

October-November 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
 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH - 6:00 PM DINNER,
THE LANDING, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, FORT RUCKER, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 6:00 PM
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45 AM
Dinner: 7:00 PM

- > Tossed salad w/assorted dressings
- > Schnitzel w/Jaegar gravy
- > German potato salad
- > Green beans
- > Brotchen & butter
- > German Chocolate Cake
- > Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$23.00



Who's Gonna Call?

Please make your Reservations & meal selection by noon Wednesday October 12th 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 SEAKER

Mark Blankenship
 Mayor of Ozark
 See Biography, pg 4



President's Message by Ron Kaita

It seems hard to believe but we only have a week or two of summer left and autumn will be here to start the coming holiday season. This summer afforded the chapter many actions and activities. Our summer lunch meetings were a great success and I look forward to offering it again next year.

As the nation reflects the terrible terrorist attacks over 20 years ago, we must recognize the courage and sacrifices of our service men and women, emergency responders, and our citizens during 11 September 2001. Nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives on this day and still today our Nation is engaged in on-going threats to our nation and our way of life. We are very fortunate to still have the strongest military force to

engage and destroy all present dangers in the world today and in the future. The identified issues for our military fighting force are replacing our aging military equipment, recruiting adequate numbers of new service members, and providing the basic needs of these brave and dedicated service members and their families. MOAA is adamant that these issues are addressed and fought for on the hill with our legislative representatives. We must support their efforts!

Our chapter activities have centered around supporting the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) activities and raising monies for the chapter's funding of our scholarship donation to MOAA National. In September, the chapter is donating a cake to

the Post Exchange for the celebration of the U.S. Air Force's 75th Birthday on 18 September 2022. The cake will be cut on Friday, 16th September in the AFEES Post Exchange. Happy Birthday to the United States Air Force.

Our next meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Landing on 15 October 2022, at 1800 - 2100 hours at the Aviation Landing Club. We will have the pleasure of hosting Mayor Mark Blankenship of the Gateway City of Ozark, Alabama our guest speaker. I am really excited to hear all the on-goings in Ozark as many new offerings/constructions are abound there. The meal will be one of my favorites as we celebrate Octoberfest with Jagger Schnitzel and all the traditional (**see *President's Message, page 2***)

(President's Message from page 1) Bavarian offerings. It brings back the many great memories of being assigned in Germany during numerous tours the Army provided my family.

I continue to attend each Warrant Officer Candidate School graduations. There is one this week for Class 22-23 this Wednesday, 14 September and upcoming Class 22-24, Thursday, 29 September at the Aviation Museum @ 1000 hrs. The MOAA awards provided at every graduation for the Distinguished Honor Graduate and Leadership Awardee is in recognition of their achievements with a MOAA certificate, a \$100 check, and a three-year Premium membership. My last MOAA briefing to WOCS Class 22-23 netted 74 new MOAA Basic Memberships from the graduating class. There will be two more WOCS recruiting, and graduations scheduled in October.

As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed world-wide keeping us safe and secure.

Please stay safe and enjoy the cooler weather we are experiencing and look forward to those spooks and gobbling's visiting our homes in search of tricks or treats. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, families, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto... Never Stop Serving.



Left: WO1 Ricardo Torres - Leadership Award
Right: WO1 Michael Buttrick - Distinguished Honor Grad



Left: WO1 Adam Rios - Leadership Award
Right: WO1 Ryan Cunningham - Distinguished Honor Grad



Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is currently 136.

In November I will be sending out notices to pay your 2023 annual dues (\$12), when applicable. If you receive a notice, I would appreciate prompt payment. Please don't wait until the end of December.

For some years I have been taking pictures at the chapter dinner meetings and storing them on my computer. They have been transferred to our website (fortruckermoa.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 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 eleven sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2022		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
3 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 October—opal/tourmaline, calendula, cerulean		



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings Everyone!

As beautiful August has enjoyed the glorious sunshine with bright flowers and foliage, skies of blue and stars of night. The door of September opens the season of schools, festivals, holidays, buttermilk skies, and cooler temperatures. Within there is the awakening and preparation for the coming autumn with the bounty of a new harvest. September holds many festivals and holidays, as well as bringing people together with friends, families, and new acquaintances.

ROWA members have completed our last yearly term in May and we have now reconvened yesterday in September at The Landing for lunch.

During the summer we each enjoyed various times of interest, such as some traveling, the ocean, family gatherings, class mates, Alabama's parks, birthdays, shopping, and walking. Our ROWA President is currently enjoying Scotland and Ireland on a tour.

This summer the Ft. Rucker military had many ceremonies to farewell and to receive both of which were received with our appreciation for service, friendships, and prayers. May God bless each one and the families. As military spouses there are many moves!

May we also remember the family of Her Majesty Elizabeth II Queen of England. Her excellence will be remembered.

The Ft. Rucker Spouses Club reconvened this August at The Landing to open a new term. This term will have a different theme with a different country each month to enjoy. Please note that this club will have a bizarre this November with many vendors, treasures, cakes, and many more for two days. All proceeds go to scholarships for high school students. Applications will be available in the spring.

MOAA luncheons have been enjoyed at The Landing as well with guest speakers. One gave information about the beautiful garden in Dothan which has a variety of flowers and trees, and is a favorite to see.

Please note that ROWA will meet at The Landing, Oct. 11 at 11:00 a.m., Nov. 8 at 11:00 a.m., Dec. 13 at 11:00 a.m. Reservation to Mary Rutkowski 334-347-4866.

We will hope to see you and guests. Have a blessed day each day.



Legislative Report

by Ray Collins



It appears that the military and the nation in general are finally getting serious about veteran suicide and the prevention thereof. It is estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide each day. The rate among active duty has not been fully disclosed but given the life events situation they face (Low pay, housing, frequent deployments and force strength issues) today's active military rate it is in all likelihood alarmingly high. The Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee (SPRIRC) was formed last year under the mandate of congress since study after study of the situation failed to provide answers to help slow the rate to any significant degree. Only time will tell if this attempt is effective.

Last month I reported that the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was almost assured of passing the senate after clearing committees. The only issue left was correcting some technical issues. After correcting these issues and returning to the floor it was revealed that 400 billion dollars had been added to foster some of the democrats pet projects and was subsequently defeated. Apparently the PACT Act did pass the Senate in early August and Biden signed it into law on August 9.

The 2023 Defense Bill as far as I can determine has yet to become a reality.

COLA Watch: The June 2022 Consumer Price Index is 292.542 or 9% above the FY 2022 COLA baseline .



2021 Officers & Directors

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TREASURER’S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 09/12/2022 is **\$29,121.31**
 These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:		(08/08/22) Starting balance of;	\$29,148.39
DEPOSITS	ACTION		
	08/08/22 Mil Off Deposit EFT		\$50.00
	08/19/22 MOAA Luncheon		490.00
	08/29/22 Cecil Simmons (MOAA Luncheon)		30.00
	08/31/22 Credit interest from Money Market		<u>3.66</u>
	Deposits Total		\$573.66
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
1955	08/24/22 IMWRF (MOAA Luncheon)		\$474.30
1056	09/05/22 Houston Printing (For July 28 NL Print)		<u>126.44</u>
	Expenditures Total		\$600.74
	Net Decrease		\$27.08
	(09/12 /22) Current Total Balance of;		\$29,121.31
	All In checking		\$7,566.86
	All In Savings		\$5.41
	All In Money Market		\$21,549.04
	Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-\$21,549.04
	Life Membership		\$8,170.00
	MOAA reserve,		\$13,379.04
	Minus Savings:	\$5.41	-\$5.41
	*Usable Funds as of September 12, (Minus reserve/savings)		\$7,566.86
	Other News* NO outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$.230.00		

Mayor Blankenship’s Resume—Mark Blankenship was born in Dale County and graduated from G.W. Long High School. He has been married to his wife, Lori, for 40 years. They have two daughters, and five grandchildren.

After graduating High School, Blankenship went to Army Basic training and served 7 years in the Alabama National Guard. After basic, he took a job with Alabama Power / Southern Nuclear Operating Company and worked with them for 20 years. During his free time, he obtained a contractor license and started a construction company. For over 30 years, he worked and built Blankenship Construction into a highly successful company that has renovated historic homes and businesses, built several neighborhoods, and designed a “tiny” home that has been replicated by many others across the country.

Blankenship is a firm believer in community service and has volunteered and served for many organizations throughout his life. In 2008 he took his community service commitment even further by seeking a position on the Ozark City Council, once elected he served for four years. He then ran for and was elected to Chair the Dale County Commission. He served as Chairman of the Commission for eight years, and during that time he work to clean up the County and bring jobs to the region. In November of 2020, the citizens of Ozark elected Mark Blankenship as Mayor. Since taking office, he has worked diligently on those goals. In an effort to revitalize downtown, he organized the removal of derelict buildings, created more parking, established the Ozark Mural Program and the Military Service Flag Program, added electric vehicle charging stations, and is working on expanding downtown events and activities through his work with the Entertainment District and the Amphitheater. When the Ozark Dale County Library decided to move from their current location, Mayor Blankenship was integral in locating a new space for the Library and supervised the renovations of that building. Knowing our need for new housing, he has solicited several companies to look into residential development opportunities. In an effort to encourage new housing and growth, he pioneered the business and residential incentives policies, which offer tax breaks for new residential construction and businesses. He is also working on expanding and upgrading the activities and outdoor opportunities offered by the Leisure Services department and is currently working on renovating a building to house a new indoor pickleball and sports complex. Mayor Blankenship has a deep love for Ozark and works hard every day to ensure that everyone in Ozark has a safe and thriving community to live in.

Photos from August 18th MOAA Luncheon



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



William Holman & Ron Kaita



Lark & Ron Kaita



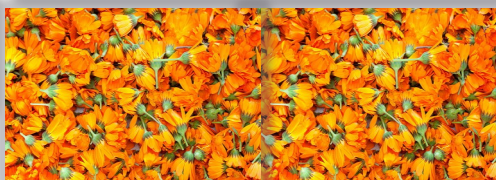
Mary Rutkowski & Dick Kenyon



Ron Kaita & John Newton



**Charlie & Claudia
Wigglesworth**



Ann & Frank Estes



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Lisa Bailey & Fred Latremore



Bob & Ditte Cooper



Mary Jane & Ray Collins



Susan Bailey, Faye Swinehart, & Barbara Ewart



Photos from August 18th MOAA Luncheon (continued)



Attendees gossiping.



Ray Collins, Dick Kenyon, & Frank Estes



Loel Ewart & Mary Rutkowski



Luncheon attendees



Ray & Maryjane Collins - - - Sam & John Newton



Sam & John Newton



Sam Newton & Carolyn Wooley



Fred Latremore & Lisa Bailey

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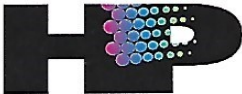
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Coffee County Arts Alliance
— PRESENTS —

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

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




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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