



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

2024 NEWSLETTER

MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S NOTES JANUARY

## 2024 Will be a Good Year for the CVC Chapter



We start this year with 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, and Melba for the Inspirational story.

We held our January meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> after having our original date rained out. Our Speaker Attorney Frank Lumpkin IV was able to participate on our rescheduled date. Going through his last year of High School, then through University of Georgia, then Law School, he became interested what was proposed and is now partially in place, Interstate I-14 "Forts to Ports". It starts in Texas as a branch off of I-20, and connects with Fort Cavazos (formerly Ft Hood), and is being put in place with upgrades to segments that are near interstate standards and is running to Louisiana. The route through Louisiana will run close to Fort Johnson (formerly Ft Polk). It then runs through Mississippi and then through Alabama. The route through Alabama will connect with I-65 close to Selma, use I-65 to Montgomery then use I-85 to Tuskegee, and then use US 80 to near Phenix City, with some rerouting. It would connect with the JR Allen Parkway, with some engineering near Midland to route in a manner that does not impact Pratt & Whitney, but connects with US 80, following that path to Macon, where it can tie into US I-16 to Savannah, and part of it continuing to Augusta where it can tie into I-20. The Interstate Concept has Federal Highway Administration approval, with years of details to be worked out. It has had at least two Georgia Governors approve the concept, and Columbus Council approved the concept.

Why it is important? It connects 9 military bases with East Coast Ports, which was a reason for the Interstate System, avoiding Atlanta gridlock. This can facilitate the movement of a lot of five divisions of equipment if needed in the event of a crisis. Under full mobilization it supports the movement of forces generated at Fort Moore direct access to the GA/FL ports, along with Fort Cavazos and Fort Johnson, along with USAF bases along the route. It also offers a significant economic development opportunity to Selma and Tuskegee, and both receive direct benefit. Frank Lumpkin explained all of this and did a wonderful job. We offer him our full support, and we hope to have him back for updates. He will be a Army SJA through the Reserves and will do much of his work at Fort Moore so we hope to see more of him.



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Special thanks to LTC (Ret) **Carlos Lock** who represented our Chapter at the Georgia MOAA Council annual Training Meeting. We were represented by one of the best. Thank You – Carlos.

Our February meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at St Luke Church, Community Center, and our speaker is COL (Ret) David Giammona. He will talk on issues facing our service members and retirees.

The 2024 “Georgia MOAA Conference” will be in Warner Robins, with an event at the Air & Space Museum, on Robins Air Logistics Center. More to follow.

Biff

Mayo “Biff” Hadden, President

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR DUES, PLEASE DO AS WE NEED YOU!!!**

### **Georgia and MOAA’s Legislative Action Center**

- 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**

Veterans Treatment Courts – these are beneficial for veterans, and we need to advocate to keep them in place. (Sam Nelson & Brandt Smith)

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)



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Blind Veterans of America, Columbus area Chapter – helping to improve working transportation solutions for eyesight impaired to get to VA facilities, and to get this information to all who need to now, focusing on those in Phenix City. (Jay Wilkoff)

Expanded VA Medical Healthcare – working on expanding short term and long term healthcare in our area for Veterans. (Jay Wilkoff)

Ability for DOD to hire Nursing Students right our 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 \_\_\_\_\_)

Support the GUARD Act.

**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.

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## VETERANS ACTION COMMITTEE OF COLUMBUS

For information on Veterans related activities and events check out this link:

[veteransactioncommittee.org](http://veteransactioncommittee.org)

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**NOTICE: 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.**



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## PHOTO GALLERY OF OUR JANUARY MEETING



Dave Briefs Financials



Melba Spurlack Shares an Inspirational Story



Frank Lumpkin IV Speaking    Receives Appreciation Gift



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## MAP OF I-14 "FORTS TO PORTS"



### VA HEALTHCARE ISSUE – BEING RESEARCHED FOR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

There is an action ongoing to provide VA CCR access to Illegal Aliens. The VA was created to provide care for the Veterans who have served our Nation, and it is designed to address their training and war related health issues, to honor their service. To divert VA facilities and staff is the first step in the destruction of the Veterans Administration and moving it toward public health. The VA is understaffed in many locations and specialties and wait times can already be excessive for Veterans.

With a Veteran the VA has military health records, immunizations, regional deployment and exposure histories, exposure to disease prone areas, and they know how to treat us. With an illegal immigrant who is not authorized under law, the VA has no files, no medical histories, and they become exposed to whatever the illegal immigrant has and veterans are in turn exposed so it increases threat of exposure to veterans and their health.

DHS says they will reimburse the VA, but that does not cover Veterans and additional delays who by virtue of health and age are adversely impacted.

Watch for more to follow as we prepare a DRAFT letter for Legislators. We are going to recommend we oppose the diversion of Veterans Administration Healthcare to anyone except Veterans.

\*We need all MOAA members in our area to join with us on this issue.



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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
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<b>Darin Nunn</b>	706-763-7125
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President		
<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](#)

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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