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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSEL, AL Guest Speaker—Army Aviation Museum Foundation Executive Committee Chairman—COL (Ret) Christopher Carlile



President's Message by Ron Kaita

I want to start off to thank everyone who came out to our last dinner meeting. Dennis Newton provided a very informative briefing on the adventures of trail hiking to those who are especially not only young at heart but who also enjoy nature and its beauty. Thank you, Dennis, for making the evening not only an educational experience but exposing the wonderful opportunities in the great state of Alabama.

Sometimes our politicians play the short game but ignore their well-intended ideas impacting the rest of the force. However, there are a series of much sought after MOAA issues like health care, quality of life improvements, and VA bills offering in-home care for veterans and more support for their caregivers.

If you are tracking the actions and activities our military are involved in here and abroad, you probably are very concerned that we may be pulled into military actions in today's geopolitical climate across the globe that deal with us, our allies, and our enemies who seem hell bent to challenge or destroy the Western Civilization way of life. That worries me to no end that can only be

addressed by the American people by this year's local, state, and national elections. Please take this responsibility and privilege serious as an American citizen and support our military, police, and first responders as they continue to provide the security, safety, and well-being for all of us.

Inflation continues to be a major concern for the young to elders. Housing costs for young families are nearly impossible to purchase with interest rates approaching nine percent. For those who live on a fixed income, it takes extraordinary efforts to stretch your dollars as everything continues to rise. This is just a couple of examples of today's state of the economy. The old saying of what goes up, must come down is just a wishful thought (*see Presidents Message pg 2*)



Please make **Reservations by noon**

Monday June 10th to Susanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118.

Cancellations must be made by NOON Friday June 14th.

Cash or personal checks only!

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

Currently the House's version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is offering almost a 20% pay hike for junior members. Although an admirable thought, my thoughts from many years ago recalled an ugly issue called "pay compression" amongst the ranks.

<p>SCHEDULE & MENU Social: 6:00pm..... .Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm.....Dinner: 7:00pm >Fruit salad >BBQ ribletts >Coleslaw</p>	<p>>Potato Salad >Garlic bread >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee >Cobbler & ice-cream</p> <p>Cost per meal: \$ 24.00/person</p>
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Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is currently 121.

There are 350,000 MOAA national members but only 15% belong to chapters and the average age of chapter members is 75. 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 and our

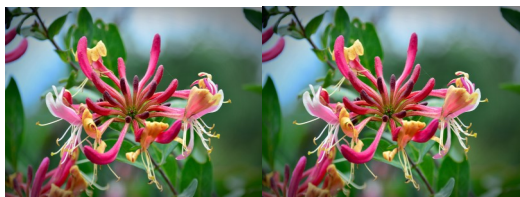
chapter website is fortruckermoa.org. Please check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life 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 sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

(Presidents Message from page 1) in my mind as businesses are just fighting to survive in many cases.

Please do not forget our next Chapter Dinner Meeting on Saturday, 15 June 2024. We are grateful that the Landing is fighting tooth and nail to stay in business as many posts and bases have lost this benefit for their service member and civilian patrons. Let us make this a great dinner with full attendance if you can attend. If you need transportation, please let me know soonest and arrangements can be made.

Please stay safe and enjoy the pleasant weather we are experiencing, rain et al. Did I nail it with that comment about those misquotes and gnats! I wish all Chapter MOAA members, families, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto... Never Stop Serving.



Membership Spotlight

Major General (Retired) Richard "Dick" Kenyon

Dick Kenyon was born in Buffalo, NY, in 1936 making him 88 this year. He graduated from Lyndonville New York high school in 1953. He met his future wife, Virginia, in his junior year in high school. Right after graduation at the age of 17, he entered the West Point Military Academy. He was commissioned on 4 June 1957 and married Virginia that same day in the West Point Chapel. He and Virginia had three children: his oldest son who lives in South Carolina, a daughter who lives in Virginia, and his youngest son, who, unexpectedly, died in late 2023. He has one granddaughter. His first duty assignment was serving with an aviation company in Germany. His last duty assignment was serving as the Chief of Army Legislation at the Pentagon. He retired in 1987 as a Major General after 30 years of service. Along the way he served two duty tours in Vietnam where he flew helicopters. In addition, he was sent to Princeton University for 2 years where he received a master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering. While serving as the Deputy Commanding General at Fort Rucker in 1982, he and Virginia fell in love with the Ozark area, and purchased property that was later to be their retirement home. They were both fans of a particular type of dog: German shorthair pointers. As a result, they had these dogs in their home for 50 years. After 60 years of marriage, Virginia died in 2017. During their retirement years horses were another great love and riding horses daily, until recently, was a passion. Now he enjoys bushhogging with his tractor. He has been a faithful member of our chapter for many years and served as our chapter president in 1989.



VA Program Allows Advance Approval, Planning for Burial Benefits

MAY 14, 2024

By MOAA Staff

“If you are considering a VA cemetery as your final resting place, the department’s Pre-Need Eligibility program can answer your questions now, rather than burden your family with them later. The VA approved more than 55,000 Pre-Need applications in FY 2023, a year with more than 139,000 interments in national cemeteries, according to the department. The process can be completed online, or materials can be mailed or faxed.

“**What You’ll Need** - Veterans (or their beneficiaries) must have their Social Security number, birthplace, and some service history details commonly found on a DD-214. Those without a copy of their DD-214, or who need paperwork for a veteran sponsor, can learn more <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>. Please note you do not need to send in a copy of your DD 214 with your application, though it is preferred. If you’re applying on behalf of someone else, additional forms may be required to show you have the authority to do so. You may also select a preferred cemetery from the current list of national cemeteries <https://www.cem.va.gov/find-cemetery/index.asp> – the form does not apply to Arlington National Cemetery or to state or tribal veterans cemeteries. Selecting a preferred cemetery does not mean you have to be buried in said cemetery or any national cemetery. Cemeteries are first-come, first-served due to space availability. Once your material is prepared, you can:

>Sign in and fill out materials online. You’ll either receive a notice by mail about the decision or a phone call requesting more information.

>Download and complete the form. Return it via fax to (855) 840-8299 or by mail to NCA FP Evidence Intake Center, PO Box 5237, Janesville, WI 53547

“**Other Benefits and Questions** - Veterans planning burial at a private cemetery may be eligible for a no-charge headstone, marker, or medallion. Learn more about this benefit at <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/>. For more information about the Pre-Need program, answers to benefits questions, or assistance in filling out eligibility forms for yourself or in support of a veteran, reach out to the VA’s National Cemetery Administration at (800) 535-1117 and select Option 4. The NCA scheduling office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eastern, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern.”

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/va-program-allows-advance-approval,-planning-for-burial-benefits/>

From the Military Officer Magazine, May 2024

“**What’s the VA doing?** The VA has shifted in recent years from facility based care (like nursing home care) and community living centers to providing veterans’ care in their homes, as 90% of Americans would prefer aging in place. The VA needs help from Congress to provide more authorities and funding to accelerate its efforts.

“The VA has been revamping its Caregiver Support Program (CSP) and providing mental health services to caregivers. CSP priorities for 2024 include:

- Focus on improving the caregiver and veteran experience.
- Expand caregiver mental health care services through virtual psychotherapy at all VA medical centers.
- Enhance awareness and accessibility of respite care through efforts such as implementing a respite subject-matter expert at every VA medical center.

“VA leadership and CSP staff collaborate with VSOs in improving services supporting caregivers and veterans such as Geriatrics and Extended Care, and the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). Veterans groups have been assisting the VA in reassessing the PCAFC and finding solutions to meet the intent of earlier enacted legislation.

“**What can you do?**” Ask your lawmakers to support the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, the Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act, and the Veteran Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform (CARE) Act. This legislation will make a major difference in the lives of those who need our support the most.”

“By Cmdr. Rene’ Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA senior director of Government Relations for veterans-wounded warrior care.”

Sponsor Spotlight—Loose Brick Coffee Company

One of our newsletter sponsors is Loose Brick Coffee Company located on the square in downtown Ozark, across from the Dale County Sheriff’s Office. The business opened in 2020 and currently has 6 employees. Loose Brick offers many exotic coffee drinks plus a wide variety of other beverages, sweet bakery items and sandwiches. They are open Monday through Saturday from early morning to late afternoon providing breakfast and lunch options. Owned and operated by military retiree Steve Schisler and his wife Pam, they offer a military discount. Steve and Pam spent a year renovating an older brick building in downtown Ozark to create the space, thus inspiring the name of the company. Steve hails from Michigan and joined the Navy right after high school. Not finding the Navy a good fit, Steve later joined the Army and became a helicopter pilot. Later he became a UAV operator and served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He retired as a WO3 after 20 years. He and Pam, a native of Alabama, met on a blind date while she was going to school at the University of Montevallo as an Art Education student while he was stationed at Ft Rucker. Many of their employees are the product of Pam’s 18 years with the Girl Scouts, and this job has been a helping hand in training in skills needed in their lives. They married in 1995, have 3 children and live in the Ozark area. They are currently working on another business project in the same block.



TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart

Net Worth of the Fort Novosel (Rucker) Chapter of MOAA as of 05/13/2024 is **\$28,842.50** These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (04/08/24) **Starting balance of;** **\$28,379.34**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
03/30/24	Correction to account	\$494.84
03/31/24	Interest on MM	09.82
04/29/24	MOAA Dinner Receipts	<u>587.00</u>
Deposits Total		\$1,091.66

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES	
4/29/24	IMWRF (MOAA Dinner Bill)	<u>\$628.50</u>
Expenditures Total		\$628.50
Net Increase		<u>\$463.16</u>

(05/13//24) Current Total Balance of;		<u>\$28,842.50</u>
All In checking	\$7,106.59	
All In Savings	\$5.47	
All In Money Market	\$21,730.44	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-
Life Membership	\$7,190.00	
MOAA reserve,	\$14,540.44	
Minus Savings:		-\$5.47
\$21,730.44		

***Usable Funds as of May 13, 2024 (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$7,106.59**
 No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$116.00



At a recent meeting of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the speaker was Colonel (Ret.) Dennis Newton who is the President of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) which was created in 1983. ALDHA is a family of fellow hikers and friends of the Appalachian Trail who share their experiences through workshops and gatherings. The group oversees the maintenance of the trail which reaches from Georgia to Maine and is 2,200 miles long. 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. Pictured are Newton and CW5 (Ret.) Ron Kaita, President of the chapter. (Photo submitted.)

The Laugh Factory
@TheLaughFactory

President Lincoln was approached by a woman after a political speech... If you were my husband I would poison your tea. Lincoln replied...if you are my wife I'll gladly drink it.



Important Dates for MOAA

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
6-10-2024		6-15-2024
7-8-2024	7-17-2024	
8-12-2024		8-17-2024
9-9-2024	9-18-2024	
10-14-2024		10-19-2024
11-11-2024	11-20-2024	
12-9-2024		12-21-2024
Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.		

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!WARNING!

Effective 1 October 2024, the Commissary will no longer provide plastic or paper bags for your purchases, so bring your own bags.

!WARNING!**2024 Officers & Directors**

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

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

rodski @ rodski

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "I sent you two boats!"

GUEST SPEAKER—Army Aviation Museum Foundation Executive Committee Chairman— COL (Ret) Christopher Carlile

The Army Aviation Museum Foundation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama as a nonprofit organization, was formed on 9 March 1970.

The purpose of the AAMF is to foster and perpetuate the Army Aviation Museum as a medium of informing and educating the public on the important role of United States Army Aviation, and in inspiring students undergoing professional military training to complete the program and become career Soldiers; to serve as a philanthropic corporation in assisting the development and enhancement of the facilities of the Army Aviation Museum's present and future artifacts and collections, to receive, hold and administer gifts received from persons, other organizations, corporations, foundations, and philanthropies, in the best interest of the Army Aviation Museum; and to do any other business, act, or thing incidental to and necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose of this corporation and not inconsistent or in conflict with any law.

Over the past 20 years, the Museum Foundation has expanded to include over 30 board members and thousands of contributors. As a result of a concerted effort by these people, the Foundation was successful in raising \$2.5 million from civic and social organizations, military units, local communities, industries, businesses and individuals. Through the efforts of former Alabama Congressman William Dickinson, \$2.5 million in matching Federal reprogrammed funds were obtained.

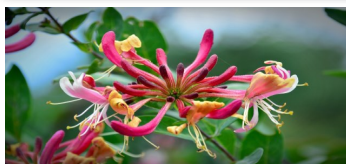
Construction based on the Foundation's plans began in March 1988 under the supervision of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. The present building completed and turned over to the U. S. Army in November 1989, represents the completion of Phase I, one of several phases and has become a major attraction to the Wiregrass area.

JROTC & Warrant Officer Awards

Rohobeth High School Navy JROTC C/ENS Jaaron Allman



Carroll High School JROTC MOAA Awardee Cadet Travis Robinson



Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 24-13 (right) DHG WO1 Nathanael Chen (Aviation) (left) Leadership WO1 Chance Atchison (Aviation)

Photos from April 20th 2024 Dinner



Guest Speaker, Dennis Newton & Chapter President, Ron Kaita.



Dee & Othman Gilbert



Barbara & Loel Ewart



Claudia & Charlie Wigglesworth



Dennis Newton & Dick Kenyon



Carolyn Wooley & Faye Swinehart



Lark & Ron Kaita



Ron Kaita & Nicholas Santana



Susanne Bailey & Alexis McCullors



Mary Jane & Ray Collins



Shelley & Paul English



Ann & Frank Estes



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer



Dennis Newton & Stan Smith



Claudia Wigglesworth, Loel Ewart, & Susanne Bailey at check-in desk.

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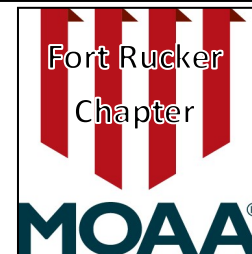
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yanceyparkersst@centurytel.net

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