

August—September 2022

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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.  
 Ft. Rucker Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 620075, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36320  
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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH- 11:00 AM LUNCHEON,**  
**THE LANDING, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, FORT RUCKER, AL**


**SCHEDULE & MENU**

**Social: 11:00 AM!**  
**Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 11:45 AM!**  
**Lunch: 12:00 NOON!**

- > 1/2 Chicken salad croissant w/lettuce & tomato
- > 1/2 Hot roast beef & Swiss sandwich
- > Pasta salad
- > Kettle chips
- > Lemon squares & cookie platter for each table
- > Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

**Cost: \$15.00 per meal**

**Whoya Gonna Call?**



Please make your Reservations & meal selection by noon  
**Monday August 15th**  
 to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966. No changes at the door; meals are preordered.

**Cash or personal checks only!**  
 Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on the Wednesday prior to the Luncheon Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Mr. William Holman**  
 Executive Director of the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens



**President's Message by Ron Kaita**

I hope all is well with everyone, and I am confident we are all quite busy during this wonderful summer we are enjoying...family vacations, grandchildren running amok, and yard work that never ends! School is starting right around the corner, so be aware of those yellow buses on our roads again.

Our chapter activities have mostly centered around supporting the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) activities. Just recently, the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Society award was presented to Charlie Poulton (CW5, USA Ret) from Tennessee. COL (Ret) O'Brien from MOAA National and COL Ross Nelson (Commandant, USAWOCC)

presented the award and signed certificate from Lt Gen (Ret) Dana Atkins (MOAA President, CEO). Charlie was also presented a check for \$500 from MOAA for this accomplishment.

On a sad note, we are losing our past Chapter President MAJ (Ret) Lisa Bailey and her battle buddy Fred. The luncheon will be Lisa's final meeting with our membership as Lisa and Fred leave for Oklahoma to their families as they immediately start the final homecoming (PCS...LOL). Please come out to next month's luncheon and wish Lisa and Fred a heart-felt bon voyage and Aloha. We are all really going to miss the both of you and thankful for your leadership, dedication, and

contagious friendly smiles.

The US Army Warrant Officer Career College will be having its Change of Command at the end of the month with COL Ross Nelson (Outgoing) and COL Kevin McHugh (Incoming Commandant) on Thursday, 1300 hours, 28 July at the Aviation Museum. This is a major muscle movement for us as we rely much of our dealings and engagements with this fine military institution.

Our next meeting will again be a luncheon at the Landing on 18 August 2022, at 1100 - 1300 hrs at the Aviation Landing club. We will have the pleasure of hosting Mr. William Holman the Executive Director of the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens as our guest speaker. I am really  
**(See PRESIDENT page 2)**

(from PRESIDENT page 1) excited as Bill will be giving us a presentation on the Botanical Gardens offerings, and a surprise new attraction that is opening in the coming days ahead. I will not go into details to avoid stealing Bill's thunder.

I have been very successful attending the Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations to date, with another one this week for Class 22-18 this Wednesday and upcoming Class 22-19, Wednesday, 27 July at the Aviation Museum @ 1000 hrs. MOAA awards at every graduation for MOAA National in recognition of their achievements with a MOAA certificate, a \$100 check, and a three-year Premium membership. My last MOAA briefing to class 22-19 netted 44 new MOAA Basic Memberships from the graduating class and have three more recruiting and graduations scheduled for August.

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.

Please stay safe and enjoy the warm weather we are experiencing and look forward to those cooler temperatures in the months ahead. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, their families, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...*Never Stop Serving.*

### TRICARE Costs & Changes

MOAA has successfully prevented lawmakers from including TRICARE For Life fees or other unfair increases as part of the NDAA in recent years. This remains a top legislative priority, as does a push to improve the benefit on two fronts:

**Young Adult Coverage**—extend TRICARE coverage for young adult dependents, bringing it in line with civilian plans. An amendment addressing the issue was brought up during the Senate NDAA process last year, but it was not included in the final legislation, and

**Mental Health Copays**—While MOAA will continue to advocate for its passage as a stand alone bill – one that prevents military families and retirees from being priced out of mental health services – sending a message to your lawmakers about this legislation will help it receive more attention as the NDAA wheels begin turning.

(from [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org))



## Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is currently 134.

In the coming weeks we plan to send out recruiting letters to MOAA premium and life members who are not members of the chapter. If you know someone who is a member of MOAA but not a member of the chapter, please encourage them to join. To get new chapter members, it must be a joint effort with “all hands on deck”.

For some years, I have been taking pictures at the chapter dinner meetings and storing them on my computer. I decided they no longer needed to be on my PC and, with the cooperation of Dennis Newton, our chapter web master, I transferred them to our website ([fortrucker-moaa.org](http://fortrucker-moaa.org)). They go back primarily to 2015 but there are some from 2009 and 2011. Go look. If you have attended any of these meetings, you will probably enjoy looking at them.

The national MOAA website is [moaa.org](http://moaa.org) and our chapter website is [fortrucker-moaa.org](http://fortrucker-moaa.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 eleven sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration. With this issue, I welcome the addition of Loose Brick Coffee Company which is located on the square in Ozark. My wife and I have been frequent customers, and I think you will enjoy a visit also. The owners (Steve and Pam Schisler) are members of the chapter.

### Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2022



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
8 Aug 22		18 Aug 22 (L)
12 Sep 22	21 Sep 22	
10 Oct 22		15 Oct 22 (D)
14 Nov 22	16 Nov 22	
12 Dec 22		17 Dec 22 (D)
<i>L= Lunch on Thursdays. D= Dinner on Saturdays.</i>		

Gem, flower, & color for June—Peridot, gladiolus/poppy, sun orange



## Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins



July Summer Greetings to All:

Courage, Faith, Strength, Honor, and Duty, reflect the character of our Colonies. These always come to mind on July the fourth as we celebrate the birth of America. When Ray and I traveled to a Military Conference in Maryland we also traveled to Jamestown and saw the ship replicas of The Susan Constant, the God Speed, and The Discovery. I envisioned the efforts, the perseverance, the hardship, and the purpose to lead the way to a nation that would become one of liberty, law, and leadership with the motto "In God we Trust." Later, we attended a graduation ceremony at West Point and from there traveled to Plymouth. Seeing the harbor where the Pilgrims came to shore, was amazing. Further inward here was the Plymouth Rock by a sign that stated this rock was stepped on by the Pilgrims who first came ashore. When I stepped on that rock, there was a sense of reverence and Holy ground which I continue to remember and appreciate.

When thinking of this history more progress was coming as delegates of the Colonies combined to develop a Continental Congress, formed and structured with emphasis on the quality of participants, and to promote free debate. Later the Second Continental Congress reconvened to declare their independence and faced The American Revolution. The Continental Congress and the leaders and soldiers pressed on. By perseverance on July 2 Congress voted to declare independence. Two days later the Declaration of Independence was ratified July 4, 1776. In time, the Congress prepared the Articles of Confederation which became the first U.S. Constitution March 1781.

Many leaders developed America to become our nation with vision and ability, from Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Jackson, Henry, and many more they lead the way with ability and wisdom, knowing how to manage and lead. There were many women who contributed to the Colonies and the advancement of America as well with service for families, preparing food, caring for children, helping in danger, fighting when necessary, tending to wounds, and more. We also remember our military and veterans who have protected our nation with valor and continue to serve, as do those at Ft. Rucker for whom we appreciate. May our America today regain leaders such as these with honor, vision, and wisdom to adhere to the standard of God, the character of honor, the wisdom of service, and the vision of peace.

ROWA finished our last term in May and will resume on September 8, 2022 at 11.00 at The Landing, with lunch A la carte. The October 11 meeting will be at The Landing as well. We look forward to seeing guests and members as we enjoy the fellowship together. Please make reservations by the Friday before to Mary Rutkowski.

May you enjoy the summertime with family and friends and travels.  
God bless!

## Legislative Report by Ray Collins



The Military Officer Association of America made the best of an ongoing impossible situation through the use of a hybrid "Advocacy in Action 2022" program to contact all 535 congressional offices. Highlighted in this years program were the Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282 and S. 344) which would allow combat wounded veterans to receive both their authorized retirement pay and VA disability pay (228 co-sponsors in the House and 58 in the Senate).

The Stop Co-pay Overpay Act HR 4824 would reduce TRICARE mental health co-pays. The Senate has not found an office to introduce a companion act. The military pay raise of 4.6% is far from "in the bank" and even if finally authorized it will be 2.6% behind due to the short fall created during the FY 2014-2016 allotment shortages.

As important as the above issues are there looms a "dragon" on the horizon which will almost relegate these issues to insignificant. The woeful shortfall the military family is living with in their Basic Allowance for Housing allotments is critical and if not quickly rectified will become a major retention issue, not to mention the family health and safety concern. This should not come as a surprise based on the housing market, both rental and ownership, throughout the country.

Representative Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash) has introduced two bills, BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 7561) and BAH Calculation Improvement Act (H.R. 7562) which will hopefully alleviate this concern. The BAH Restoration Act would bring back BAH full coverage as it was until 2015 when DoD reduced BAH one percent per year to a low of 95% by 2019.

**COLA Watch:** The Consumer Price Index for April was up 6% above the FY 2022 COLA baseline.

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

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 07/11/2022 is **\$28,684.73**.  
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money  
Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

**Activities Since Last Report:** (06/13/22) **Starting balance of:** **\$28,764.40**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
06/22/22	MOAA Luncheon (June)	\$506.00
06/30/22	Credit interest from Money Market	3.54
07/08/22	MOAA check (Refund, Kaita, for Eagle Rising)	<u>500.00</u>
	<b>Deposits Total</b>	<b>\$1,009.54</b>

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1950	06/13/22 Ron Kaita (ROTC Medals)	\$41.03
1951	06/22/22 IMWRF (June Luncheon)	424.80
1952	06/30/22 Loel Ewart (Registered Mail to Ft. Rucker)	7.38
1953	07/07/22 Charles Poulton (Eagle Rising Society 2021 Awards)	500.00
1954	07/11/22 Othan Gilbert (Stamps-Postage)	<u>116.00</u>
	<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$1,089.21</b>
	<b>Net Decrease</b>	<b>\$79.67</b>

(07/11 /22) **Current Total Balance of:** **\$28,684.73**

All In checking	\$7137.60
All In Savings	\$5.41
All In Money Market	\$21,541.72

**Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);** **-\$21,541.72**

Life Membership	\$8,170.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,371.72

**Minus Savings:** **\$5.41** **-\$5.41**

**\*Usable Funds as of July 11, (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$7,137.60**

**Other News** \*No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$145.00

**ID Card Update: New Deadline for Some Military Retirees, Dependents****JULY 18, 2022**

*Editor's note: This article by Travis Tritten originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.*

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department.

There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026, Maj. Charlie Dietz, a spokesman, told Military.com.

In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update all those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit delays caused by the pandemic.

"DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all existing cards with an actual expiration date will have expired," Dietz wrote in an email. "After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access."

The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various military benefits, so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates.

Those with cards with no expiration dates "may have the card replaced at their convenience," according to Dietz. The department recommends they go to the ID Card Office Online and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment.

Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and Medal of Honor recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards.

(from MOAA email dated 7-21-2022)

# Photos from June 16<sup>th</sup> MOAA Luncheon



President Ron Kaita presents memento to Guest Speaker Vicky Turner



Susan Bailey & Mary Rutkowski



Ron Kaita, Loel Ewart, & Mary Rutkowski



Barbara & Loel Ewart



Carolyn Wooley, Faye Swinehart, & Susan Bailey



Charlotte & Cecil Simmons



Luncheon attendees



Dennis Newton & Dick Kenyon



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



The MOAA ladies



John Newton & Ray Collins



More luncheon attendees

## Photos from June 16<sup>th</sup> MOAA Luncheon (continued)



Dennis Newton & Tony Haro



More luncheon attendees



Lark & Ron Kaita



Othan & Dee Gilbert



Other luncheon attendees



Rose & Dennis Bergstrazer



Mary Jane & Ray Collins



The head table

### Lighten Up! It's only HUMOR!

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to." Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?" Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes." —Rachel Nichols

Traveling through the Midwest, I stopped at an Ohio welcome center to pick up a state map. I found plenty of brochures but no maps. Then I spotted two employees and asked whether they had any. "Sure," said the first guy. "I'll get you one." As he walked to the back, the second guy explained, "We keep them in the storage room. If we leave them out on the counter, people just come in and take them." —James Nealis

It was my first night caring for an elderly patient. When he grew sleepy, I wheeled his chair as close to the bed as possible and, using the techniques I'd

learned in school, grasped him in a bear hug to lift him onto the bed. But I couldn't clear the top of the mattress. So, I grabbed him again, summoned all my might, and hoisted him onto the bed. When the night shift nurse arrived, I recounted what had happened. "Funny," she said, looking puzzled. "Usually I just ask him to get in bed, and he does." —Erin Dockery

My neighbor texted me, "I just made synonym buns!" I texted back, "You mean like grammar use to make?" I haven't heard from her since.

Welcome to our newest sponsor. Thanks for your support.



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**Coffee County Arts Alliance**  
— PRESENTS —

<b>BLACKWOOD QUARTET</b> <i>Grammy Award Winning Gospel Group</i>	Sep 22, 2022 7:00 pm	Elba High School
<b>RESURRECTION - A JOURNEY TRIBUTE</b> <i>The Best of Journey</i>	Oct 20, 2022 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
<b>MESSIAH</b> A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 2022 4:30 pm	TBA
<b>FOREVER YOUNG</b> <i>Your Life - Your Music</i>	Feb 7, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
<b>ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA</b> AN IRISH HEART WITH Chloé Agnew	Mar 3, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
<b>PINE WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL</b> <i>A Juried Arts &amp; Crafts Show</i>	Apr 22 & 23 2023	ESCC

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

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

*Return Service Requested*



	<b>MOAA Membership Application Fort Rucker Chapter</b>		
<p><b>Fort Rucker Chapter Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) PO Box 620075 Fort Rucker, AL 36362-0075</b></p>			
<p>Enclosed is my check, in accordance with the schedule below, for membership in the Fort Rucker Chapter of the <i>Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)</i>.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>NAME: _____ RANK: _____          BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ ADDRESS: _____          CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____          DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PHONE: _____          SPOUSE'S NAME: _____          E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>			
<p>NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP # _____ National Life Member? _____</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>Make checks payable to Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA Thank you for your support! Web address: <a href="http://www.FortRuckerMOAA.org">www.FortRuckerMOAA.org</a></b></p>			