



**June-July 2020**

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 Rucker, Alabama 36322

Website: <http://www.fortruckermaoa.org>  
 Email: [maoa@fortruckermaoa.org](mailto:maoa@fortruckermaoa.org)



**2020 Officers & Directors**

**PRESIDENT**—Lisa Bailey,  
 334-406-9475,  
[l\\_wmurray@juno.com](mailto:l_wmurray@juno.com)

**VP For PROGRAMS**—Ron Kaita,  
 334-677-6734,  
[ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil)

**SECRETARY**—Carolyn Wooley,  
 334-443-0984,  
[ckwooley@troycable.net](mailto:ckwooley@troycable.net)

**TREASURER**—Loel Ewart,  
 334-774-0328, [lewart@troycable.net](mailto:lewart@troycable.net)

**MEMBERSHIP**—Othan Gilbert,  
 334-432-3433,  
[ogilbert@troycable.net](mailto:ogilbert@troycable.net)

**BANQUETS & ROWA REP**  
 Mary Rutkowski, 334-347-4966

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**—Othan Gilbert,  
 334-432-3433,  
[ogilbert@troycable.net](mailto:ogilbert@troycable.net)

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
 Charlie Wigglesworth  
[cwigglesworth@troycable.net](mailto:cwigglesworth@troycable.net)

**CHAPLAIN/WEBMASTER**  
 Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079  
[drnewton@fortruckermaoa.org](mailto:drnewton@fortruckermaoa.org)

**SURVIVING SPOUSE AFFAIRS**  
 Faye Swinehart, 334-774-8817  
[jswinehart712@troycable.net](mailto:jswinehart712@troycable.net)

**ROTC/JROTC**—Ron Kaita,  
 334-677-6734,  
[ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ronald.b.kaita.civ@mail.mil)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
 Frank Estes, 334-797-9196  
[estesf@troycable.net](mailto:estesf@troycable.net)

**RETIREE AFFAIRS**  
 Ray Collins, 334-774-2101  
[rcr.dustoff51@centurytel.net](mailto:rcr.dustoff51@centurytel.net)

**THE JUNE DINNER HAS BEEN CANCELLED. WE WILL NOTIFY OUR MEMBERSHIP IN TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DINNER MEETING.**



**President's Message** by Lisa Bailey

Your chapter executive board voted to cancel our Bi-Monthly Meeting and dinner in June. We did hold our May Board of Directors meeting in Enterprise maintaining COVID-19 distancing. We had a lot to discuss on a beautiful day. We plan to meet again in June and are awaiting resolution of Fort Rucker rules before we settle on a location. We are still planning for an August dinner meeting and will let all of you know what we are able to do. If you have any concerns, questions, or input for our meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the board members for coordination.

(see **PRESIDENT** on page 3)



**Ft. Rucker MOAA Board meeting—In compliance with Federal and State guidelines. Lots of sunshine and fresh air.**

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## Legislative Report by Charlie Wigglesworth



As we continue to work with the health care personnel involved with corona virus 19 that is sweeping our Nation and the world, continue to be mindful of "social distancing". I am no doctor but it makes sense to me. As I said last month, this simple step could also help in stopping the spread of the flu or other viruses. Now for other news on the legislative front.

**Health Care Issues:** "Tricare will now cover telephone services for some medical appointments and will eliminate copayments for beneficiaries who use telehealth services in place of an in-person visit to the doctor during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID 19 symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This is just a reminder to be alert for these symptoms.

"Military families are worried that with changes coming to the military health system that include outsourcing some care to community providers, they won't be able to find quality providers or access decent care. In some locations, families already are facing problems, said members of the Defense Department's Military Family Readiness Council on April 29. For example, at Newport, R.I., military personnel face difficulties finding good pediatricians for their children, while in Europe, service members and their dependents have had trouble accessing mental health services, including via

telemedicine. They also worry that as the Defense Department pursues plans to restructure the military health system, the problems will get worse."

**Chapter News:** In the Leadership Circle, the Fort Rucker Chapter was selected as one of only 15 Platinum Level contributors. We are one of only 4 chapters to achieve this level. The Montgomery area chapter, through its scholarship foundation since 1991, has awarded over \$300,000 in grants to local college-bound high school seniors. The chapter hosts an annual golf tournament that raises thousands of dollars for the scholarship program.



## Membership Report by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is currently 152. I regret to inform you of the death of one of our life members: LTC (ret) Jim Mellish who lived in Auburn. Jim and his wife, Jan, moved to Auburn a few years ago but he kept his chapter membership with us. He had faithfully served on our chapter board of directors for many years. He died 27 March 2020. Our condolences are extended to Jan and his family.

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 past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

Remember to patronize the nine sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Hope everyone keeps safe during this difficult period.

## Coffee County Arts Alliance Center Drugs & Home Health

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT AND ATTENDANCE!  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE FALL  
FOR OUR NEW SEASON.**

THE 2019-2020 SEASON WAS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DR. EMMETT T. BRUNSON



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



**(from PRESIDENT, page 1)**

We continue suspension of our in-person support of the Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations until further notice, although our Vice President, CW5 (ret) Ron Kaita is still preparing the plaques and coordinating the monetary awards with MOAA national and the cadre at the school. The cadre are presenting our MOAA awards for us to minimize our exposure.

We await word as to whether the annual presentation of the Order of the Eagle Rising by LTG Atkins, our MOAA President, will occur in July. One concern is that the ceremony may be held virtually if the current general orders continue. Please stay tuned—we will put out information should we receive an update.

At the Board meeting, our Membership Chairman and past President, Othan Gilbert, shared information from the May 2020 Military Officer Magazine. On page 64, under the MOAA Charities Annual Report, the Fort Rucker Chapter is listed in the leadership circle at the platinum level. As stated on the page, the Never Stop Serving Leadership Circle recognizes individual, council and chapter contributors who have made combined, non-bequest donations over any time period, totaling at least \$1000 to both MOAA charities—the MOAA Scholarship Fund and the MOAA Foundation—and who have donated at least \$500 to each charity. The platinum level sponsors have given \$25,000 or more. Information from the MOAA website:

***The MOAA Foundation***

The MOAA Foundation creates, enhances, expands, and supports high-impact, proven-successful programs and services that enable the nation's uniformed servicemembers and veterans of all ranks and their families to maintain a quality of life reflective of their selfless service to America. The foundation funds these programs and services through philanthropic contributions from the American people, corporations, MOAA members along with Councils and Chapters, those who seek to assist members of the military community, and additional organizations that support our mission.

***The MOAA Scholarship Fund***

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the MOAA Scholarship Fund in 1948 and to this day continues to provide education assistance to children of both officer and enlisted personnel. Those dependents who meet the requirements and qualifications to receive these scholarships and further educational assistance benefits encompass one of the association's founding principles: education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters,

corporations, and others with a desire to help military families.

You did this! Our Chapter members never stop showing their generosity in everything we do. Our bi-monthly raffle, our last two years of the silent auctions in December, and by individual contributions through the Chapter, you have made this happen over time and for great causes. Thank you.

There is a lot of good information on the website, moaa.org, about giving to these funds. One program of giving that I love, mainly because I shop at Amazon a lot and by doing so can provide a little to a favorite charity, is the use of Amazon Smile. Information I gleaned from the MOAA website:

The MOAA Scholarship Fund joined forces with AmazonSmile in 2015. We now receive quarterly payments from the Amazon Foundation because generous Amazon shoppers have chosen to support the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Many of MOAA's 390,000 members are Amazon shoppers making this a great source of funding for our educational assistance programs.

***It is easy to join in!*** Use this link, <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1659039>, to link MOAA's Scholarship Fund as your shopping beneficiary. Then, use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for all future purchases. Your Amazon Prime Membership, shopping cart, and wish lists will all stay the same.

That's it! Amazon tracks the purchases and the Amazon Foundation sends us the funds! There is no cost to the shopper or to the MOAA Scholarship Fund making this a true win-win! Please help us spread the news about this wonderful program.

Some sad news. In March we lost long time Chapter member LTG (Ret) Ellis Parker. He was a totally committed warrior who epitomized the MOAA slogan, Never Stop Serving. We also lost LTC (ret) Jim Mellish who also served in many community and chapter activities. We are less for their loss and wise counsel.

As I stated in the last newsletter: So here we all are, awaiting the daily reports of all kinds of numbers and statistics, and seeking a silver lining in this sickness and its economic impact on our country and throughout the world. I have great hope and belief that our leadership is doing their absolute best to defeat this monstrous pandemic and to head off economic collapse. From the time that I sit at my computer writing this to the time it is published, many things will have changed, and my prayer is that it is for the better.

And I continue praying. Hope you are all well and safe.

## VA Releases COVID-19 Response Plan

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) made public, March 27, the COVID-19 Response Plan it is executing within its medical facilities to protect Veterans, their families and staff.

VA deems the plan a valuable tool that's useful for the nationwide medical community.

The "For Official Use Only" designation has been removed from the plan, making it publicly available. This access allows medical providers across the country to review, learn from and provide feedback, as the nation works to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

"VA has a world-class medical team doing incredible work on the frontlines of this fight," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We will continue to share best practices and lessons learned with other government agencies and the private health care system as appropriate so we can defeat COVID-19 as a nation."

VA has shifted some outpatient care to telehealth and some elective and non-emergent procedures have been postponed. This enables Veterans to receive care through minimal contact with staff, saves time and reduces the need for personal protective equipment, making those resources available for critical use.

Additionally, VA will begin to implement two zones within all inpatient units: one for dedicated staff and space to care for COVID-19 patients; the second will be a zone for all other care. These overall changes are aimed at minimizing the risk of infection as VA's medical professionals make decisions based on what's appropriate for the given environment and situation.

For the latest information about coronavirus visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

To learn more on how VA is responding to COVID-19 visit our Coronavirus FAQs page or read VA's public health response.

Veterans, their families and staff members are urged to take everyday precautions to protect against respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. Those exhibiting symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath should call their VA medical center before going to a clinic to limit risk of exposure.

(Taken from [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov))

### TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 05/11/2020 is, **\$30,129.93**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the All In Federal Credit Union (All In FCU).

**Activities Since Last Report: (04/13/20) Starting balance of; \$30,117.96**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
	04/30/20 Money Market Interest (April)	\$11.97
	<b>Deposits Total</b>	<b><u>\$11.97</u></b>

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
NONE		
	<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b><u>\$00.00</u></b>
	<b>Net Increase</b>	<b><u>\$11.97</u></b>

(05/11/20 **Current Total Balance of; \$30,129.93**

All In checking	\$5,847.28
All In Savings	\$5.41
All In Money Market	\$24,277.24

<b>Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);</b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>\$24,277.24</u></b>
	Life Membership	\$9,560.00
	MOAA reserve,	\$14,717.24

<b>Minus Savings:</b>	\$5.41	<b>-</b>	<b><u>\$5.41</u></b>
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**\*Usable Funds as May 11, 2020 (Minus reserve/savings) \$5,847.28**

**Other News** \*No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$235.00

#### Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019-2020



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
8 Jun 2020		20 Jun 2020
13 Jul 2020	15 Jul 2020	
10 Aug 2020		15 Aug 2020
14 Sep 2020	16 Sep 2020	
12 Oct 2020		17 Oct 2020
9 Nov 2020	18 Nov 2020	
14 Dec 2020		19 Dec 2020

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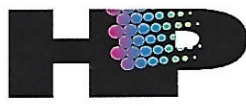
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 — PRESENT —

<b>MASTERS OF SOUL</b> A Motown Revue Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Supremes & More	Jan 16, 2020 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
<b>YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN</b> A Musical	Feb 18, 2020 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
<b>PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL</b> A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 4 & 5 2020	Enterprise State Community College

THE SEASON IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DR. EMMETT T. BRUNSON

Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)  
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**MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 620075**  
**Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075**

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**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.

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 BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 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](http://www.FortRuckerMOAA.org)**