

August—September 2023

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 Novosel, Alabama 36362 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: http://www.fortruckermoaa.org

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 17, LUNCHEON, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSEL, AL

President's Message by Ron Kaita



We are blessed with a wonderful summer to enjoy with nice rain on and off to keep us busy mowing the lawn...LOL. Our chapter has been actively engaged with our partners on Fort Novosel and in and around the community too. However, with a heavy heart we are experiencing the loss of some of our members and close friends. I will let Othan go into the details of our membership, but I lost a great friend and fellow CW5 with the Deputy Commandant of the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC), Julian Evans III, who passed last week while undergoing a medical procedure at the Enterprise Medical Center. If anyone is interested in attending his Memorial Service the unit, USAWOCC, has arranged it to be held in the Post's Wings Chapel, 25 July 2023 at 1000 hours.

and recently conducted on Sunday, 2 Jul 23. This was followed Friday with WOCS Class 23-18 graduating as newly appointed Warrant Officer 1. The month of July also has a very important ceremony that MOAA and the USAWOCC jointly support is the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Society. This was conducted after the graduation in the afternoon also in the Aviation Museum, where CW5 (Ret) John Robinson was recognized as his wife Karen was presented his medallion due to John's recent death due to ALS. Please see the photograph taken with Air Force Col. (Ret.) Jim O'Brien MOAA's Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer and COL Kevin McHugh, Commandant of the United States Army Warrant Officer Career College with Mrs. Karen Robinson.

As a shout out to our membership, I am still looking for someone to volunteer to become our next Chapter President. We will be in need as a minimum a new Chapter President and a new Chapter Vice President as elections for these two positions will be in a few more months later in the year. If you had a chance to review our Treasurer's report on our chapter website, you will notice we are doing very (see PRESIDENT'S CORNER on Page 2)

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 11:00 AM
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 11:45 AM

- >Southern style BBQ chicken
>Green beans almandine
>Potato salad
>Rolls & butter
>Apple pie & ice cream
>Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$20.00



Who's Gonna Call?

Please make Reservations by noon Friday

August 11th to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966.

Cancellations

must be made by noon Monday August 14th.

Cash or personal checks only!

Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on Monday prior to the Luncheon Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.

GUEST SPEAKER

Tracy Robinson, Fort Novosel Casualty Assistance

Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is 127.

I regret to inform you of the death of two of our chapter members. Both were life members of National. LTC Benny Jones died 23 June and lived in Dothan and is survived by his wife, Peggy. MAJ Carlie Bryant died 29 June and lived in Enterprise. His wife, Grace, had predeceased him. Our condolences are extended to both families.

At the same time, we are pleased

to welcome COL Ricky Peak as a new chapter member. He lives in Enterprise with his wife, Sherrie. Welcome.

There are many MOAA National members in this area that are not, for various reasons, members of our chapter. It is apparent that we need to get some of our younger members to join our chapter. The best recruiter is you. If you are reading this column, then you know how much MOAA has meant to the military community (including enlisted). Please be a strong advocate of MOAA and see if you can get your friends to join MOAA on the national and local level.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org. 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 directly 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.

(PRESIDENT'S CORNER from Page 1) well, so our funding for this year's Holiday Food Donation for junior Soldiers through Fort Novosel's Army Community Service (ACS) and our annual donation to MOAA Nation for student scholarships will be fully funded which are some of the reasons we are awarded MOAA's 5-Star Level of Excellence streamer.

Our next chapter meeting will again be a luncheon at the Landing on 17 August 2023, at 1100 - 1230 hours in the Saint Michael's Room. We will have the pleasure of hosting Tracy Robinson, Fort Novosel's Casualty Affairs Chief, as our guest speaker. I am looking forward to the actions and support the Casualty Affairs Office offers our Soldiers, Families, and especially all our Retirees and Military Veterans around the Wiregrass' surrounding communities.

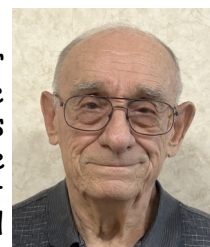
As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed keeping us safe and secure. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, their families, retirees, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.



PLEASE support our sponsors !!!

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT!

LTC (Retired) Loel Ewart:



Loel is our chapter Treasurer and has been for over 15 years. He was born in Helena, Arkansas and was a military "brat" (father Air Force enlisted). He attended 12 different schools over his school years, and met his wife, Barbara, at a high school in Missouri. They have been married for 65 years and have been living in Ozark since 1989. He is 85.

Loel's advanced degrees include a BA degree in Business Management from Hampton University in Hampton, VA, and a Masters in Procurement and Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

His military career started in the National Guard where he spent two years. Then, he entered active duty and served eight years enlisted, four years as a warrant officer, received a direct commission as a 2LT, and was eventually promoted to LTC. Loel retired after 32 years of active duty for a total of 34 years of military service. He served three combat tours in Vietnam. As an officer, he served in the Transportation Corps Branch and then the Aviation Branch. Loel has been both an Instructor Pilot and a Standardization Instructor Pilot. He has flown most of the helicopters in Fort Novosel's Aviation Museum.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Hello Everyone, it is summer time in Sweet Home

Alabama, which

brings us some time for leisure and school breaks, visiting family, enjoying vacations, walking on mountain trails, or swimming in the Gulf Ocean or local pools. The bright sun shine brings high temperatures, yet there are shades and air-conditionings.

Along with times to remember history is remembered from youth to adult. Alabama 's oldest city is Mobile with a major port. Mobile also hosted the first

Mardi Gras in America. The 1817 Congress created the Alabama territory and on the 14th of December 1819.

Alabama became the 22nd state with Huntsville serving as the first Capital.

From the mountains to the Gulf, we have the Wiregrass Area of Alabama that brought the first settlers there who paved the way for one of the very best Military Post. From a Division Camp and Claybank Creek to Lake Tholocco, the Aviation training was beginning and by 1955, the Army Aviation Center was officially established.

The legacy continues from devoted, equipped, and courageous Soldiers which serve today and are very much appreciated along with much

history and memories.

The ROWA Members certainly have many memories and history to share over the years! This year the ROWA Members certainly look forward to our meetings which will be the 50th year after the Retired Officers Wives Association was established. Members and Guests are invited to share this special time with us at The Landing.

More information will be given in the fall this year.

May the summer time bring you joy and peace!



Legislative Report by Ray Collins



Although this year's Congress has the highest percentage of veterans that it has had in recent years, the military community both past and present must be concerned about the nonchalant attitude law makers have. The failure to keep promise made to military members before many of those now serving were born, is having a tremendous negative effect on recruiting and retention. Some of the issues which remain unresolved are restoring Basic Allowance for Housing to 100 percent, reversing TRICARE Pharmacy network cuts, approval of a full fledged non taxable Basic Needs Allowance, resolution of the Arlington National Cemetery expansion, full approval, and implementation of the Star Act.

We can be assured that the issues here

listed have a considerable impact on whether to go in, whether to stay, or whether to get out. Our recruitment and retention figures tell us in no uncertain terms that the above issues and others determine the strength of our force.

I am cautiously assured that our two senators Tuberville and Britt and House member Moore see these issues as we see them. None the less, it is never a wasted effort to tell them again.

COLA Watch: the April Consumer Price Index is 297.730 or 2.0 percent above the FY 2023 CPLA baseline.



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TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 07/10/2023 is **\$28,201.56**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account, and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (06/12//23) Starting balance of; \$28,479.58

DEPOSITS		ACTION		
06/13/23		Donation, Ron K.		100.00
06/20/23		MOAA Lunch (\$25 Sch Fund, \$12 dues)		537.00
06/30/23		MM Interest for June		9.77
06/30/23		Interest on Savings for June		<u>00.01</u>
			Deposits Total	\$646.78

CHECKS:		EXPENDITURES:		
06/21/23	1978	IMWRF (June lunch)		\$424.80
	1979	VOID		-----
07/05/23	1980	John Robinson (2022 ERS Awardees)		<u>500.00</u>
			Expenditures Total	\$924.80
			Net Decrease	\$278.02

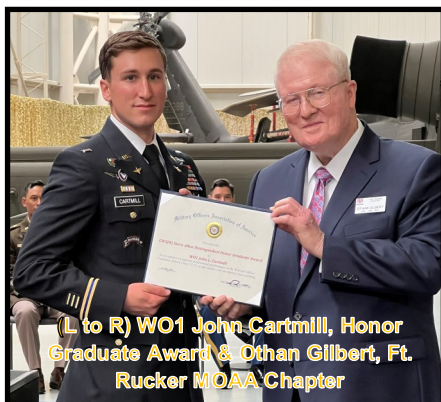
(07/10 /23) **Current Total Balance of; \$28,201.56**

All In checking	\$6,565.30	
All In Savings	\$5.44	
All In Money Market	\$21,630.82	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-\$21,630.82
Life Membership	\$7,630.00	
MOAA reserve,	\$14,000.82	
Minus Savings:	\$5.44	-\$5.44

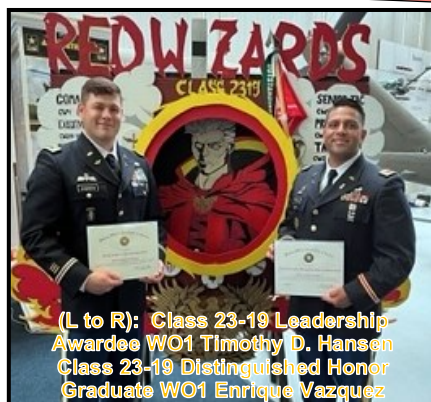
***Usable Funds as of July 10,23 (Minus reserve/savings) \$6,565.30**

Other News* No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$177.00

Note! Deceased MAJ C. Bryant's \$100 moved from Life membership to MOAA Reserve. No beneficiary.



(L to R) WO1 John Cartmill, Honor Graduate Award & Othan Gilbert, Ft. Rucker MOAA Chapter



(L to R): Class 23-19 Leadership Awardee WO1 Timothy D. Hansen Class 23-19 Distinguished Honor Graduate WO1 Enrique Vazquez



(L to R) WO1 Tierra Hopkins, Honor Graduate Award & Othan Gilbert, Ft. Rucker MOAA Chapter

Advanced Dementia Patients Often Need a BRO (Behavioral Recovery Outreach Team) by Tonya Lobbstaal, July 18, 2023 (extracted from, www/va.gov)

“Alzheimer’s. Dementia. These diagnoses rip the chord of safety and certainty in patients, families and caregivers at an estimated rate of 6.5 million Americans age 65 and older in 2022 and an estimated 168,600 VA patients in 2021. It’s a diagnosis projected to increase to 12.7 million Americans by 2050 and 217,400 VA patients in the next decade alone.

“While a diagnosis is frightening enough, so too are distress behaviors that may be associated with the disease, like verbal outbursts, inappropriate behaviors, even physical aggression. These often interfere with medical treatment and caregiving that may harm the patient, the caregiver or the treatment team.

“As a young psychologist working at Central Iowa VA’s Community Living Center, Dr. Kathleen Matthews saw these distress behaviors first-hand and realized these Veterans could be better cared for through non-pharmacologic behavior plans rather than the traditional method of psychotropic medications. Working with team members, she created the BRO team to meet this extremely vulnerable patient population’s unmet needs.

“BRO helps build a sense of connection and shared purpose for meeting these Veterans’ needs,...by reducing distress behaviors...’ Matthews said....VA’s clinical educators and...more than 1,400 educational institutions....These academic affiliations... are coordinated by VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Find out more about VA’s academic mission by...visiting the Office of Academic Affiliations website.”



← Mrs. Karen Robinson presented the 2022 ERS Medallion on behalf of her deceased husband CW5 (Ret) John Robinson. Pictured (L to R): USAF COL (Ret) Jim O'Brien (MOAA Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer), Mrs. Karen Robinson, Army COL Kevin McHugh (Commandant, US Army Warrant Officer Career College)

**Free Cash Coming to Facebook Users,
Here's How to Claim Your Share**

Who can file claims? Anyone who was in the U.S. and had an account on the social network between May 24, 2007 and Dec. 22, 2022. If you had multiple accounts, only one claim may be filed.
How do you file? Download the claim form online, and then mail it to Facebook Consumer Privacy User Profile Litigation, c/o Settlement Administrator, 1650 Arch Street, Suite 2210, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

What info do you have to provide? Just your Facebook user name, o the phone number or email address associated with your account, along with your contact information and your choice of payment (Master Card, PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, check).

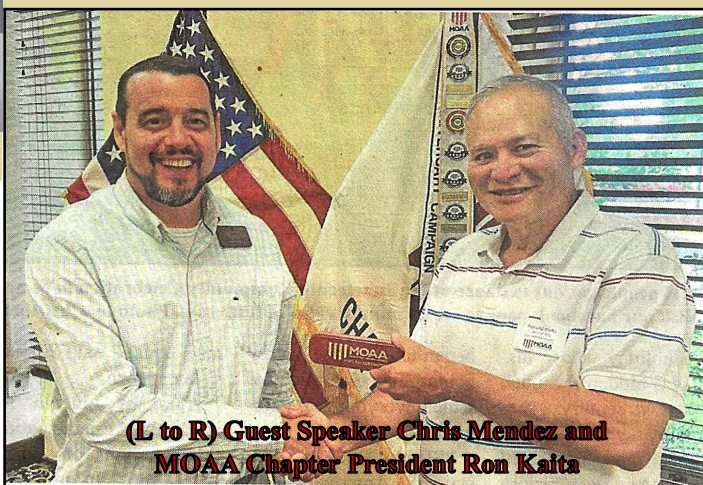
What's the deadline for submitting a claim? Online claims must be submitted by 11:59pm Pacific time on Aug. 25, 2023. If you are mailing your form, it must be post-marked by that date.

What if you don't want to be part of the class? You'll have to opt out b July 26th; otherwise any claim you might have against Meta for issues covered by the settlement will be extinguished. You can opt out only for yourself, and can do so online or by mail.

When will you be paid? The court is scheduled to hold a final approval hearing Sep. 7th. Payments can't begin until the settlement agreement is approved and attorney fees and expenses are determined.

How much will you receive? Depends on how much money is left in the \$725 million pot after fees and expenses are paid. Each of the eight plaintiffs in the case will get \$15,000, thereby reducing the pot by \$120,000. Other claimants will be given one point for each month they had an activated Facebook account during the period covered by the lawsuit. The administrator will add up the points, calculate how much is to be paid per point, then award claimants according to the number of points accumulated.

(Extracted from *Dothan Eagle* article of same title, April 19, 2023).



(L to R) Guest Speaker Chris Mendez and MOAA Chapter President Ron Kaita

At a recent dinner meeting of the Fort Rucker Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Chris Mendez, the Marketing Director for the Fort Novosel Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division, spoke about the wide variety of activities and facilities provided for soldiers, family members and civilian personnel on post. MOAA has a national membership of approximately 350,000 members and is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an advocate of a strong national defense and represents the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. Shown in the accompanying photograph are CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita, the President of the chapter, and Mendez. Photo submitted.

**Important Dates for MOAA
Ft Rucker Chapter, 2023**

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
8-14-2023		8-17-2023 (L)
9-11-2023	9-20-2023	
10-16-2023		10-21-2023 (D)
11-13-2023	11-15-2023	
12-11-2023		12-16-2023 (D)

L= Lunch on Thursdays @ 11:00. D= Dinner on Saturdays @ 1800.

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 FORT RUCKER, AL 36362

PAST OR PRESENT WARRANT OFFICER?
 JOIN US IN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!
 EVERY SECOND THURSDAY

FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO

Photos from June 15, 2023 Luncheon



Mr. Chris Mendez, guest speaker & Ron Kaita, Chapter President



Ron & Lark Kaita



Othan & Dee Gilbert



Mary Jane & Ray Collins



Randy Godfrey & Ricky Peak



Mary Rutkowski & Susanne Bailey



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Charlotte & Cecil Simmons



Bennie & Peggy Jones



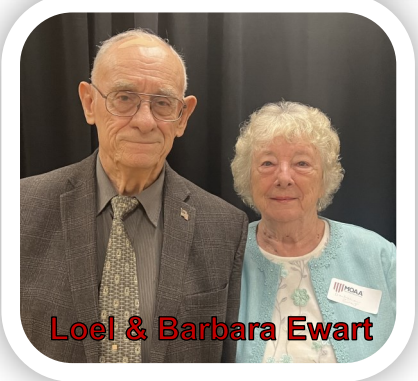
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COFFEE COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE
— Presents —

WE'LL MEET AGAIN A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL	Sep 19, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
THREE ON A STRING GOOD, CLEAN, HILARIOUS ENTERTAINMENT!	Nov 7, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
MESSIAH A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 3, 2023 5:00 pm	First Baptist Church
THE LETTERMEN 50 YEARS OF MUSICAL MEMORIES	Jan 22, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
DALLAS BRASS PATRIOTIC, ROMANTIC, DIXIELAND & POP	Feb 29, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 20 & 21 2024	ESCC

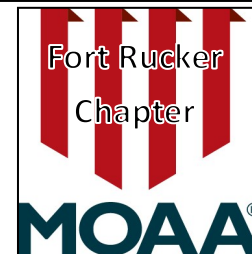
Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)
www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com

The 2023-24 season is dedicated to the memory of Luella B. Henderson.

MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Novosel, 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 Novosel, 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!
Webaddress: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org