



AIRWAYS



December 2018/January 2019

The 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
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Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER DECEMBER 15TH, 2018 1800 HOURS AT THE LANDING

WE HAVEN'T SEEN SOME OF YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME; WON'T YOU JOIN US AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON? WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

- Social: 1800
- Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: 1845
- Dinner: 1900
- Green Goddess Salad
- New York Strip
- Baked Potato w/sour cream, shredded cheddar, bacon bits
- Malibu Blend
- Rolls & Butter
- Oreo Pie
- Unsweet Tea, Water, Coffee
- Cost: \$25 per person

GUEST SPEAKER



We are pleased that Mr. Dale Moates of the First United Methodist Church of Ozark will again be providing inspirational Christmas music for our meeting in December.

For more information on Mr. Moates, see page 8.

PLEASE—Cash or personal checks only!

Please make your Reservations by noon
Wednesday, December 12th
to Mary Rutkowski at
(334) 347-4966.



Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on the Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the meals.

A Message from the President

Charlie Wigglesworth



The Holiday season is upon us! All the stories already have their decorations up. Seems to come earlier every year but maybe it is because I am getting older.

Where have the past two 4 years gone? It seems like yesterday the COL(R) Larry Turnage approached me to serve as the Vice President of the Chapter. He failed to tell me that unless I was voted out, that at the end of 2 years I would be the President. He knew what he was doing. The time had come for the Warrant Officers in the area to step-up and he was going to help the process. I will forever be grateful for his encouragement. It has truly been my honor and privilege to serve as your President alongside the officers and great members of this chapter. At our December 15 dinner meeting, our State President will join us to swear in the new officers. They will be MAJ (R) Lisa Bailey, President (also the first female to lead our Chapter), CW5(R) Ron Kaita, Vice President (currently doing a great job recruiting the new Warrant Officers of our Army into MOAA), Carolyn Wooley, Secretary (has done a wonderful job for the past 2 years and staying on) and LTC(R) Loel Ewart, Treasurer (I have absolutely no idea how long he has served, by our audits are always spot on!!) Thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for stepping up to the challenge.

If you have items that you would like to donate to the **silent auction** at our December dinner meeting, please contact COL(R) Frank Estes at estesf@troycable.net or call him at 334-797-9196. He needs pictures of the items

that you are donating and what the value of the item is (your best guess). Donations so far are pictures, stools, gift certificates, and I hear some hunting stuff. These items are to raise monies for the MOAA scholarship fund. MOAA is a 501(c)19 organization (non-profit).

The TRICARE open season is Nov 12 until Dec 10, 2018. On Dec 31, the current **Delta Dental** will cease. To pick up one of the new carriers, one must make the selection during the TRICARE open season. This will not automatically happen. The military member must make the selection. There are two web sites to check for the particulars, cost, etc. They are TRICARE.benefeds.com or USAA.com/tricare. Just cut and paste one of these sites into your browser and they will pop up.

If you don't sign up again, you will lose you benefits until the next open season.

I would like to thank COL(R) Chaplin Dennis Newton, our Legislative Affairs Chair and Webmaster for representing the Chapter in Phoenix this year at the Annual Convention. He received the Chapter's 2017 Five Star award.

As I stated in an earlier Newsletter, our chapter has been supporting the Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations for some time now. We are also supporting the Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) graduations. However, it does spread us a pretty thin on occasions. I would again encourage you to volunteer to participate in these graduations. All graduations are at the Aviation Museum. Please contact CW5(R) Ron Kaita at ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil or 334-677-6734 if you are interested.

As always, keep all of our military members who stand on the front lines for the freedoms we enjoy each day in your prayers.

Legislative Report by Dennis Newton



I had the opportunity to attend the Annual MOAA National Conference in Phoenix, AZ. I was there representing the Chapter with the Alabama State Board. Our Chapter has earned the distinguished 5 Star Chapter Award. Gen Adkins, the Director of MOAA, was on hand to present this award. It was my honor to receive this award on your behalf.

As I reported last column, MOAA was successful in keeping a large Tri-Care increase from taking place. The real issue is these battles never stop. A record DOD budget was passed and signed by the President. This allows DOD to continue its acquisition of new weapon systems and to feel less need to cut your benefits. But the next battle will come this year as the pressure will return to fund other projects in DOD with the offset that would result from a cut in your TRICARE and perhaps with even a smaller COLA than inflation should warrant. With a Democratic Congress, it is more likely that an agreement on a budget will be reached and a continuing resolution will keep the status quo for the 2020 budget. If that happens expect a budget solution to include the cuts mentioned above. To add to this is the President's

request of all his cabinet members to cut 5% from their current funding programs (Salami Slice). In DOD this is always viewed as a Personnel Issue which is easiest to meet by cutting something like YOUR benefits.

MOAA at the National Level is the most active part of the Military Alliance which includes over 30 Service Organizations like the VFW, American Legion, DAV, Marine League, NCOA, etc. With all the membership of these organizations combined they have a voice of over 30 million. Congress pays attention to this and uses MOAA as their advisor in how their legislation impacts the citizens who have served in the military- Active Duty, Reserves, Guard, and Retirees. This is why it is so important for each of you to belong to both National MOAA and the Local Chapter. No one in DOD is representing you to maintain your benefits. Without these Service Organizations you would have no voice in how your pay and retirement are maintained.

The future looks good for Defense. There are so many threats in the world that the military is not going away. Keep your membership active and let others know that it takes us all to keep from having our benefits eroded.

Dennis Newton retired in 2014 as a Chaplain (Colonel) with 35 years of Service including 4 years Enlisted as a Chaplain's Assistant. He can be contacted at drnewton@fortrucker-moaa.org.

SOMETHING NEW @ OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Our Christmas Dinner will be on December 15th at The Landing. This year we will have a Silent Auction of items contributed by various Wiregrass businesses and individuals (see pictures on pages 4 & 8). Proceeds from this event will go toward our Chapter's Scholarship Program. You can help in two ways: first, attend our Christmas dinner and bid generously on the Silent Auction items, and two, contribute an item for use on our Silent Auction tables. To make a contribution, contact Charlie Wigglesworth (see page 11). **Please support our Scholarship Program.**

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Membership Report

by *Othan Gilbert*

I am pleased to report a new chapter member: **LTC Robert Littlefield** who lives in New Brocton and is an Air Force Reserve retiree. He and his wife, Linda, are very much welcomed. They were at our October 2018 dinner meeting and it was a pleasure to meet them. I am sad to report the death of one of our chapter members: **LTC Joe Cassidy**. Our condolences are extended to his family.

As a reminder all chapter members must be a member of MOAA National in order to be a member of this chapter. As a board, we have always felt that we must support our national chapter and not just our own chapter. MOAA has announced that national membership rates (both premium and life) are increasing on 1 January 2019. At the time of this writing, we have 173 active chapter members (not including surviving spouses who get our newsletter). Of this 173, 75% (131) are life members of National. Life members of National pass on their life membership to their spouses upon their death. Life membership rates vary by age but MOAA National tries to facilitate the purchase of life memberships by allowing the payment to be spread over 10 months using your credit card. **HOWEVER, this option is**

only available if you call MOAA directly (800-234-6622) and speak with one of the representatives. In addition, any unused portion of your premium membership not yet expired will be applied toward the purchase of a life membership to reduce the cost. This option is not available if done via the Internet.



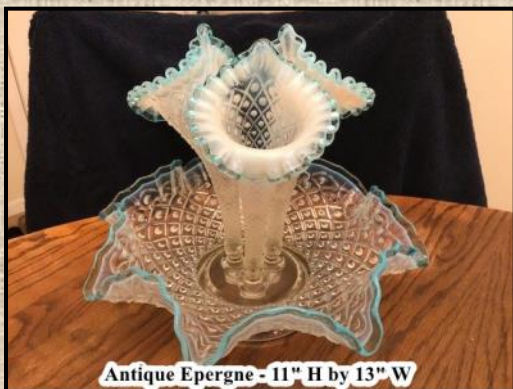
Next time you meet one of your officer friends, ask them if they are a member of MOAA. If they are, see if you can convince them to join the chapter. A chapter membership form can be found on our chapter web site. Remember, membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite for chapter membership.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortruckermoa.org. You might want to check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

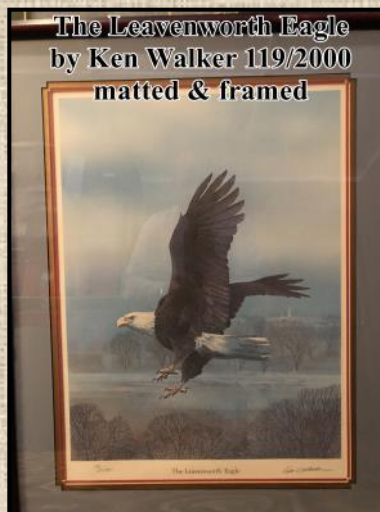
Othan Gilbert
Membership Chair

SILENT AUCTION @ CHRISTMAS DINNER

As you saw in our last newsletter and here on page 5, we will be holding a silent auction during our Christmas Dinner to raise funds for our Fort Rucker Chapter, MOAA Scholarships. **Come join us, and BID OFTEN AND HIGH!!!** Here are pictures of a few of the items donated by our MOAA members. *[More pictures on page 8.]*



Antique Epergne - 11" H by 13" W



The Leavenworth Eagle
by Ken Walker 119/2000
matted & framed



Gold trimmed wine decanter;
w/4 matching glasses;
made in Roumania



Bed foot-stool



TREASURER'S REPORT

by *Loel Ewart*

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 11/05/2018 is, **\$29,067.70**.
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union (AACFCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (10/15/18) **Starting balance of; \$28,824.74**

DEPOSITS	ACTION		
10/22/18	MOAA Dinner Deposit	(Oct Dinner)	\$882.00
10/31/18	MM Interest		\$8.69
Deposits Total			<u>\$890.69</u>

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
1828 10/22/18	IMWRF (Oct MOAA Dinner)		\$647.73
Expenditures Total			<u>\$647.73</u>
(11/05/18) Current Total Balance of;			<u>\$29,067.70</u>

A ACFCU checking,	\$4942.34	
AACFCU Savings,	\$5.41	
AACFCU Money Market	\$24,119.95	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-\$24,119.95

Life Membership,	\$10,710.00	
MOAA reserve,	\$13,409.95	
Minus Savings:	\$5.41	-\$5.41

******Usable Funds as November 5, 2018 (Minus reserve/savings) \$4,942.34**

Other News * No outstanding bills.
* Scholarship fund- \$406.00

Loel A. Ewart
Treasurer



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Retired Officer Wives Association (RWOA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Holiday greetings Everyone,

Amid the glow and glory of Autumn harvest we gather for Thanksgiving in gratitude for abundance and provision, celebrating our blessings and preparing for the winter season which contains the seeds and promise for renewal during rest.

On one of the beautiful fall days, some ROWA members attended the ground-breaking ceremony at the Lake Tholocco site of a forthcoming new Lake Lodge. History was indeed prevalent as many of those attending had attended numerous events at the former Lodge years ago. Further in the fall, ROWA gathered with October Fest at Ingrid's (picture at bottom of page) for German fare and some Ala-

bama history of German settlers founding Cullman, Alabama where there is a miniature carved Grotto of Jerusalem and famous sculptures.

November entered with the Ft. Rucker Spouses Club Annual Bazaar at Yano Hall where many vendors and wares provided two days of enjoyable shopping that raised funds for educational scholarships and community grants. The November ROWA luncheon with the theme "Stars Fell on Alabama," was held at Silver Wings and thoroughly enjoyed. Our guests Veterans (see picture immediately below) were the "Stars" honored for their service. One of the Veterans honored was Ozark Mayor Bob Bunting, guest speaker, who shared Ozark history which included a significant historical video of the 1936 Ozark Armistice Day Parade. Please note our next meetings and join us.

May your Christmas be merry, your New Year bright, and both blessed!

Dec. 11—Sweet Home Alabama—The Landing—Ornament Exchange

Jan. 8—A Grateful Nation—Munson Heights Reservations the Friday before with Mary 334 347 4966 .



(L to R) Bob McClellan, Al Apel, Ray Collins, Loren Dow, Charlie Bryant, Burle Dawson, Mayor Bob Bunting, Tom Bailey, Kenneth Bedsole.

WOA Above the Best Silver Chapter

P.O.Box 620951
Fort Rucker, AL 36362

Chapter Contacts

email:
ftruckerwoa@gmail.com

facebook:
AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA



WOA Above the Best Silver Chapter

Chapter calendar
Memorabilia
Community Events

<https://sites.google.com/site/ftruckerwoa/>



To our Google Site



(L to R) Jennifer Walsh, Lorry Ryan, Mary Jane Collins, Esse Muskoff

Chaplain's Corner by Ben McKee



The Hope of Mankind

We read in the Old Testament of the Israelites and Jews looking ahead with **hope** for the Messiah to come. We read in the New Testament of Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men, and the Shepherds looking with **hope** for the coming of the New Born King. But, the greatest **hope** seems to come through a just and devout man by the name of Simeon who had **hope** for the coming of the consolation of Israel for many years; and a prophetess named Anna who had looked with **hope** for the coming of the Christ Child for most of her life by spending every night and day in the temple in fasting and praying. **Luke 2:34 & 38** tells us that *“Simeon blessed them and said unto Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel...”* *“At that moment [Anna] came, and began to praise God and to speak about [Jesus] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”*

Simeon had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen the fulfillment of the Lord's salvation. When Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the temple for dedication, Simeon recognized in this infant the embodiment of Israel's **Hope**. And, Anna had been a widow for some 44 years and spent most of her time at the temple engaged in fasting and prayer. She, too, saw and embraced the baby Jesus as the **Hope** of all mankind. This was the first Advent.

My Granddaughter, Carlee, provides me with an example of modern-day hope.

When she was ten, she brought several toy catalogs to our house. Each week-end she circled additional toys right up until the week-end before



Christmas. By each one she wrote, “I hope I get one of these for Christmas.” I don't think she got all of them, but her grandma and I saw that most of them were under the tree on Christmas morning.

As Christians, our sense of **Hope** should also be rising for the Second Advent or coming of our Lord for His people. I sincerely hope we are looking to the celebration of the arrival of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord, far more than Carlee looked and hoped for the coming of Santa Claus. With world events coming alongside Biblical end time events, we become more alert to His arrival with each passing day. The Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 13: 11-12**, *“Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand.”*

This scripture is the Advent alarm clock of the church. It's time to get prepared. God's Son is coming—a much better bet than Santa Claus! His Church is called to be looking, praying, and hoping just like Simeon and Anna was for His first coming. Keep looking up for our Blessed **Hope**. May God grant each of you a Merry, Joyous, and safe Christmas.

Since this is my last devotion for the MOAA Newsletter as Chaplain, thank you all for allowing me to serve you as your Chaplain for the last 10+ years. I consider it a special honor.



First United Methodist Church
Ozark Alabama

Contemporary Worship Leader, Dale Moates

Education Experience

Ariton High School 1988
Wallace Community College 1990
Troy State University BA in Business 1992

What I enjoy most about working at FUMC Ozark

I have always appreciated the wide variety of talents, ideas & perspectives within our congregation. The Praise Band is very much the same. Wed night's practices and Sunday morning's services are sometimes "work" but wow what a blessing. How great it is each week to share our gifts and talents in song!

An interesting fact you may not know about me

I was raised by raccoons until age 4, that's why I wash my hands so often.
After only 3 episodes of "Different Strokes" I was pretty sure I knew what "Willis was takin' bout."
I have six toes...and four more.
Once I was at a loss for words, but it never happened again.
I crafted the phrase "What's up Dale?" To this day...people still say it all the time.
Curious George was a neighbor of mine growing up.
I sometimes speak in parenthesis and tend to forget no one can hear me.

Okay, ready for a real answer?

I have a collection of antique woodworking tools. I have many planes, levels, and saws that date back into the late 1800's. I like learning about the early techniques for making furniture.

My family

Ashley & I have been married since 1993. Hannah was born in 1998 and Will in 2003.

More Silent Auction pictures:



NAO, made in Spain
geese - 4.5" H by 5" W



Polish
pottery



Aviator statue
16" H by 4.5" W



Tool box of goodies

These are but a few of
the many Silent Auction
items that will be
available.



Paper shredder

PICTURES FROM OCTOBER 20th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Jonathan Tullis & Charlie Wigglesworth



Bill McLean, Shelly English, & Al Apel

**Merry
Christmas**



Bob & Linda Littlefield



Loel Ewart & Mary Rutkowski



Dick Kenyon & Ken Bedsole



Fred Latremore, Lisa Bailey & Dennis Newton

**Happy
New
Year**



Bill McLean & Al Apel



Paul English & Dee Gilbert



Ron & Lark Kaita



Linda Littlefield & Don Cullen

**Please support our
sponsors. Let them know
we care about them.**



Rhonda Gilbert, & Louise & Wendell Coursey



Mary Apel, Dee Gilbert, & Shelly English

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter Calendar Year 2018/2019



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bimonthly Dinner Meeting
5 Nov 2018	19 Nov 2018	
10 Dec 2018		15 Dec 2018
14 Jan 2019	16 Jan 2019	
11 Feb 2019		16 Feb 2019
11 Mar 2019	20 Mar 2019	
8 Apr 2019		13 Apr 2019
13 May 2019	15 May 2019	
10 Jun 2019		15 Jun 2019
8 Jul 2019	17 Jul 2019	
12 Aug 2019		17 Aug 2019
9 Sep 2019	18 Sep 2019	
7 Oct 2019		19 Oct 2019
4 Nov 2019	13 Nov 2019	
9 Dec 2019		14 Dec 2019

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AN EVENING WITH RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER	Oct 25, 2018 7:30 pm	Enterprise High School
ORLANDO TRANSIT AUTHORITY <i>A Chicago Tribute</i>	Nov 8, 2018 7:00 pm	Elba High School
ENSEMBLE MÉLANGE <i>Romantic, Jazz, Latin, Broadway, Classical</i>	Jan 17, 2019 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
THE CAB CALLOWAY ORCHESTRA <i>Big Band Swing Jazz</i>	Feb 14, 2019 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL <i>A Juried Arts & Crafts Show</i>	Apr 13 & 14 2019	Enterprise State Community College



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





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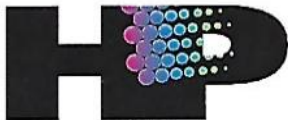
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Return Service Requested

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