



WIREGRASS CHAPTER MOAA NEWSLETTER



April—May 2025

President's Message by Randy Godfrey



When talking to our service men and women, there are recurring questions heard. Why should I join The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)? What is the result of my membership?

MOAA started in 1929 as the Retired Officers Association. After a membership vote in September 2002, the association changed its name to the Military Officers Association of America on January 1, 2003.

MOAA represents every branch of uniformed service, which includes Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and surviving spouses. MOAA is an association of officers and surviving spouses conducting the role and responsibility to represent and support all ranks across all services at every stage of their careers. MOAA is the leading voice on compensation and all benefit matters for all members of the

uniformed services community. The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services.

MOAA is a member of the Military Coalition (TMC). TMC is a group of military, veterans and uniformed services organizations, which includes Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA), Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA), Gold Star Wives of America (GSW), Marine Corps League (MCL), Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and 25 other organizations. The members are

in joint pursuit of a strong national defense, maintaining uniformed services compensation, and representing the interests of the entire uniformed services community, including members' families and survivors. This is a combined representative voice for our brothers and sisters in arms and their families.

As seen, the members of MOAA and other organizations are a voice for all. The larger the numbers the greater the voice. We ask each of our members to help spread the word about MOAA. Basic Membership is free!

Phone a friend, phone a colleague, ET Phone Home. You are our organization!

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—Colonel John P. Miller was commissioned as an Aviation Officer upon graduation from Drake University in 2000. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Aviation Officer Basic and Captain's Career Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. Colonel Miller assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison – Fort Novosel in June 2023. Colonel Miller's Command Assignments include: Commander, A Company, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX where he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Commander, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York, where he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support. Colonel Miller's Key Assignments include: Flight Platoon Leader, Headquarters Company XO, and Battalion S4 in the 4th ID; Assault Division Chief and Operations Chief at the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization in Fort Rucker, AL; G3 Current Operations Officer, 1st Infantry Division; Battalion XO and Battalion S3, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment; Brigade XO, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade; and Deputy Chief of Operations Group, Chief of Training, (continued on page 2)



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General Membership Meeting, **Saturday April 19, 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
- >Baked ham
- >Scalloped potatoes
- >Peas & carrots
- >Rolls & butter
- >Lemon meringue pie
- >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$ 23.00/person

Please make **Reservations by noon Monday April 14th** to Susanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118.

Cancellations must be made by NOON Friday April 18th.

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.



The Wiregrass Chapter MOAA Newsletter is the bimonthly newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, MOAA which is an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliates are nonpartisan. Wiregrass Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 620075, Fort Novosel, Alabama 36362. Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

Member Spotlight—Gloria Loser

Gloria was born 12/29/24 in North Charleroi, Pennsylvania. (Yes, she is one hundred now.) She attended high school at North Charleroi and graduated from Penn State University in 1946 with a major in Physical Education and Science. Gloria was a schoolteacher in Pennsylvania for 10 years. During this period, she married and had a son who obtained his P.H.D. from the University of Alabama.

Gloria later married a very special man, CPT Henry Loser, in 1959, who served 20 years in the Army Air Force. During WW2, he was a B24 bomber pilot in Italy and, in addition to bombing raids, flew Army Rangers behind enemy lines. Henry attended Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. They moved to Enterprise in 1960 and had one daughter and 2 grandchildren who now live in Richmond, VA. Henry died in 1969 and her son died in 1986. Gloria still lives in the same house in Enterprise. She was a PE and Science teacher at Enterprise High School for 20 years. During many of those early years she also acted as an unofficial nurse. She once helped a male student who had run through glass by patching him up and stopping the flow of blood. When he returned to school from the hospital, she asked him how many stitches he needed, he said 182 (she was interested because she only had cut-up pads to stem the flow of blood). She has been a volunteer at the Enterprise Medical Center for more than 40 years. She crochets ball caps for all new babies born there plus sews small teddy bears for children. She was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at the Center. She also participates in a weekly square-dancing club. She is a surviving spouse life member of MOAA. In years past she was very active with the Retired Officers Wives Club at Fort Rucker and was President one year.

Her motto is: "keep moving". She still drives her own car.



Membership Report by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count currently is 118.

I would like to welcome three new chapter members. **COL Thomas Day** and his wife, Susan, live in Dothan. COL Day was elected as our new Chapter Vice-President at our last dinner meeting and Susan has volunteered to be our program coordinator for our chapter dinner meetings. Thanks to both. In addition, **CW4 Chester Davis** and his wife Shirley live at Fort Novosel. (They are currently our only members living on post.) Also, we welcome **CW4 Jeff Turner** and his wife, Mary, who live in Enterprise. Jeff is the MOAA National recruiting officer working with the soldiers processing through the Warrant Officer College.

I regret to report that one of our chapter members, LTC (Ret) Donald Galla, died 3/12/25. He was 89 and had been a member for some time. He lived in Dothan with his wife Margaret "Peggy". She is also a retired Lt. Col (nurse). Our sympathies are extended to her and her family members.

The oldest surviving spouse associated with this chapter is **Gloria Loser** who is 100 years old and still attends our dinner meetings. See her information detailed in a "Spotlight" article in this newsletter. She is also a surviving spouse lifetime member of MOAA National.

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.

Guest Speaker, February MOAA Dinner

At a recent dinner meeting of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the speaker was CW4 Lelia Jackson, USMC (Ret), who represented the National Headquarters of MOAA (who sends out a representative to connect with local chapters every few years).

MOAA is recognized as the leader among US veteran military organizations for working with Congress on the needs and interests of active and retired military members. She outlined the issues that will be emphasized and focused on during the next year. 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, enlisted soldiers and their families at every stage of their careers. Shown in the accompanying photograph is Jackson and CW5 (Ret) Randy Godfrey, the President of the chapter.



(Guest Speaker continued from page 1) Chief Maneuver Observer, Coach/Trainer and Aviation Observer, Coach/Trainer at the Mission Command Training Program in Fort Leavenworth, KS. Colonel Miller's operational deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom I, 05-07 and 10-11; Operation New Dawn; Operation Enduring Freedom 13-14; and Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support 19-20. Colonel Miller holds a Master of Administration degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Strategic Studies with concentration in Leading Change and Innovation degree

from the U.S. Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with 3 OLC, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 OLC, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 3 OLC, the Army Achievement Medal with 2 OLC, the OEF Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the OIF Campaign Medal with four campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Medal (2), the Combat Action Badge, and the Master Aviator Badge. Colonel Miller is married to the former Mollie Seidl whom he first met in 1996 at Drake University. Together they have two children: Emma and Jack.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings from ROWA and happy "spring time." First and foremost, I want to thank GOD for sparing most of us in the Wiregrass area from major property damage or physical harm.

This time of year has always been a favorite of mine. With the leaves beginning their return and the profusion of blossoms brightening seemingly every landscape of GOD's Green Earth. We are blessed to live in an area of the country where the cold and snow of winter are usually a joy rather than several months long burden. "Wasn't it a beautiful sight!"

Some of the holidays of this time of year also brighten our lives. Saint Patrick's Day is a joyful reminder of the young man who went from England to being a slave in Ireland, to being a saint in Christendom. The shamrock in glorious green tri-lobed leaves "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" reminded us of Irish heritage which many of our citizens, past and present cherish and take pride in. It is my privilege to welcome wives of retired military officers to become a part of the ROWA fellowship. We meet each second Tuesday of the month at Divots on Silver Wings Golf Course at 11:00. Our main purpose is to remain connected, enjoy friendly company and fellowship, and pass on the news of the day.

"May the LORD bless and keep you and make HIS face shine upon you and give you peace and hold you in the palm of HIS hand."

Legislative Report by Ray Collins



I must admit I am surprised that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) signed in to law on December 23, 2024 has addressed many issues which will improve the everyday life of our military force and their families. High on the list of support for our fighting force is a 14.5 percent pay raise for pay grade E-1 thru E-4 coupled with a 4.5 percent raise for most service members. This helps the military force keep pace with the Employment Cost Index (ECI). Recruitment and retention will see aid from this improvement alone. I remain amazed that the military of this the greatest country on Earth has need for a Basic Needs Allowance but the NDAA increase in the threshold from 150% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines makes BNA available to more hurting families.

On the front lines of Spouse Employment, the possibility of portability of professional licenses is a plus. The Department of Defense ability and authority to meet and work with the Council of State Governments to develop less complicated systems of portability of occupational licenses of military spouses across state lines. This capability alone will help alleviate one of the challenges which military families face during relocations. Another plus for relocating families is expanded child care for spouses looking for employment may qualify for up to 180 days of child care services.

The signing into law of the Dole Act increased the VA's share of home nursing care (continued in right column)

Warrant Officer Awards



(L) Distinguished Honor Graduate—WO1 Kyle J. Premeau (420A)
(R) Leadership Awardee—WO1 Brian M. Sweat (915A)



(L) Distinguished Honor Graduate—WO1 Wylie M. Burnett (670A)
(R) Leadership Award—WO1 Robert W. Medley (131A)



(L) Distinguished Honor Graduate—WO1 Cade M. Wolf (153A)
(R) Leadership award—WO1 James M. Lehad (915A)

(continued from left column) from 60% to 100%. The Dole Act offers training, financial aid, and mental health resources for caregivers not eligible for the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for family caregivers. The Dole Act also establishes a pilot dental program for veterans with heart disease and further improvements to existing programs and services. The rural ambulance coverage will provide reimbursement for transportation in rural areas. The Dole Act also contains broadened eligibility for burial allowances and revised definitions for surviving spouses.

There remains work to be done but the NDAA of 2025 and the Dole Act have combined to right some of the wrongs the military community has struggled with for many years.

2025 Officers & Directors

- PRESIDENT**
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 03/10/2025 is **\$28,669.91**
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:		(02/10/24) Starting balance of;	\$28,537.41
DEPOSITS	ACTION		
02/18/25	MOAA Dinner Deposit		\$799.00
02/18/25	2025 Dues (3x12=\$36); Donations (Sch. Fund) \$38		74.00
02/28/25	Money Market Interest		<u>10.00</u>
	Deposits Total		\$883.00
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
2026	01/13/25 US Post Office Box Rent		\$84.00
2031	02/21/25 IMWRF (MOAA Dinner Payment)		<u>666.50</u>
	Expenditures Total		\$750.50
	Net Increase		<u>\$132.50</u>
	03/10/25) Current Total Balance of;		<u>\$28,669.91</u>
	All In checking	\$7,843.44	
	All In Savings	\$5.50	
	All In Money Market	\$20,820.97	
	Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);		-\$20,820.97
	Life Membership	\$7,090.00	
	MOAA reserve,	\$13,730.97	
	Minus Savings:		-\$5.48
	*Usable Funds as of March 10 2025 (Minus reserve/savings)		<u>\$7,843.44</u>

No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$148.00
Note: \$1000 was moved from MM Reserve to checking to pay for Web site rebuild. This was done in accordance with MOAA Wiregrass Board Directive.

- The following personnel have been notified of the MOAA Chapter name change.
1. Ms. Jessica Craig, DFMWR NAF Support Services Division, Ft Novosel, AL
 2. Federal Postal Services, Ft. Novosel, AL.
 3. AllIn Federal Credit Union, Ft Novosel, AL.
 4. The IRS will be notified by end of March.

Military Humor ↓

What happens when you eat too many Navy beans?
You end up with a dishonorable discharge.

Important 2025 Dates for MOAA		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
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
Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.		

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Photos from February 15, 2025 Dinner



Lelia Jackson, Guest Speaker & Randy Godfrey, Chap. Pres.



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Ann Estes, Lelia Jackson, & Frank Estes



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Dee Gilbert & Karen Dunham



Dennis Newton, Chester Davis, & Tom Day



Gloria Loser & Carolyn Wooley



MOAA gathering at the Landing.



Lelia & Andrew Jackson



Loel & Barbara Ewart



Head Table with the Jacksons, Godfreys, & Hennies



Lou & Connie Hennies



Tom & Susan Day



Tom Day, incoming VP sworn in by Lelia Jackson.

Photos from February 15, 2025 Dinner (continued)



More guests at the Business Meeting & Dinner



Karen Beer, Gloria Loser, & Dee Gilbert



Ray & Mary Jane Collins



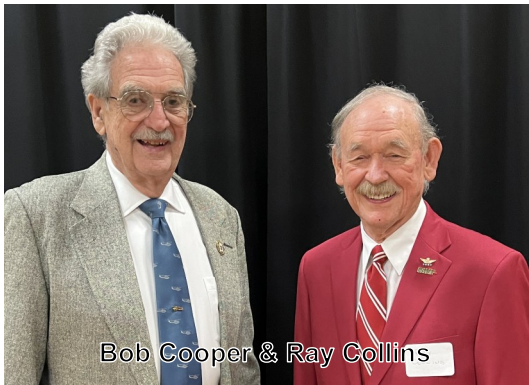
Yan Pa



More guests at the Landing MOAA Dinner.



Bob Cooper & Dennis Newton



Bob Cooper & Ray Collins



Sam & John Newton



Chester Davis & Dennis Newton



More guests at the MOAA Dinner --- checking their tickets for a winner.



Charlie & Claudia Wigglesworth



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

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.