



WIREGRASS CHAPTER MOAA NEWSLETTER

June-July 2025



President's Message by Randy Godfrey

Spring greetings to all our members and friends. The

Wiregrass Chapter is pleased to announce we are a 2024 MOAA Council and Chapter Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award Winner. Only 4 of the 12 Alabama Chapters earned the 5 Star award. Nationally only 168 councils and chapters out of almost 400 MOAA affiliates earned LOE award recognition this year.

These councils and chapters excel at supporting and fostering programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities. LOE awards are MOAA's most prestigious affiliate awards, honoring councils and chapters for their efforts across the full scope of our association's mission. Judging criteria are Advocacy, Community Engagement and Outreach, Recruiting and Retention, Leadership Succession, and Council Involvement.

Thank you, our members, for your volunteer hours and contributions to the chapter.

Special thanks to Charlie Wigglesworth for completing and submitting the comprehensive application packet.

The MOAA Alabama State Conference is 21-22 AUG 25 in Birmingham at the Sheraton Hotel. The agenda and final program are under development. Below is a rough preliminary overview:

21 AUG THU

- Conference Check In 1600-1730.
- Welcome Reception that evening.

22 AUG FRI

- Breakfast.
- Plenary Welcome Session.
- Presentations by topic.
- Lunch.
- Breakout Sessions.
- Plenary Closing Session.

This is the first state conference in 10 years, so the

Alabama Council of Chapters (ALCOC) is asking us to canvas our members on expected attendance. ALCOC is not asking for commitment, only planning attendance numbers. ALCOC expects to finalize details soon, with registration starting in June. If interested, please contact me or one of the board members.

Please join us for our 21 June Dinner Meeting at the Landing. Our guest speaker is Bryant Macfarlane, the Curator of the US Army Aviation Museum and Training Support Facility. Please see his bio and the menu listed in this newsletter.

Remember to start our day asking, "What are we doing for the Warfighter?"

At the end of the day, the answer is, "We provided no fail support to the Warfighter on the ground and in the air."

MOAA Promise: Never Stop Serving.

GUEST SPEAKER—Bryant Macfarlane; Curator of the US Army Aviation Museum and Training Support Facility.

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General Membership Meeting, Saturday June 21, 2025, St. Michael's Room, The Landing, Fort Novosel, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 6:00pm..... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm..... Dinner: 7:00pm
 >Fresh fruit salad
 >BBQ Ribs
 >Cole slaw
 >Potato salad
 >Garlic bread
 >Cobbler & ice-cream
 >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$ 23.00/person

Please make **Reservations** by **noon Monday June 16th** to Susanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118.

Cancellations must be made by NOON Friday June 16th.

Cash or personal checks only!

Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on Friday June 20th prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.





Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count currently is 120.

I would like to welcome two new chapter members: **COL Steven Nicolucci**, and **WO5 Scotty Johnson**. COL Nicolucci and his wife, Nancy, live in Enterprise. WO5 Johnson and his wife, Dawn, also live in Enterprise. Both Scotty and his wife have been involved with the CERT program in Enterprise for many years plus Scotty is currently a City Councilman for Enterprise. Both COL Nicolucci and WO5 Johnson are most welcome to the chapter.

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

Legislative Report by Ray Collins

"On behalf of a grateful nation." This was once a statement at some point in every time-honored military funeral. The events of the last several years are its failure to provide adequate pay and allowances, proper quarters, medical care, and sufficient retirement benefits; one must wonder if the U. S. Military has been serving a grateful nation.

Many of the pieces of legislation which are being touted again this session of congress seems to be gaining votes toward enactment. Lawmakers in both Senate and House have recently reintroduced bills, S.1032 and HR.2102, to fund The Major Richard Starr Act. Even when or if the bills to fund the Act are passed, the injustice continues due to the antiquated practice of off-setting retirement payments and Veterans Administration Compensation if below twenty years service at retirement and less than fifty percent disability. The primary reason the Starr Act has not been funded is first and foremost, "COST."

The Caring For Survivors Act would raise the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from 43% of a hundred percent disabled veterans Compensation to 55% or an increase of about 450 dollars a month. This Act would also allow more survivors who have cared for a disabled veteran to claim DIC. The current time the veteran must have been 100% disabled is ten years. The Caring for Survivors Act will reduce that time period to five years.

The House version of The Caring for Survivors Act is HR. 680 and the Senate version is S. 611.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by

Mary Jane Collins

The Merry Month of May has arrived. "Tis May, tis May the merry month of May." We have proceeded through tulips, redbud, dogwood, and oakleaf hydrangea, and now welcome hydrangea, crape myrtle, and gardenia.

This year, Army installations worldwide will celebrate the 250th birthday of our United States Army. Fort Novosel will celebrate the occasion at a Birthday Ball on June 14. During this occasion, may we take the opportunity to remember all those who have gone before us.

As we begin the summer months, the Army families take vacations as their schedule permits. May the Lord watch over and keep them safe, and guide them to remember the service they represent.

A salute to Fort Novosel for honoring the many people that give hundreds of hours of their time each year to various activities and organizations in our area. The volunteer of the year ceremony will be awarded on May 27th at 11:00 at The Landing.

GUEST SPEAKER: *Bryant Macfarlane is the Curator of the US Army Aviation Museum and Training Support Facility. Bryant served nearly 24 years in the US Army, retiring in 2019. After his service, he taught at Kansas State University and Bethel College for three years while attaining his PhD in American Military History with a focus on the History of Technology. He has written articles and reviews for several journals and has contributed works for six published textbooks. He has presented aspects of his research at the conferences of the Society for Military History, Army Historians, and to multiple service groups. His current research focus is on the accurate restoration of the ACH-47A serial number 64-131149 "Easy Money." He currently sits as an appointed member to the Alabama State Board of Education's K-12 Course of Study, and is a member of the Southeast Alabama STEM Learning Ecosystem. His monthly historical articles included in the Prop and Rotor are available on the Army Aviation Museum Foundation website at*



www.armyaviationmuseumfoundation.org.

Warrant Officer & JROTC Awards



Leadership Award—WO1 Jacob E. Fry (153A)
DHG Award—WO1 Casey Y. Kim (311A)



Awardee WO1 Jacob E.
Fry & Ron Kaita



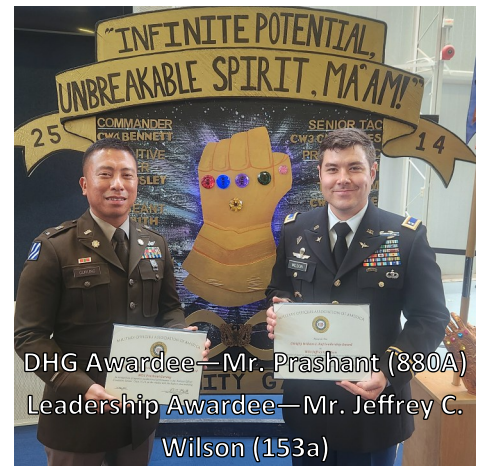
DHG Awardee—Mr. Tyler A. Arbuckle
(311A)
Leadership Awardee—Mr. Justin L.
Massie (153a)



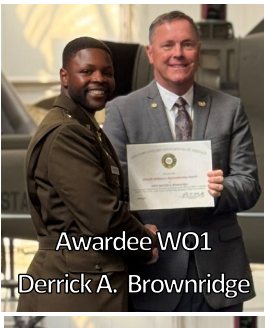
Awardee WO1 Casey Y.
Kim & Ron Kaita



Leadership Award—WO1 Derrick A.
Brownridge (131A)
DHG Award—WO1 John A.
Villarreal (420A)



DHG Awardee—Mr. Prashant (880A)
Leadership Awardee—Mr. Jeffrey C.
Wilson (153a)



Awardee WO1
Derrick A. Brownridge



Houston Academy
Awardee Cadet Zamariya
Whitehurst & Ron Kaita



Awardee WO1
Chloe Koehler &
Randy Godfrey



Awardee WO1 John
A. Villarreal & Randy
Godfrey



Awardee WO1 Charlie
Flowers & Randy Godfrey



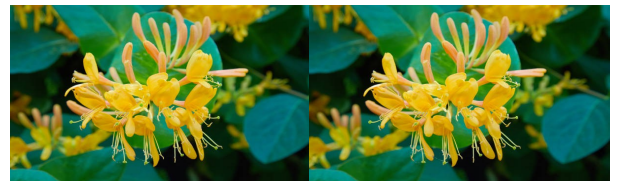
(Above) LTC Othan Gilbert presenting the MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Ayden Waybright as LTC Lucas Slinger, the Carroll High School JROTC Senior Army Instructor, observes.



Leadership Award—WO1 Charlie Flowers
(360F)
DHG Award—WO1 Cloe F. Koehler



Rehobeth Awardee—
JROTC Cadet
Matthias Beltcher



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Randy Godfrey, 912-312-6446,
argodfrey58@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Day, 915-588-9281,
tday500@yahoo.com

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Susan Day,
mtnridinglady@yahoo.com

RECRUITING OFFICER

Jeff Turner, 334-379-1977,
jeffrey.s.turner@outlook.com

SECRETARY

Carolyn Wooley, 334-400-4603,
ckwooley@troycable.net

TREASURER

Loel Ewart, 334-774-0328,
lewart@troycable.net

MEMBERSHIP

Othan Gilbert, 334-432-3433,
ogilbert@troycable.net

BANQUETS & ROWA REP

Susanne Bailey, 931-237-1118,
tsbailey6@aol.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079,
drnewton@me.com

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Ray Collins, 334-774-2101,
hospitality@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN/WEBMASTER

Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079,
drnewton@me.com

SURVIVING SPOUSE

AFFAIRS

Faye Swinehart, 334-774-8817,
jswinehart712@troycable.net

ROTC/JROTC

Ron Kaita, 334-477-7860,
ronald.kaita@twc.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Estes, 334-797-9196,
estesf@troycable.net

RETIREE AFFAIRS

Ray Collins, 334-774-2101,
hospitality@gmail.com



TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart

Net Worth of the Wiregrass Chapter of MOAA as of 05/11/2025 is **\$28,859.88**
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money
Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (04/14/25) **Starting balance of;** **\$28,789.84**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
04/19/25	MOAA Dinner Receipts (\$717 Dinner, \$130 Sch. Fnd.)	\$847.00
04/30/25	Money Market Interest	9.42
05/01/25	Interest	9.42
05/07/25	Circle Insurance (NL Sponsor)	150.00
Deposits Total		\$1,015.84

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
2033 04/11/25	Othan Gilbert (Stamps) Office Supplies	\$265.35
2034 04/21/25	DFMWR April MOAA Dinner	680.45
Expenditures Total		\$945.80
Net Increase		\$70.04

04/14/25)	Current Total Balance of;	\$28,859.88
All In checking	\$8,014.11	
All In Savings	\$5.51	
All In Money Market	\$20,840.26	

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$20,840.26
Life Membership	\$7,090.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,750.26
Minus Savings:	-\$5.51

***Usable Funds as of May 11, 2025 (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$8,014.11**

No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$278.00.

CHURCH HUMOR—Nick's mother stops for a moment as her son reads the Bible to their cat. "Isn't that sweet?" But, an hour later, she hears a terrible racket. Running out the door, she finds Nick trying to dunk the cat in a bucket of water. "Nick, what are you doing?" "I'm baptizing Muffin," he says. "But cats don't like water." "Well then, he shouldn't have joined my church." *From Marie Bird, FUMC Ozark bulletin*



Important 2025 Dates for MOAA

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
6-9-2025		6-21-2025
7-14-2025	7-16-2025	
8-11-2025		8-16-2025
9-8-2025	9-17-2025	
10-13-2025		10-18-2025
11-10-2025	11-19-2025	
12-8-2025		12-20-2025
Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.		

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Photos from April 19, 2025 Dinner



Guest Speaker COL John Miller & MOAA
Chapter President Randy Godfrey



COL Miller briefing MOAA
members on the future of
Fort Novosel



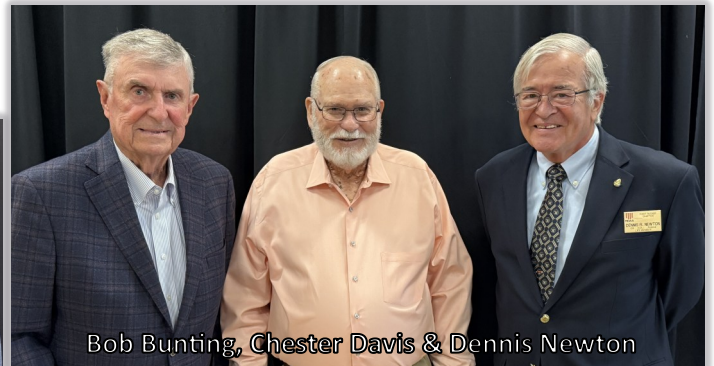
Claudia & Charlie
Wigglesworth



Susan & Tom Day



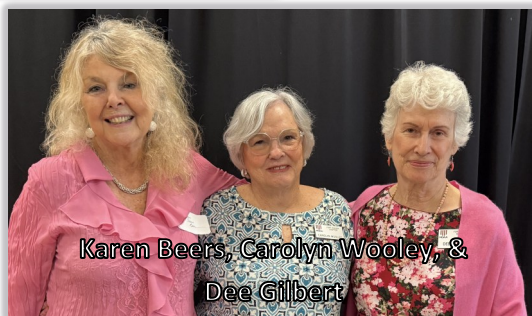
Suk & Mike Corsaro



Bob Bunting, Chester Davis & Dennis Newton



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Karen Beers, Carolyn Wooley, &
Dee Gilbert



Ann & Frank Estes



Steve Rutland & Karen
Dunham



Rose & Dennis
Bergstrazer



Randy Godfrey & Gloria Loser



Wiregrass Chapter MOAA dinner with a full house.

Photos from April 19, 2025 Dinner (continued)



COL Miller during briefing on Fort Novosel.



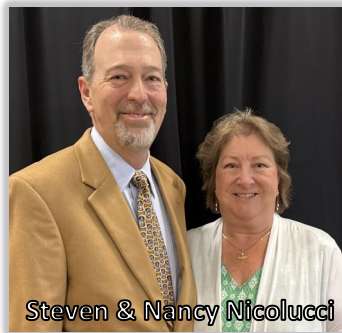
Mollie & COL John Miller



Connie & MG Lou Hennies



Loel Ewart, Chapter Treasurer giving the financial report.



Steven & Nancy Nicolucci



Dee Gilbert & Paul English



Amanda Osteen & Yan Pa



MOAA dinner head table.



Barbara Ewart, Loel Ewart, & Susanne Bailey



More dinner attendees.



Even more dinner attendees.



Still more dinner attendees.



Finally, the rest of the dinner attendees.

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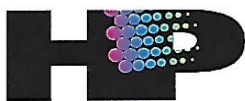
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Return Service Requested

MOAA Membership Application
Wiregrass Chapter

Wiregrass 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 Wiregrass 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 Wiregrass Chapter MOAA. Thank you for your support!
Web address: www.forttruckermoa.org.