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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.

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 19TH - 6:00 PM,
THE LANDING'S BALLROOM, FORT RUCKER, AL**

GUEST SPEAKER

CSM (Ret) Bill Baker

Navigator Development Group, Inc.
Enterprise, AL

Topic: Enterprise Veterans' Home

AGENDA & MENU

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

- > Tomato-Cucumber-Jicama Salad
- > Smoked Pull Pork
- > South Western Roasted Corn
- > Rustic Red Skinned Potatoes
- > Rolls & Gutter
- > Lemon Ice Box Pie
- > Unsweet Tea, Water, Coffee

Cost: \$22.00



Please make your Reservations by noon Wednesday, June 16th to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966.

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.





President's Message by Ron Kaita

Hello members. This is the busiest time annually for our Chapter. Other than normal chapter meetings, the end of the school year in our area means the close coordination with Senior Army Instructors (SAI) at Wiregrass High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs. This year, the MOAA JROTC medals and ribbon were presented to Cadet Isis Torrellas from Charles Henderson High School in Troy, AL; Cadet Brianna Peterson from Carroll High School in Ozark, AL; Cadet Jayden Faulk from Daleville High School in Daleville, AL; Cadet Marissa Tripp from Enterprise High School in Enterprise, AL; and Kierra Rodgers from Pike County High School in Brundidge, AL. These selected recipients were chosen for their leadership and academic achievements in their JROTC program.

April's Alabama Council of Chapters virtual Zoom meeting was held on Tuesday, 27 April 2021. The focus for the AL Council continues to be on membership. Guest speakers for our quarterly meeting from MOAA National were CPT Erin Stone,

USN (Ret), the Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, and CPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret) the Program Director for Council and Chapters Affairs. updated us on the Council & Chapter Affairs branch as well as the MOAA store, chapter collaboration and virtual speak collaboration. MOAA has designated 2021 as the Year of the Chapter; rightfully so, as we focus on keeping MOAA strong as MOAA engages Congress for our military needs that include military service members and their families and our veterans.

Some of our recent additions to our Fort Rucker Chapter are CW4 Dennis Bergstrazer, CW5 (Ret) Sam Baker, CW3 (Ret) Steven Schisler, and CW2 (Ret) Troy Kaita in Texas. Please welcome them at our next bi-monthly dinner engagement scheduled for Saturday, 19 June 2021 at the Ft Rucker Aviation Landing with guest speaker Bill Baker on the Enterprise's future Veterans Home. If you would like to become more active in the chapter, please don't hesitate to attend one of our board meetings and see what needs doing. There is a great need for fresh ideas and for **(continued on page 3)**



Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is currently 143.

I am pleased to report the welcome addition of one new chapter member: CW4 Dennis Bergstrazer. Dennis and his wife, Rose, have been serving in Indonesia for the past 30+ years for the Mission Aviation Fellowship organization. They own a home in Chancellor and are in the process of retiring there.

I regret to inform you of the death on 27 April of one of our chapter members: COL Robert Floyd. He lived in Newton with his wife, Christine. Our condolences are extended to her and their family.

Normally those of you with email addresses get your copy of the newsletter via email. Paper copies of the newsletter are normally only sent to those without email addresses. This month, however, we are sending a paper copy of the newsletter to everyone

we have on file. Older editions of our newsletter are posted on our chapter web site.

We all know that there are a lot of retired officers in our area. While many are not members of MOAA National, many are but are **not** members of our chapter. It is hard to understand why some have no interest in joining our chapter, particularly since our chapter dues are so low at \$12 per year. In recent years, our board has maintained a policy that new members get the first year of their chapter dues gratis to encourage joining. In any case, perhaps they need some encouragement from you to join. It is important that all chapter members are involved in chapter recruitment. Experience has shown that the best candidate for membership into the chapter are those that are already members of MOAA National. When you find someone that wishes to join, have them go to our chapter website,

so that we can verify the mailing addresses

download a chapter application, fill it out and return to our box at the Fort Rucker post office. No check necessary. Remember, we are not a social club and membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite to chapter membership.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortruckermoa.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. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life membership, it is better to do so by calling them direct 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 ten sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.



Legislative Report

by Charlie Wigglesworth



I have been spending time off the grid the last couple of weeks helping my 93 year old father in the mountains of Virginia.

With no cell coverage and no internet, I had time to reflect as I worked and observed the beauty on the mountains. I know this does not sound like legislative news, and you would be correct, but that is what happens when you are totally disconnected from modern technology.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the celebration of Armed Forces Day will have passed and Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day will be completed or approaching. Days that we celebrate our freedoms, honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and honor our Veterans. As we approach these holidays, I was reminded of what the 2d paragraph of the Declaration of Independence states: " We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created

equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Some Americans today fail to understand the freedoms they have or fail to honor the price that has been paid for these freedoms. The Veterans of this Nation, whether they served one term or retired, understand each and every day the cost in sweat and treasure that has been paid.

May God richly bless and protect all our Men and Women that stand today on Freedoms Frontiers!

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from page 1) help in all our activities. Our meetings are held at the Silver Wings Golf Course Regimental Room and are usually on the second Monday of each month. Join us for lunch at the Divots Lounge at 1200 hours prior to the meeting. Our next meetings are scheduled for Mondays, 14 June and 12 July, 2021.

Upcoming special event to add to your calendars is the USAWOCC's Order of the Eagle Rising Society (ERS) annually award presentation. The ERS recognizes one individual who has

contributed significantly over his/her lifetime to the promotion of the Warrant Officer Community in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates, and peers. The event is still scheduled to be held on 09 July 2021, 1100hr, with the ceremony at the Aviation Museum on Fort Rucker, AL.

I hope to see many of you at our meetings and social dinners. Until then, please take care of yourselves and your families and friends.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Spring Greetings Everyone,
We are in the height of springtime with nature's pleasant temperatures and beauty. While April has offered the rain showers for the early flowers of daffodils, pansies, and camellias, May is providing the profuse abundance in array of blossoms such as the hydrangeas, roses, and hyacinths. From earth to sky, nature's gifts are prevalent as we have seen the pink moon, which is the largest moon of this year, and will see a total eclipse before May completes the month's grandeur. Our ROWA completed the last luncheon meeting of the 2020-2021 term this month with a special ceremony.

Our guest speaker, Mrs. Jacquelyn McKinstry, Alabama State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation gave the history from a dream by Founder Catherine Roberts to the purpose of gratitude and healing. This Foundation, which began in 2003 now reaches to chapters from Canada, England, Australia, and beyond.

Mrs. McKinstry presented COL (R) James Muskopf the Award of a Quilt of Valor for his military service throughout 30 years of active duty. With appreciation, memories of duty stations, and Army life, COL Muskopf noted that his father and grandfather had

served in the Army with honor and inspired him. As the meeting concluded, President Esse Muskopf presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Ingrid Strange

for her hospitality in providing a room at the Castle Café for ROWA to meet and enjoy lunch together. ROWA officers, liaison, and chairs were acknowledged with gifts of appreciation. On behalf of ROWA, Susanne Bailey presented a gift of appreciation to the outgoing president for a two-year service as ROWA President.

Completions are numerous in May. The Ft. Rucker Community Spouses Club had their last luncheon meeting of the term this month as well, and were grateful to complete funding efforts including a Golf Scramble at Silver Wings, to provide Educational Scholarships and Community Grants during this term for students and areas of community service. Service characterizes the FRCSO along with many other service organizations at Ft. Rucker as noted in the volunteer appreciation ceremony in April. A number of FRCSO members, members of ROWA, and members of MOAA were among those acknowledged for their time and efforts. The total value of volunteer hours for this past year was \$408,000 due to the pandemic, and more than \$1,000,000 the previous year.

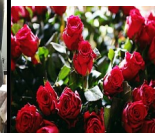
As this term closes, ROWA plans will be made and the reconvening will be September 14, 2021. May springtime and the coming summertime bring you joy, days of sunshine, times with friends and family, refreshing moments and memories while swinging on the porch swing, May the gift of each day bless you!



(L to R) Maj. (R) Esse Muskopf, Col (R) James Muskopf, Mrs. Jacquelyn McKinstry



ROWA Members & Guests



2021 Officers & Directors

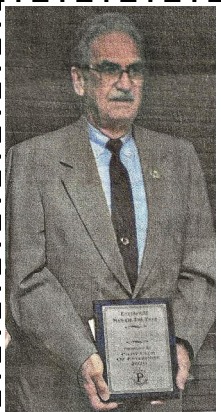
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- RETIREE AFFAIRS**
Ray Collins, 334-774-2101, mjpcollins.ua@centurytel.net

TREASURER’S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 05/10/2021 is **\$29,021.50**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn Federal Credit Union (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:		(04/12/21) Starting balance of:	\$29,125.33
DEPOSITS	ACTION		
04/13/21	Donation (Ron Kaita)		\$100.00
04/19/21	MOAA April Dinner Receipts		586.00
04/30/21	Money Market Interest		<u>12.04</u>
		Deposits Total	\$698.04
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
1912	VOID		
1913	VOID		
1914	04/17/21 Dothan House of Ruth		\$200.00
1915	04/19/21 IMWRF (April MOAA Dinner)		523.75
1916	05/01/21 Carolyn Wooley (Printer Ink)		<u>78.12</u>
		Expenditures Total	\$801.87
		Net Decrease	<u>\$103.83</u>
		(05/10 /21) Current Total Balance of;	<u>\$29,021.50</u>
		All In checking	\$4,592.79
		All In Savings	\$5.41
		All In Money Market	\$24,423.30
		Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$24,423.30
		Life Membership	\$8,610.00
		MOAA reserve,	\$15,813.30
		Minus Savings:	\$5.41
			-\$5.41
		*Usable Funds as of May 10, 2021 (Minus reserve/savings)	<u>\$4,592.79</u>
		Other News* No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$200.07	



Enterprise Man-Of-The-Year

CW4 (Ret) Bob Cooper was recently named Enterprise’s Man-of-the-Year. He was nominated by the Wiregrass Sons of the American Revolution. He is a decorated Vietnam Veteran, a dual-rated Master Army Aviator. He has been a member of the US Army Warrant Officer Association (USAWOA) Quarterly Enterprise road cleanup project, serves as a member of the Enterprise Military Affairs Committee, reached out and found workers for the Enterprise Homes for Humanity project, and has participated in site visits of veterans and family members living in local nursing/assisted

living homes. Cooper also served as an advisor to Boy Scouts working on Eagle Scout projects and fundraising events. His service to the USAWOA earned him the Don Hess Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. He is the recipient of a Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf clusters, a Bronze Star Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medals, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Badge, a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, and numerous other military awards. The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) awarded him the Silver Award of the Order of Saint Michael due to his significant and long-lasting contributions to Army Aviation. Cooper, as Past Commander of the VFW Post 6683, is active as the Lower Alabama Veterans Alliance

(LAVA) representative for numerous veterans events in Enterprise to include: the annual Veterans Day Parade, Memorial Day services, Wreaths Across America, US flag replacement and retirement ceremonies, VFW Post 6683 annual BBQ Dinner for the wounded veterans and families, and the Lions Club Annual Boll Weevil 100 event. Cooper and his wife Ditte Hansen Cooper have been married for 52 years and are the parents of two children and grandparents for three grandsons. Cooper said: “I’m very happy to have been selected this year to have joined the crowd of the folks who’ve been nominated previously. We enjoy being in Enterprise. Our children grew up here, and it’s really been a great City of Progress.”
(Taken from *The Enterprise Ledger*, Sunday, April 18, 2021)

PICTURES FROM APRIL 17th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Ron Kaita (c) presents memento to Karen Boyd (l) & Angela Underwood (r)



Dinner Guests



Mary Jane & Ray Collins



Gloria Loser & Susanne Bailey



Mary Jane Collins, Dee Gilbert, & Rose Bergstrazer



Karen Boyd & Angela Underwood



Ray Collins, Gecil Simmons & Dick Kenyon



Barbara & Loel Ewart



Bill Carter & Carolyn Wooley



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer



Claudia & Charlie Wigglesworth



Lark & Ron Kaita



Cecil & Charlotte Simmons

PICTURES FROM APRIL 17th MOAA MEETING & DINNER (continued)



Nate & Angela Underwood




Lisa Bailey & Fred Latremore



Mary Rutkowski & Barbara Ewart



Dinner Guests - another view

Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter,		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
14 Jun 21		19 Jun 21
12 Jul 21	21 Jul 21	
9 Aug 21		21 Aug 21
13 Sep 21	15 Sep 21	
11 Oct 21		16 Oct 21
8 Nov 21	17 Nov 21	
13 Dec 21		18 Dec 21

VA NEWS RELEASES—(1) VA to re-adjudicate Veteran and survivor claims for possible herbicide exposure - Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will have their claims automatically re-adjudicated by VA. (5/14/21); (2) VA offering walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations nationwide - All Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and clinics that administer COVID-19 vaccines are accepting walk-ins for eligible Veterans, spouses and caregivers. (5/10/21); (3) VA releases report detailing efforts to address COVID-19 pandemic - The Department of Veterans Affairs published a second installment report identifying the department's strategic response from July 1, 2020 to Jan. 1, 2021, to address the COVID-19 pandemic. (5/11/21).



Cadet Isis Torrellas, Charles Hensonson HS, received MOAA certificate

JROTC HONORS



MOAA's Ray Collins presenting award & certificate to Carroll HS Cadet Captain Brianna Peterson



MOAA's Ron Kaita presents certificate to Cadet Marissa Tripp, Enterprise HS



Daleville Senior Cadet Jayden Faulk receives MOAA Student Award from Ft Rucker MOAA's Lisa Bailey

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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