while families stay warm together and plans prepared for the coming year. Soon after winter the awakening of nature begins and warmer weather presents us with a profusion of beautiful flowers as only nature can provide. Soon as nature awakens, Easter will bring the promise of God.

With joy and Peace, may you have a blessed year.



Legislative Report by Ray Collins

We are beginning the new year with many if not most of the same issues with which we ended the past year. MOAA and other members of the military alliance will continue to keep the short comings of the military system painfully before the members of the two entities of the legislative branch of our government.

A reminder of some of issues which are not only breach of trust with our military force but a travesty that they should even be

considered as requiring a vote.

The thought that a veterans monthly disability income should be paid out of their retirement income is an unimaginable lapse of appreciation for an act that in many cases brought or came through incredible suffering. Pass the Act.

Of almost the same degree of lack of appreciation is the continued cut in Basic Allowance of Housing. Fund at 100 percent.

Protection of the TRICARE Pharmacy program will continue as

one of the Military Alliance main thrust in health care for veterans.

The assistance for military spouse employment programs is highly essential to bring down the unemployment rate which remains five times the national average.

The power of the pen is a term which comes to mind when considering the above mentioned issues and several others of equal or greater importance. Our legislators understand the power of the vote and will react to the thought of losing your vote.

GUEST SPEAKER:

CW5 Stephen Napoli has been in the Army for over 30 years. He joined the Army as an Enlisted Aeroscout Observer in 1993. In 1995, he was notified that he had been selected to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School. He graduated from the U.S. Army Flight School in 1997, and soon afterwards began his career as an Attack Helicopter aviator.

His stateside assignments include Fort Cavazos, Texas; Fort Novosel, Alabama; Fort Liberty, North Carolina, and Fort Irwin, California. CW5 Napoli's overseas assignments include two years in Kuwait as an Instructor Pilot with the Kuwait Air Force; two tours in Korea; three deployments to Afghanistan; and a rotation to Europe.

He is a Standardization Instructor Pilot, Instrument Flight Examiner, and Aviation Master Gunner. CW5 Napoli is rated in the OH-58A/C, AH-64A, AH-64D, and AH-64E. He graduated from Troy University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. He has a master's degree in Aerospace Science and is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Strategic Leadership. In addition, he holds a black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do.

He is married to the former Rachel Goad of DeSoto, Texas. They have two daughters: Hannah (15) and Elizabeth (13), and a German Shepherd named "Liberty."

His numerous awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with numeral device "2", Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Action Badge, Master Army Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Badge.



2024 Officers & Directors

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

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

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS—Randy Godfrey, 334-312-6446, argodfrey@gmail.com

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CHAPLAIN/WEBMASTER—Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079, drnewton@me.com

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ROTC/JROTC—Ron Kaita, 334-677-6734, ronald.kaita@twc.com

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Novosel, Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 01/08/2024 is **\$28,244.16**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (12/11/23) Starting balance of; **\$28,877.28**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
12/12/23 Annual Dues		\$48.00
12/18/23 MOAA Dinner receipts		806.00
12/30/23 MM interest for December		10.13
12/30/23 Savings interest for December		00.01
01/04/24 Annual Dues		36.00
01/01/24 Donation		5.14
Deposits Total		\$905.28

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
12/11/23 1990 Mary Rutkowski (Dinner Decorations)		\$213.90
12/18/23 1991 IMWRF (MOAA Dinner)		742.50
01/04/24 1992 USPS (PO Box rent) Rucker		82.00
12/30/23 1993 MOAA National (Scholarship Fund)		500.00
Expenditures Total		\$1538.40
Net Decrease		\$633.12
(01/08//24) Current Total Balance of;		\$28,244.16

All In checking	\$6,547.83	
All In Savings	\$5.46	
All In Money Market	\$21,690.87	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-\$21,690.87
Life Membership	\$7,460.00	
MOAA reserve,	\$14,230.87	
Minus Savings:	\$5.46	-\$5.46

***Usable Funds as of January 08, 24 (Minus reserve/savings) \$6,547.83**

No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$00.00.



MOAA gives back to military community

The Fort Rucker/Novosel Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) recently donated \$1,000 to the Fort Novosel Holiday Food Assistance Program to benefit the Fort Novosel military community. This program is administered by the Army Community Service (ACS) department at Fort Novosel. Pictured are Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Loel Ewart (right), the chapter treasurer, and Ms. Beth Gunter (left), who is the Financial Readiness Program Manager with ACS. Photo contributed.

What Happens to your Military Retired Pay when the Government Shuts Down Due to a Lapse in Government's Appropriated Funding?

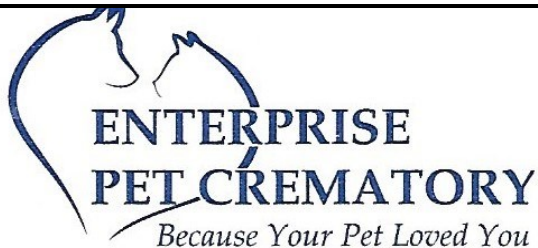
Answer: Military retired pay and the Department of Defense survivor benefit Plan will continue to be paid if the government shuts down due to a laps in appropriated funding. This is because payments from the Military Retirement Fund are considered mandatory and are not included in the Defense budget.

Extracted from Army Echoes, page 3

Important Dates for MOAA

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bi-Monthly Meeting
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.



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Photos from December 16th 2023 Dinner



Christmas Dinner



Sing-Along with Dennis Newton



More Christmas Dinner



More singing with Dennis Newton.



More Singing with Dennis Newton, and Ron Kaita



Mary Jane Collins & John Newton



Fred Draper, Rose & Dennis Bergstrazer

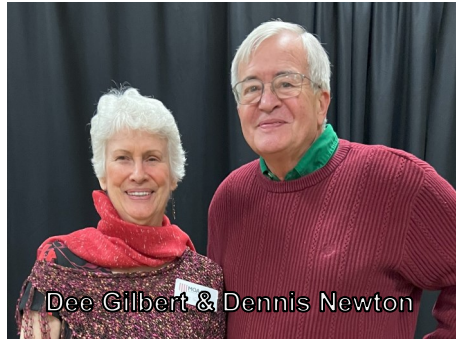
Photos from December 16th 2023 Dinner (continued)



Alexis McCullors & Mary Rutkowski



Ann Estes, Connie Hennies & Faye Swinehart



Dee Gilbert & Dennis Newton



Bob Bunting & Ray Collins



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer



Lark & Ron Kaita



Ann Estes & Bob Bunting



Leslie & Roy Templin



Lou & Connie Hennies



Loel & Barbara Ewart



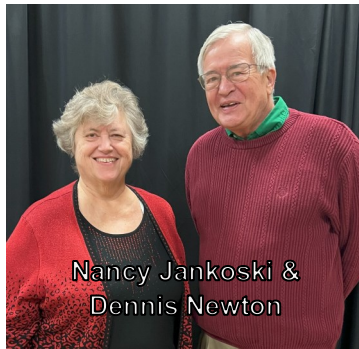
Mary Jane & Ray Collins



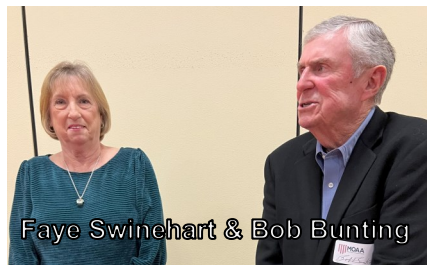
Mary Jane Collins & Sam Newton



Nancy Jankoski & Leslie Templin



Nancy Jankoski & Dennis Newton



Faye Swinehart & Bob Bunting



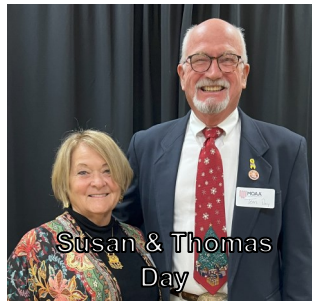
Ron Kaita



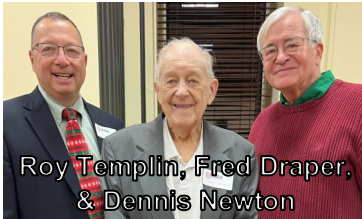
Sam & John Newton



Suzanne Bailey & Rose Bergstrazer



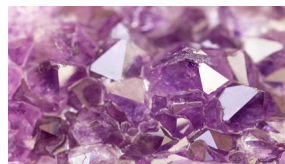
Susan & Thomas Day



Roy Templin, Fred Draper, & Dennis Newton



Suzanne Bailey, Alexis McCullors, & Barbara Ewart

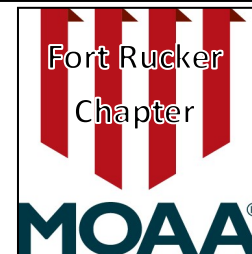


MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Novosel, AL 36362-0075

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