



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

2024 NEWSLETTER

MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S NOTES FEBRUARY



## Helping Service Members, Retirees and Veterans

We enjoyed fellowship, camaraderie, and an informative presentation, along with good food, at our February meeting. We continue to focus three goals: Legislative Advocacy on issues that affect service members, retirees, and family members; Membership because that gives us greater Legislative influence; and Community Service because it allows us to help those in need where we can assist with our limited resources. Thank you Tony for the invocation.

We had two guests and a couple of members who came back to join with us. We Welcomed LTC Melinda Wallace who is retiring at the end of Feb and was a recent speaker at our Oct 2023 meeting, and her father-in-law LTC (Ret) John Wallace, who moved here from Daytona, FL. It is always a special opportunity when we welcome visiting MOAA members who are considering our Chapter. We also had Guy Smith and John Linder attend, we are pleased to extend a warm welcome and hope to see all of you again.

We had COL (Ret) David Giammona as our guest speaker. He gave a very informative presentation on the National issue of Suicide, and some of the steps we can all take as part of 'being their' for our friends. He closed with steps we can all take. Once a month those from my Vietnam unit do a "Buddy Check" just to let each other know we are there and that we care about each member.

In January we heard Frank Lumpkin IV explained the project known as I-14 "FORTS TO PORTS REGIONAL INTERSTATE. If you would like to be part of this team please let Jay Wilkoff or myself know. DOD identified this as a significant benefit for the military.

We submitted our Chapter for a 2023 Level of Effort award recognizing all of the work this Chapter and our members do that we often take for granted. We also submitted our Newsletter for award consideration.

Our March meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at St Luke Church, Community Center, and our speaker is Jeff Bearden, CRU Military. He will talk on what CRU Military does as he and his growing team of volunteers talk with new enlisted soldiers and Officers, and they spread a Christian message. A good meeting to attend.

Mayo "Biff" Hadden, President



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## 2024 Membership Drive

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR DUES for this year, PLEASE DO - WE NEED YOU!!!**

We are about 65% on membership renewals, and we Need your support. When we meet or talk with Congressional Staffers, or State Legislators, our membership number represent Voters and are very important.

## Georgia and MOAA's Legislative Action Center

**Advocacy involves communication with local, State, and Federal Legislators, as well as DOD and VA officials, on each issue.** We need volunteers to prepare draft letters on each issue that can be sent by our members to Federal and State Legislators, by our members.

- H.R.1413 ANC – only 3 GA cosponsors
- H.R. 1282/S.344 STAR – 7 Reps. 2 Senators
- H.R.1277/S.596 Spouse Hiring- 6 Reps 1 Sen
- H.R.2537/S.1823 BAH – 1 Rep 1 Sen
- H.R.3232/S.1588 – Respect for Grieving Families – 1 Rep no GA Senators (yet)
- H.R.1083/S.414 Caring for Survivors act (DIC increase) – no GA cosponsors (yet)

These are the Bills in Congress that MOAA is asking MOAA Members and service members to support through the Legislative Action Center.

Please go on line to the MOAA web site – go the Legislative Action Center – indicate support for each of these pending bills. It does make a difference.

## Chapter Advocacy Opportunities

Support the GUARD Act.

Homeless Veterans – we support local homes that provide for Homeless Veterans, and other solutions for the homeless, like a Tiny Home project. (Mac Plummer, Jim Crosse, & others)

Ability for DOD to hire Nursing Students right out of college, waive the one year of experience requirement – provides an ability to fill Nursing vacancies at MACH. (Advocate \_\_\_\_)

Support relocating the VA Clinic on Ft Moore to vacant space on Martin Army Community Hospital - moving from the temporary VA facility. (Advocate Jay Wilkoff) (See article on similar action at Ft Campbell Military Hospital partnering with VA, below)



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## More vets could be headed to DOD medical sites to get VA health care

By [Leo Shane III](#); Friday, Feb 23

Veterans will be able to receive some Veterans Affairs health care services at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Kentucky next month thanks to a new partnership between the military and VA. (Fred Holly/Army) Fort Campbell's Army hospital in Tennessee will open its doors to veteran patients for the first time



next month, part of a series of partnerships between military and [Veterans Affairs medical facilities](#) that officials hope will make health care easier to access. [We are hoping to have this partnership on Fort Moore between the VA (CAVHCS) and MACH.]

Local leaders unveiled details of the new arrangement on Friday, which will allow VA staffers to operate in offices at the [Blanchfield Army Community Hospital](#) and provide dental care, women's health care, intensive care, and pain management services to nearby veterans. Officials expect to serve about 3,000 veterans living in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The move comes a few weeks after the two departments announced a similar partnership at [Naval Hospital Pensacola](#) in Florida, with VA staff moving into unused military medical space to provide more health care options for local veterans.

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### Is VA Paying for Migrant Health Care? The Agency Says 'No' Despite Wave of Political Attacks.

By [Patricia Kime](#); published January 11, 2024 at 4:35pm ET (Extracts of the Article)

A 22-year-old arrangement between the [Departments of Veterans Affairs](#) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement has drawn ire from conservatives in Congress, who claim it puts health care for detained migrants over that of veterans.

But VA officials say it has no impact whatsoever on veterans' services or health care -- and costs the agency nothing.



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The long-standing agreement with ICE has recently become a political football amid attacks from lawmakers and conservative advocates who have hammered President Joe Biden over a flood of migrants coming across the southern border.

In December, Illinois Republican Rep. Mike Bost, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., introduced a bill called the "No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act," which would prohibit the VA from using resources to provide health care or process claims for migrants.

VA officials said Thursday that, while taxpayer funding is used to process the health care claims, ICE, not the VA, pays for the work. And, VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes added, the VA has never provided health care to migrant detainees.

"VA does not provide or fund any health care to ICE detainees. There is a 2002 payment processing agreement, in which ICE pays for the FSC to process payments for ICE-funded health care. This involves no more than 10 employees, is fully paid for by ICE, and has been in place for every administration since 2002," Hayes said in a statement to Military.com.

In a recent statement to The New York Post, [Tuberville's office said the Biden administration was "playing word games"](#) and accused the VA of allowing detainees to access its community care network, which provides private health care services to veterans outside VA clinics and medical centers. "By definition, that means worse options for our veterans," a spokesperson for the senator told The Post. Under the agreement, however, the ICE Health Service Corps, or IHSC, program office is responsible for authorizing health care services for detainees and obtaining providers to deliver their health care. "No resources meant for veterans are used as part of this agreement. FSC provides an administrative function for ICE, using ICE funds, that has zero impact on veteran health care or benefits," Hayes said in a statement. ([Time and resources processing for ICE leads to delays in processing VA paperwork – delayed reviews and claims](#))

"Again, they provide this claims processing function in return for IHSC paying a fee to FSC. None of the employees have been diverted from other roles, and no resources meant for veterans are used as part of this agreement," Hayes added. ([Staffing of VA is based on veterans so this is a diversion of resources](#))

In fiscal 2021, IHSC paid VA \$74.7 million to provide medical claims processing and support referral for outside care, according to a 2022 report to the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees.

According to the report, in fiscal 2021, IHSC provided health care directly to 88,000 immigrants and oversaw health care for more than 169,000 in other medical settings. It spent \$338.2 million on care for these detainees, including \$21.4 million from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds.



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CHAPTER WEB SITE

We have a new web site being prepared and hope to unveil it within a couple of weeks. This is thanks to another one of our super volunteers.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Ben Stahl is reworking the MOAA CVC Scholarship application. He will be building a committee, similar to last year. As soon as he completes the application form and instructions, we will send them out. Target for submission is 1 May, and selection by 15 May, and presentation at the June meeting.

## PHOTO GALLERY OF OUR JANUARY MEETING



Dave – Financial Wizard





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Thanking our speaker – David Giammona

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED – WE NEED YOU FOR 2024



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**BELOW PLEASE FIND THE CVC MOAA MEMBERSHIP /RENEWAL FORM**

## Chattahoochee Valley Chapter MOAA

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM – PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Date \_\_\_\_\_; **2024** RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last, First, MI) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Widow(er) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty ( ) Retired ( ) Former Off ( )

Dates of Military Service: (Yr-Yr) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Qualify as a War Veteran Chapter, treated like 501.c.3)

Regular ( ) Reserve ( ) NG ( ) Retired ( ) Date Commissioned \_\_\_\_\_

Member of MOAA National – Yes ( ) No ( ) Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for your dues & supporting the Chattahoochee Valley Chapter. We are proud of Your service. Annual Membership Dues are \$25. **Chapter Lifetime Dues option at Age 70; \$250 for member; \$100 Surviving Spouse. Mail to: CVC MOAA, PO Box 6613, Columbus, GA 31917-6613.**

If you have a little time and would like to volunteer to serve on a committee and/or special project please, let us know. We always need and welcome volunteers.

If you are willing to volunteer, we need you:

Membership	_____	Programs	_____
Fund Raising	_____	ROTC/JROTC Awards	_____
Legislative Advocacy	_____	Newsletter/Web Site	_____

[www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org)

[www.FortBenningMOAA.com](http://www.FortBenningMOAA.com) Pending

**NEVER STOP SERVING Take Action**



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## CVC MOAA Chapter Leadership

### CVC MOAA 2023 – Officers

<b>President/Chairman</b>	<b>COL Biff Hadden</b>	706-615-2455
Vice President, Programs	<b>Darin Nunn</b>	706-763-7125
Vice President, Membership	<b>Carlos Lock</b>	703-576-7840
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>LTC George Sommerfield</b>	770-417-0280
<b>Asst Secretary</b>	<b>LTC Roger Buterbaugh</b>	706-587-1910
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>LTC David Cripe</b>	706-505-5450
Asst Treasurer	<b>Need a Volunteer</b>	
<b>Staff Judge Advocate</b>	<b>MAJ Bill Ward</b>	706-587-8793
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>MAJ Tony Mayne</b>	813-981-3840

### Directors:

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<b>Bobby Goolsby</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>LTC Darrell O'Steen</b>	
<b>LTC Carlos Lock</b>	<b>ROTC/JROTC Coord/Membership</b>
<b>COL Dick Nurnberg</b>	<b>Installation Retiree Council</b>
<b>LTC Sam Nelson</b>	<b>CVVC &amp; Veteran Groups</b>
<b>LTC Ben Stahl</b>	<b>Scholarships</b>
<b>Jay Wilkoff</b>	<b>VA, Legislative Affairs</b>

### Committee Chairs – ( Information on Key Volunteers)

Surviving Spouses	Liaison Betty Burns	706-563-0740
CVVC/FMC	Sam Nelson	706-568-4592
Flags/Special Spt	George Sommerfield	770-417-0280
Legislative	Darrell O'Steen	
Membership	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
Newsletter	Trish Hadden	trishhadden1@gmail.com
Personal Affairs	William Ward	706-464-0538
Retiree Council	Dick Nurnberg	706-329-0038
ROTC/JROTC	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
TOPS Liaison	Biff Hadden	706-615-2455
Scholarships	Ben Stahl	706-464-0538
Webmaster	Tony Mayne	813-981-3840

### Social Media

[Editorial Policy: "MOAA CVC " Newsletter is published by the MOAA Chattahoochee Valley Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Georgia Council of Chapters (GCOC). It is published for information for our members. MOAA and its affiliated chapters & councils are non-partisan]





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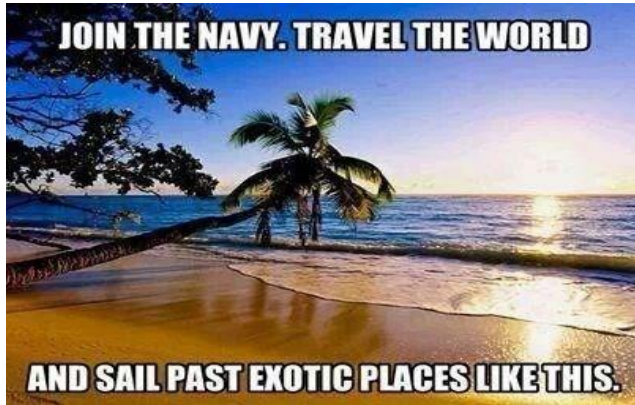


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## Military Humor

Navy has the lead in friendly Humor this Month



Real Hard Training



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If you have never been on a Aircraft Carrier underway – the opportunity awaits you!





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## Thank You SPONSORS



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*“Professional Leaders belong to Professional Organizations.”  
Become part of the solution. Join MOAA.*

**“Never Stop Serving....Take ACTION “**

Mayo (“Biff”) Addison Hadden III  
COLONEL United States ARMY (RETIRED) SF  
President CVC MOAA Chapter