

February-March 2025



President's Message by Randy Godfrey

As we welcome the New Year, we want to express all the best to you, your families, and our brothers and sisters in arms. It is my honor to serve as your chapter president. Our chapter continues serving the wiregrass through the activities and efforts of all our members.

As part of the chapter mission, we conduct recruitment meetings for Warrant Officer Candidates attending the Army Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) at Fort Novosel. During these meetings, we provide MOAA Basic Membership applications. In 2024 there were over 1,650 Basic memberships from our WOCS mentorship.

Each year in December the chapter, along with other local service organizations, assists with Christmas wreath laying for over 1500 veteran graves at the Enterprise Meadow Lawn Cemetery.

In December, the Chapter

donated \$1000 to the Fort Novosel Holiday Food Assistance Program. This Army Community Services (ACS) program benefits junior Soldiers and their families.

We attend and participate in each WOCS Class graduation ceremony held at Fort Novosel (27 total). As part of the graduation ceremonies, we provide the MOAA Awards to the Distinguished Honor Graduate (DHG) and Leadership (LDR) Awardee with signed MOAA certificates, \$100 check each, and three-year Premium memberships.

Each year the chapter coordinates with the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) for Order of the Eagle Rising Society. Since 2004, the MOAA sponsored Order of the Eagle Rising Society annually recognizes one individual who has contributed significantly over his/her lifetime to the promotion of the Warrant Officer Community in ways that stand out in the eyes of recipient's seniors, subordinates,

and peers.

The Chapter coordinates with our five sponsored local JROTC High Schools for the MOAA JROTC medal presentations. Four are Army JROTC programs and one is a Navy JROTC program. The chapter also coordinates with the Troy University Army and Air Force ROTC programs for the MOAA ROTC awards and lieutenant commissioning events.

The chapter conducts bi-monthly dinner meetings. In October, our guest speaker was Shannon Smith, Director of Constituent Services for Congressman Barry Moore. She is the field representative specializing in Veteran's Affairs, Social Security, and Medicare.

In December, was the Christmas celebration and fellowship. The evening consisted of a wonderful meal; inspirational Christmas carols led by Chapter Chaplain Dennis Newton.

On behalf of the chapter and the members, we thank Ron Kaita f (see President's Message page 2)

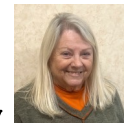
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General Membership Meeting, Saturday February 15, 2025, St. Michael's Room, The Landing, Fort Novosel, AL Guest Speaker—CW4 (Retired) Lelia P Jackson, MOAA Affiliated Councils/Chapters (Chair).

SCHEDULE & MENU Social: 6:00pm..... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm..... Dinner: 7:00pm >Tossed salad w/assorted dressings >Salmon w/Pineapple, Mango salsa >Rice pilaf >Zucchini, yellow squash blend >Rolls & butter >Oreo pie >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$ 23.00/person

Please make Reservations by noon Monday February 10th to Susanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118. Cancellations must be made by NOON Friday February 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.

*(President's Message from page 1)* for his selfless service as Chapter President. He served for 4 years, making him the longest serving president in chapter history.

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.

**!!!HELP!!!**

**VP for Programs is vacant.**

**Need someone to volunteer for this position. Contact Randy Godfrey 912-312-6446, [argodfrey58@gmail.com](mailto:argodfrey58@gmail.com).**

### **PRO TIPS TO GET NEW ID**

An up-to-date DoD ID card is critically important for active duty family members and retirees and their dependents and survivors to access TRICARE and other earned military benefits.

Two important references military families should bookmark on their internet-capable devices are:

\*DoD ID Card Reference Center at [www.cac.mil](http://www.cac.mil).

\*ID Card Office Online (commonly called the RAPIDS Locator) at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>.

The ID Card Reference Center provides information on ID card life cycles, news and updates, and other resources. USID cards may be renewed within 90 days of expiration, although some high-traffic offices will not renew cards unless they are within 30 days of expiration.

The RAPIDS locator facilitates the update or management of ID card information and helps to locate ID offices and schedule appointments online for card renewal.

To find and schedule an ID appointment using RAPIDS (Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System), select "continue" under the block titled "ID Card Office & Appointments."

Next, under "Search for Site by Address," enter your city, state, ZIP code, and country and a distance you're willing to travel for an appointment (default is 10 Miles).

Then select "search" for your results, which will be produced on a map and listed in order of vicinity to the location entered.

"Select" each facility to note office address, phone number, office, and walk-in hours of operation (if applicable).

Always check "More Site Info" for any site-specific details.

Select "Schedule an Appointment" to check availability in current and future months. Select your day and time slot to book your appointment, after entering required personal information.

RAPIDS offers a pilot program, "online USID Card Renewal," under the Family ID Cards block.

A sponsor must have a DS Logon (DS stands for "DOD Self-Service") or a CAC (Common Access Card) to access this program. Once logged in, you will only see this option if a USID card is eligible for the pilot. Under the pilot, sponsors can request card renewals online from anywhere.

Cards will be mailed to the cardholder via U.S. mail, with no in-person requirement for most renewals. **(continued in right column)**



## **Membership Report by Othan Gilbert**

Our chapter membership count currently is 116.

During the process recently in sending out chapter membership dues notices for 2025 and collecting remittances, I received a \$36 check (paying for 3 years in advance) from one of our chapter members (who is a life member of MOAA National) who recently moved to Idaho from Ozark. I called him to make sure my information was correct. He said he wanted to maintain membership in our chapter because there was not a similar organization where he now lives. Maintaining his membership with us means he continues to get our newsletters and keeps current. In fact, we have many chapter members who no longer live in our area.

My youngest grandson has been in the Army via the ROTC program since 2023. When he was commissioned, I made sure he joined MOAA as a basic member. Recently he returned from a 9-month deployment to Poland and asked me some investment questions concerning the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) in which he is participating. Knowing that MOAA National has financial advisors on staff available to members who are annual or life members, I called and spoke to one of them and got helpful information and tips which I passed on to him. Wishing that he would always have someone he could call and get unbiased information about TSP options and other choices, I called MOAA National and purchased a lifetime membership for him. By calling I got a 10% discount on the current cost of his membership. This way he will never have to pay any more dues and will have the ability to seek financial help and advice from MOAA whenever he wants it.

### **Additional Requirements:**

>You must be requesting a renewal of an active USID card.

>Sponsor and cardholder must have email addresses listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them.

>Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days into the future.

>Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the past 12 months.

>Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in the U.S. USID cards cannot be shipped to P.O. boxes.

*Extracted from **Military Officer**, November 2024, by Capt. Paul J. Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret), MOAA program director for finance and benefits.*

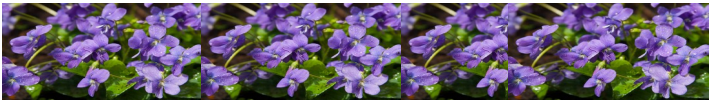


### Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins

From Christmas trees gifts arrive and now its two thousand and twenty five. We have now crossed the threshold of a new year and we can look forward to all the blessings it holds. We are about to swear in to office a new president and see a new congress seated. We are indeed blessed to live in the greatest country to ever exist on GOD s green earth.

We of the Ft Novosel community were certainly blessed to enjoy the recently passed Winter Fest at our beautiful Festival Field. The many choirs from local schools displayed the incredible talent of today s youth. The free Christmas tree give away by installation MWR was enjoyed, and was a great blessing as well. We are certainly blessed to have a military hometown with the tradition and beauty of Ft Novosel. The Retired Officers Wives Association ROWA of Ft Novosel celebrates entering its fifty-third year this year. Our memories and the faces that line that hallway are a treasure to all those who have witnessed some of those years ROWA wives and widows of retired officers to join their fellowship. The meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month excluding an announced summer break and are currently at Divots at Silver Wings Golf Course on Ft Novosel.

May GOD s richest blessings be upon each of you this new year.



### Legislative Report by Ray Collins



The military coalition is determined to renew its attack on the issues and inequities that face our military at all levels. Although the Major Richard Starr Act is the most recognized there are several such bills pending action by our legislative bodies. We the people occupy the most important place in finally achieving a justifiable and honorable completion of the issues. We in MOAA need to and must register as an advocate in the MOAA Legislative Action Center.

Some of the legislative issues we need to be concentrating on this year include the effects of exposure to toxic environment most notable well known being the PACT Act. This Act is making serious headway on how we attack toxic exposure in the military environment and how to treat those affected.

A continuing concern the rate of unemployment for military spouses which remains at 4 to 5 times the national average. The adopted resolution requires education, employment resources and incentives to

**GUEST SPEAKER—Lelia Jackson CW04 Lelia P. Jackson, USMC (Ret) - Committees: Affiliated Councils/ Chapters (Chair), Executive, Membership, Scholarship Fund Board of Directors.**



**Jackson enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1983 and was appointed a Warrant Officer in 1992. She held Administrative Officer positions of increasing responsibility in ground and aviation units. Jackson served as a Personnel Administration Readiness Inspector, led several service-wide process improvements, and directed multiple unit mobilizations and deployments supporting Operation Enduring Freedom prior to retirement in 2003.**

**She currently serves as a senior advisor in the Office of Administration at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology, a master's in Technology Management, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Maryland University College (Global Campus).**

**A graduate of the Federal Executive Institute, Jackson was a Fellow in the Partnership for Public Service Excellence in Government Program and a Fellow in the White House Leadership Development Program.**

**In her personal time, Jackson is dedicated to volunteer work with organizations that support the Veteran community and is actively involved in her church. She also personally sponsors three scholarships for higher education.**

businesses to hire people that will likely be leaving in 2 to 3 years. There is a growing concern regarding occupancy of housing during unaccompanied tours of duty in regard to health, safety, and privacy.

The Military Health System is finally drawing scrutiny, which it has deserved, to be adequately staffed and funded to provide timely care to its beneficiaries. We need to be on alert for the reintroduction of the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Service For Veterans and Caregivers Act, S.141 and H.R.542.

As advocates for the military, we need to be on alert for issues which will negatively impact scheduled pay increases, TRICARE or TRICARE PHARMACY program fees, cost sharing increases that exceed military pay rates, and COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing.

The most powerful voice our military force has is the VOTE. Let them hear our voice!



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hospitality@gmail.com



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

Net Worth of the Fort Novosel (Rucker) Chapter of MOAA as of 01/13/2025 is **\$28,425.71** These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

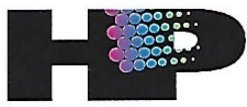
<b>Activities Since Last Report:</b>	(12/16/24)	<b>Starting balance of;</b>	<b>\$28,277.94</b>
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>		
12/22/24	2025 Annual Dues		\$72.00
12/23/24	2025 Annual Dues		108.00
12/23/24	MOAA Dinner Receipts		987.00
12/31/24	Interest on Checking		00.01
12/31/24	Interest on Money Market		10.18
01/06/25	2025Annual Dues		<u>108.00</u>
		<b>Deposits Total</b>	<b>\$1,285.1</b>
<b>CHECKS:</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
2024 12/17/24	Printing Paper (Loel)		\$54.42
2025 12/23/24	IMWRF (Club Payment)		999.00
2026 01/13/25	U.S. Postal Service (Annual Box Rent)		<u>84.00</u>
		<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$1,137.42</b>
		<b>Net Increase</b>	<b><u>\$147.77</u></b>
		(01/13/25) <b>Current Total Balance of;</b>	<b><u>\$28,425.71</u></b>
		All In checking	\$6,609.43
		All In Savings	\$5.50
		All In Money Market	\$21,810.78
		<b>Reserve Total: (Minus Reser);</b>	<b>- \$21,810.78</b>
		Life Membership	\$7,090.00
		MOAA reserve,	\$14,720.78
		<b>Minus Savings:</b>	<b>-\$5.50</b>
		<b>*Usable Funds as of January 13,2025 (Minus reserve/savings)</b>	<b><u>\$6,609.43</u></b>
		<b>No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$50.00</b>	

**New Officers & Directors**  
Randy Godfrey, President; Vice President for Programs, OPEN;  
Jeff Turner, Recruiting Officer; & Dennis Newton, Public Affairs.

**PLEASE support our sponsors!**

<b>Important 2025 Dates for MOAA</b>		
<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b>	<b>Newsletter Input Suspense</b>	<b>Bi-Monthly Meeting</b>
2-10-2025		<b>2-15-2025</b>
3-10-2025	3-19-2025	
4-14-2025		4-19-2025
5-12-2025	5-21-2025	
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
<b>Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.</b>		

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*Photos from December 21, 2024 Dinner*



Incoming President, Randy Godfrey  
sworn in by Ron Kaita



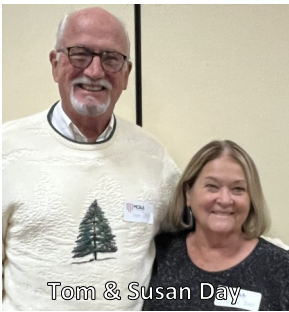
Sean Newton, Stephanie Benèfield,  
& Dennis Newton



Dennis Newton, Randy Godfrey, &  
Ron Kaita



*Great turnout for business, fellowship, great meal, & singing!*



Tom & Susan Day



Ron & Lark Kaita



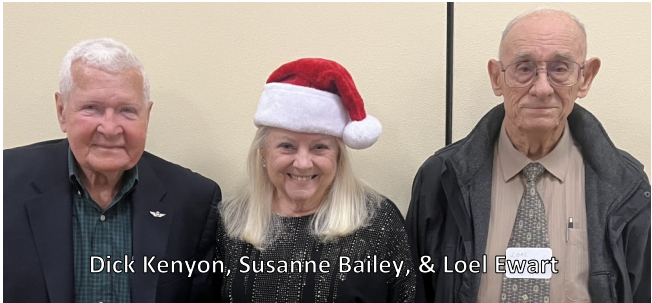
Pamela & Robert  
Williamson



Leslie & Roy Templin



Dick Kenyon & Loel Ewart



Dick Kenyon, Susanne Bailey, & Loel Ewart



Connie & Lou Hennies



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer

*Photos from December 21, 2024 Dinner (continued)*



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Ann & Frank Estes



Bob Cooper &  
Karen Boniface



Dennis, the song leader!



Charlie & Claudia  
Wigglesworth



Carolyn Wooley, Martha McKee, &  
Karen Beer



John & Sam Newton



Beverly O'Donnell & Susanne Bailey



Swearing in - a different view.



Singing and sipping!



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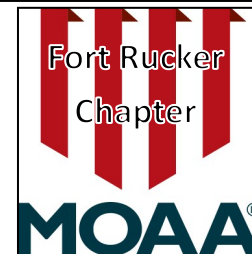
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**MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 620075**  
**Ft. Novosel, AL 36362-0075**

*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!**  
**Web address: [www.FortRuckerMOAA.org](http://www.FortRuckerMOAA.org)**