

AIRWAYS



June/July 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.

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING & DINNER
JUNE 15, 2019—1800 HOURS
AT THE LANDING**

**OK! WE ARE NOT BEGGING. WE'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW,
BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T SEEN SOME OF YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! COME JOIN US AT OUR NEXT
MOAA DINNER.**

2019-2020 Officers & Directors

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GUEST SPEAKER

DR. BLAKE BUSBIN
THREE TIME GRADUATE OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY. WILL
DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCES AND WORK ON THE VIETNAM
VETERANS' ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS.

For more information on , see page 3.

Social: 1800
Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: 1845
Dinner: 1900

- Tossed salad w/Assorted Dressing*
- Pork Calvados*
- Roasted garlic mashed potatoes*
- Fresh asparagus*
- Rolls & butter*
- Trio of desserts*
- Unsweet Tea, Water, Coffee*

Cost: \$22 per person

**Cash or
personal
checks only!**

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.

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



A Message from the President

Lisa Bailey



MOAA's current legislative agenda items include a hard focus on protecting surviving spouses. The association recently pushed federal lawmakers to end the "widows' tax" on military survivors. Under current law, survivors of deceased military members must forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows' tax. For approximately 67,000 military survivors, the widows' tax makes SBP the only insurance product in the country that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting. DIC is a VA-paid monetary benefit for eligible survivors whose sponsors died of a service-connected injury or disease.

These separate benefits are paid for separate reasons and should not be construed as duplicative compensation. Surviving spouses of active duty or retired servicemembers who died of a service-connected cause are forced to forfeit \$1 of their military SBP annuity for each \$1 received in DIC. This offset wipes out most or all of the SBP check for a majority of survivors, totaling approximately \$12,000 annually, including those whose servicemembers purchased the plan through deductions from their retired pay.

As both a retired military officer and a surviving spouse, this issue is near and dear to me.

Congress, we need your help • Support H.R. 553, sponsored by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) • Support S. 622, sponsored by Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.).

Our Fort Rucker chapter includes over thirty surviving spouses who receive our newsletter. I hope that by reaching out, our chapter can help bring attention to this cause.

You may not be aware of it, but MOAA has started a virtual chapter for surviving spouses that meets once a quarter by telephone conference. The group was started by six women who serve on MOAA's Surviving Spouses Advisory Council: Gail Joyce, Micki Costello, Patricia Berquist, Pat Farnsworth, Sharon DeVaney and Anne Hartline. At a recent meeting of the Alabama (*see page 3*)

Legislative Report

by **Charlie Wigglesworth**



Summer is about here and pray all will have a safe summer. Our leadership at the National Headquarters continues to work hard to protect our benefits. The new director for the Military Coalition (a group of over 30 military affiliated organizations) is going to be headed by the current Executive Director for the Warrant Officer Association. MOAA is one of the largest organizations in the coalition. Also, there is a move to form a Military partnership in the Wiregrass consisting of MOAA, WOA, AUSA, and AAAA. More to follow in future letters.

The following important issues are currently being worked at National level. Be sure to contact your elected officials on these issues.

Ensure Safe Housing for Military Families— Military families face health threats in their homes, it can be harder for service members to focus on their mission. Congress is considering legislation to address health threats in base housing—by remediating environmental hazards, establishing strong tenants' rights procedures, and restoring proper oversight of construction and maintenance contractors.

Act now to improve survivors' benefits—S.1047 would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits.

Do not Cap Pay or Cut Benefits—Military pay and benefits matter. But apparently not to the Congressional Budget Office. On its list of budget options for lawmakers to consider are capping your pay raises and cutting back BAH. Military families depend on BAH, and it's only right that military pay keep pace with civilian salaries.

Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine - The Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget calls for the elimination of approximately 18,000 military medical positions. This is roughly 20% of the military's medical force.

Do not Raise TRICARE Fees—Think your health care already costs enough? So do we. But jacking up your TRICARE fees and out-of-pocket costs is on the list of budget options for lawmakers to consider. That would ignore the price military retirees and their families have paid up front with their service and sacrifice.

Support full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees—Act now to support H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. This bill provides full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees, including Chapter 61 retirees.

Act now to end the Widow's Tax—Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows tax. For approximately 66,000 military survivors, the widows tax makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting.

Membership Report

by *Othan Gilbert*



MOAA National recently sent a list of 116 premium (annual) members of National that live in our area but do not belong to our chapter for various reasons. The chapter board has approved a plan offering these folks a free 1-year membership in our chapter as an incentive to join us. Letters to these members will be sent in the coming weeks. These are our friends and neighbors; people that perhaps many of us see every day. So, 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 and on the last page of this newsletter. Remember, membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite for chapter membership.

Our chapter membership total at the time of this writing is 163.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortruckermoaa.org. Please 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

(Presidents Message, continued from page 2)

Council of Chapters, Ann Hartline, who is a part of the Alabama Council, spoke to us about this innovative method of outreach. It is a great way to share ideas and experiences without having to travel to a local meeting, which may be difficult for some.

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret.), president of MOAA headquarters, participated in the inaugural meeting. Spouses' input benefits MOAA at large, he said, adding that as word gets out about the group, it'll continue to grow. That will have a powerful effect. It is open to any surviving spouse of an officer of any U.S. uniformed service across the country. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to: mssvc02@gmail.com.

GUEST SPEAKER—DR. BLAKE BUSBIN

Dr. Blake Busbin is a three-time graduate of Auburn University, finishing his doctorate in social studies education in 2013. Following the completion of his Masters Degree in 2007, he joined the faculty at Auburn High School. During his tenure at Auburn High School, he has launched a major public history project with his students documenting the stories of veterans and fallen heroes, the AHS Veterans Project. Through this effort, students have interviewed more than 250 veterans for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project and located several hundred pictures for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund™ and Wall of Faces project.

In recognition of his work, he received the 2015 Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award by the National Council for the Social Studies and was named the 2017 Alabama History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, which also named him a top ten national finalist. In 2018, he was a Top Four finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year. He is married to Anne Busbin, also a graduate of Auburn University College of Education, who is the school counselor at Richland Elementary in Auburn. They have three children: Parks, Campbell, and Miller.



We also would like to extend our congratulations to Dr. Blake Busbin for receiving the Bennie Adkins Loyalty Award last November at the Youth Leadership Development Program/Dave Wood Patriotism Program in Birmingham in appreciation for his hard work and loyalty to honor Alabama's Vietnam Veterans. If you recall, CSM (Ret) Adkins, Medal of Honor recipient, spoke at our June 2017 meeting.



TREASURER'S REPORT

by *Loel Ewart*



Date: Monday May 13, 2019

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 05/13/2019 is **\$28,389.52**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the All In Federal Credit Union (AACFCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (04/08/19) Starting balance of; **\$28,695.46**

<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	
04/17/19	MOAA Dinner deposit	\$557.00
04/26/19	John Newton (MOAA dinner)	44.00
Deposits Total		601.00

<u>CHECKS:</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
1846	04/08/19 Ronald Kaita (ROTC/JROTC support)	\$147.63
1847	04/17/19 IMWRF (Apr. MOAA Dinner)	552.24
1848	04/23/19 Ronald Kaita (ROTC/JROTC support)	120.09
1849	05/09/19 Carolyn Wooley (Printer ink)	86.98
Expenditures Total		\$906.94
Net Decrease		-\$305.94

05/13/19 Current Total Balance of;	\$28,389.52
A ACFCU checking,	-\$4,224.22
AACFCU Savings,	-\$5.41
AACFCU Money Market	\$24,159.89

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve); **-\$24,159.89**

Life Membership	\$10,610.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,549.89
Minus Savings:	-\$5.41
****Usable Funds as May 13, 2019 (Minus reserve/savings)	\$4,224.22

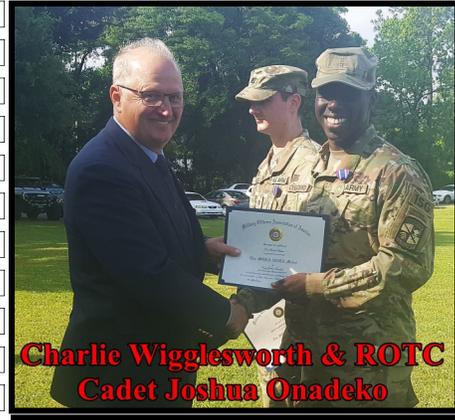
Other News*: Scholarship Fund= \$147.00
Note: The federal Credit Union has changed it's name to All In Federal Credit Union

Loel A. Ewart
Treasurer

AWARDS & GRADUATIONS



Ron Kaita & ROTC Cadet Zachariah Sullivan



Charlie Wigglesworth & ROTC Cadet Joshua Onadeko



2LT Patrick Belcher is pinned.



2LT Justin Lunsford is pinned.

VA Strategic Plan 2018-24—Priorities: □ Greater Choice: VA is committed to ensure Veterans can make decisions that work best for them and their families. □ Improve Timeliness: Veterans must receive the benefits, care and services they need in a timely manner, no matter where they are. □ Suicide Prevention: Suicide prevention is VA's highest clinical priority. Suicide is a national health crisis; it requires all of Government, along with public-private partnerships to address. □ Focus Resources: Veterans and taxpayers deserve to know VA resources are spent on the care and services Veterans need most. □ Modernize Systems: Veterans and VA employees need systems and technology that enable them to deliver the high-quality care and services Veterans deserve.

Extracted from www.va.gov



2LT Brittany Butler is pinned.



2LT Karolina Tohill is pinned.

If you have an article, pictures, comments, or constructive criticism for this newsletter, email me: estesf@troycable.net.

Retired Officer Wives Association (RWOA)
by Mary Jane Collins



Greetings Everyone in the merry month of May!
With the dawning of spring in April we have journeyed through the Lenten season, reaching the destiny of Easter. Interestingly, the origin of the name Easter is “the rising of the sun.” It is the highlight of the year, a time of brightness, illuminating spirit and earth, raising flowers and fruit, providing fresh energy and strength. It is a time of rejoicing and renewal.

RWOA enjoyed the season of April as we met for a luncheon at The Landing with a fashion show followed by Alabama fashion history. Pioneer days, the Antebellum Era, and Modern day fashions were described from calico to hoop skirts, gloves to jewelry, and etiquette with the theme, “Southern Belles and Sweet Tea.” In May, we reached the closing season of the term and the installation of officers for 2019-2020. Elected were: President Esse Muskopf, V. President Martha Boyle, Secretary Sharon Hunt, Treasurer Dot Bedsole. A plant that symbolized her charge was given to each new officer. Following the installation, the outgoing President Carol Lee Dawson was given a gift in appreciation of her service. With the theme of Alabama the Beautiful, Mother’s Day history and traditions in Alabama were given.

Alabama Representative James Heflin addressed Congress in 1913 to honor our nations’ Mothers, the strength of our nation. In 1914, Mr. Heflin introduced formal legislation that the second Sunday in May be designated as Mother’s Day and that the U.S. flag be displayed as an expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country. When the bill reached the President’s desk, it became law the same day.

May each of you have a pleasant summer with cool breezes and joyful times. God bless!

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019		
Board of Directors’ Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bimonthly Dinner Meeting
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

A man is seldom as smart as his mother thinks, or as dumb as his mother-in-law says. Someone else said, “No man is really successful until his mother-in-law admits it.”



(L to R) Past Pres. Mary Jane Collins, Pres. Esse Muskopf, VP Martha Boyle, Sec. Sharon Hunt, Treas. Dot Bedsole.

Coffee County Arts Alliance
and
Center Drugs & Home Health
Present

SEASON OPENER Featuring Local Performers & A Silent Auction of Art and Crafts from Piney Woods	Aug 18 2 PM 2019	Enterprise State Community College
A NEW SEASON OF 4 PERFORMANCES	Beginning Sep 25 2019	Enterprise High School

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



**Carol Lee Dawson (Last President)
Esse Muskopf (New President)**

Looking for Warrant Officers, past and present

United States Army
Warrant Officer Association
Above The Best Silver Chapter
Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362

PLEASE JOIN US
Monthly meetings second Tuesday of every month.

Follow us on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA/>

PICTURES FROM APRIL 13th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Lisa Bailey & Jim Kale



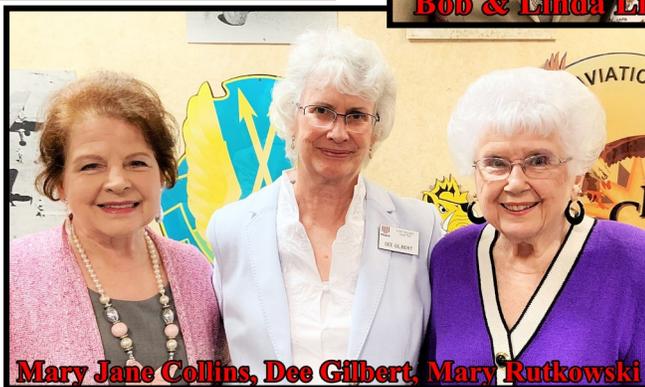
Ann Estes & Lisa Bailey



Bob & Linda Littlefield



Barbara & Loel Ewart



Mary Jane Collins, Dee Gilbert, Mary Rutkowski



Ben McKee & Jim Kale

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about them.*



Ken & Dot Bedsole



Lenore & Warren Case



Dee & Rhonda Gilbert



Lisa Bailey & Fred Latremore

HEY! WAKE UP!
Here is why it is important that our MOAA Chapter members come to our bimonthly dinners. The number of attendees coming to our dinners determines how much money goes into our Scholarship Program. PLEASE—get some of your friends that are also members and attend a dinner with us.



Frank Estes & Ray Collins

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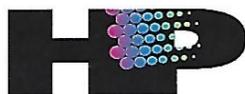
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MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075

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