



CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S NOTES

THE YEAR OF THE ARMY'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

It was 250 years ago that the Continental Congress, faced by the British, and Taxes, and by the French north in what we now call Canada, and Indians along our western edge of our fledgling states, our leaders felt the need to create an Army, then a Navy, and then the Marines. There have been a few changes along the way. This year we will celebrate some of the events over this 250 year period that produced the original Armed Services, and laid the foundation for today's Department of Defense.



Our April meeting was entertainment presented by Major General Nathaniel Greene, a Revolutionary War General who became the initial Army Quartermaster during the Revolutionary War, and then was assigned to take over the Garrison at West Point New York, only to be sent south to lead the Revolutionary War efforts in the Southern theater. He grew up as one of a large number of boys, and his father operated a foundry. As a lad he built and operated his own small foundry making toys for sale in order to buy books to read and study. Our master story teller was Dan McMichael, and his recount of history is amazing, enlightening, and entertaining.

MEMBERSHIP: To be a viable Chapter we need your 2025 membership. Your dues support an active scholarship program, a ROTC And JROTC Awards program, the Plummer Home for homeless veterans, House of Heroes, our support of the Crisis Relief Fund, and programs helping veterans and family members. We share information to help other groups, because collectively we can assist more of those serving and those who have served. **Thank you for RENEWING your Dues.**

MOAA Chapter Scholarship applications this year we will award up to 10 each \$1,000 Scholarships. As of the end of April we had 9 applications.

Our **next meeting is May 13**, and will be held at **Hilton Garden Inn, Brookstone Center**. We will assemble at 11:30. Rita Springer will cover how Aviation got its start.

Mayo "Biff" Hadden, President



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WELCOME 2025 CHAPTER MEMBER RENEWALS

William Harris; Robert Kmiecik; Norman Larkee; Jose Negron; Gerry Springer; Rita Springer; Kate Vogel; Charles Walls; Richard Williams

WELCOME NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

Abigail DeWalt, formerly with Mt Vernon Chapter

Chattahoochee Valley Chapter – Chapter Life Members

Cleveland Ashley; Jim Brinson; John Bush; Roger Buterbaugh; Myles Caggins Jr; Bobby Goolsby; Jim Grimshaw; Biff Hadden; John Hargrove; Seth Harp; Bob Hoidahl; John House; James Jackson; Joe Kmiecik; Patricia Krause; John Mitchell; Sam Nelson; Tom Royer; George Scruggs; Sam Seetin; George Sommerfield; Rob StClair; Jack Tidwell; Ray Wagner; Jay Wilkoff; Honorary: Ga Sen Ed Harbison.

NEW CHAPTER LIFE MEMBER:

Steve Patillo; Mac Plummer; Marty Reyna

SURVIVING SPOUSES:

Betty Burns; Pauline Fabrigar; Glenice Myers; Stacy Poydasheff.

TAPS:

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. The Link:

www.moaa.org/takeaction

Active Legislative Campaigns

2025 ISSUES



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Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring

- **The Ask:** Actions to combat stagnant, high rates of unemployment among military spouses must include measures to incentivize their hiring. [Cosponsor the Military Spouse Hiring Act](#) to add a military spouse target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program.
- **Learn More:** [Military Spouses Can't Wait: Add Them to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** Download the issue paper ([PDF](#)) | [Watch the video](#)

Continue Unaccompanied Housing Improvements

- **The Ask:** Transparency is key to supporting lawmaker oversight of this ongoing issue and addressing a \$137 billion maintenance backlog. [Ask Congress to require DoD to make reports on unaccompanied housing installation conditions publicly available.](#)
- **Learn More:** [Fighting for Better Unaccompanied Housing: Why It Matters, and How You Can Help](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** Download the issue paper ([PDF](#)) | [Watch the video](#)

Improve Access to Health Care for Military Families

- **The Ask:** Servicemembers and military families must have a better option for reporting and getting assistance with access-to-care problems within the Military Health System (MHS). MOAA is asking Congress to establish a Digital Access Assistance System for MHS patients.
- **Learn More:** [Have You Faced Access Barriers? Tell MOAA](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** Download the issue paper ([PDF](#)) | [Watch the video](#)



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Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans

- **The Ask:** Pass legislation to [shorten how long millions of veterans must wait before receiving service-earned care and benefits.](#)
- **Learn More:** [The Push for a More Perfect PACT Act](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** Download the issue paper ([PDF](#)) | [Watch the video](#)

Support Veteran Caregivers

- **The Ask:** Champion/cosponsor the passage of the [Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.](#)
- **Learn More:** [Caregivers Sacrifice for Our Veterans – Now Congress Must Support Them](#)
- **MOAA Resources:** Download the issue paper ([PDF](#)) | [Watch the video](#)

Georgia SB 31 & George HB 266

This Legislation will end Georgia Taxes on Military Retirement. It is to be effective starting Jan 1, 2026. We are working to find out the official status but we applaud the Georgia Legislature for this action, and anxiously await the final passage and signing.

Chapter Advocacy Opportunities

Homeless Veterans – we support local homes that provide for Homeless Veterans, and other solutions for the homeless, like a Tiny Home project. Grant writers needed and if you would like to volunteer please let one of our Board know. (Mac Plummer, Jim Crosse, & others)

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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VA News

VA Health Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

vapublicaffairs@va.gov

VA announces major survivor benefits reforms

05/05/2025 10:2 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and servicemembers apply for and receive VA benefits and services.

Specific improvements include:

- Starting this month, VA's [Office of Survivors Assistance](#) will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- Starting this month, VA will create a “white-glove” survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) claims process.
- Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

“The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That’s why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support and compassion they’ve earned,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**.

Background information on the changes VA announced today is below.

Relocating OSA

In 2021, the Biden administration moved OSA from the Office of the VA Secretary to the Veterans Benefits Administration, creating a siloed system at odds with the intent



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of the [Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008](#). Starting this month, VA will reverse this decision and move OSA to the Office of the VA Secretary, where a staff of five full-time employees will advise the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs and legislative issues affecting survivors and dependents.

“White-Glove” Survivor Outreach Team

Under previous administrations, there were gaps in the survivor claims system and no defined outreach process for VA employees to gather information from survivors navigating the benefit process. VA’s “White-Glove” Survivor Outreach Team will begin operations in May 2025 and consist of experts based out of the Philadelphia VA Regional Benefit Office. These experts will receive specialized training and guide and assist eligible survivors throughout every step of the DIC claims process with the goal of getting to “yes” on DIC claims decisions for eligible survivors.

Automation Improvements

VA now automates more than 1,000 DIC claims payments or adjustments per day and is in the process of ongoing enhancements to increase automation that will expedite survivors’ claims and improve their experience. VA will also be identifying additional areas where automation can be used to make all benefits delivery processes easier to navigate for eligible surviving dependents.

JUNE ACTIVITIES

June 9 is our 2025 Golf Tournament. Still looking for teams and sponsors.

June 11 will be out meeting on a Wednesday. It will be a dinner meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn. Social will be 5:30 – 6:00 pm, followed by Dinner. We will have some entertainment.

We will present up to nine Scholarships at this dinner to the outstanding applicants that applied and whose files met the criteria. Come and welcome these outstanding High School Students.



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PHOTO GALLERY OF OUR APRIL MEETING





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A superb presentation and everyone enjoyed learning about MG Nathaniel Greene and the impact he had on our Army during the American Revolution. Great job – Dan.

We are going to work on getting these onto our web site so you can download these and others.

www.CVCMOAA.org



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2025 Open House Schedule

We are thrilled to share the 2025 Open House schedule for the US Army Armor and Cavalry Collection at Ft. Moore, GA!

Come explore rare historical artifacts, meet passionate experts, and get a close-up look at the machines that shaped history. We are offering more dates than ever before, so mark your calendars and plan your visit!



Don't miss your opportunity!

This is your chance to step inside the rich history of America's armored forces, with events throughout the year offering something for everyone! Whether you're a military enthusiast, history buff, or just looking for an exciting day out, you won't want to miss these dates.

- **Friday, May 30** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Friday, June 27** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, July 12** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*85th Anniversary of the Armored Force*)
- **Friday, August 29** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, September 6** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Maneuver Center of Excellence Maneuver Warfighter Conference*)
- **Friday, September 26** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, November 1** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor in Scale Model Show*)

FREE ADMISSION!



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MEMBER SUPPORT

Some of our members operate small businesses. We encourage you to consider supporting them.

Chattahoochee Valley
All About Fitness Family, Inc. AAF
Ministry

STARTING MARCH 4TH!

Dewayne Webb,
President/
AAFA-Certified Trainer

Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings:
6:30am-8:30am (Intermediate)
Columbus Karate
Academy International
5770 Migen Rd
James Earl Ray's Jackson Branch

Monday & Tuesday Evenings:
5:30pm (Advanced) &
6:30pm (Beginners)
Ranger Quiknash Center
3022 2nd Ave

Thursday Mornings:
6:30am (Intermediate)
Lanokottom Park Track
nearby bleachers near
bathrooms

Thursday Evenings:
5:30pm (Advanced) &
6:30pm (Beginners)
Lanokottom Park Track
nearby bleachers near
bathrooms

MISSION:
Encourage our global communities to live totally fit –
physically, mentally, financially, legally, relationally
and, most importantly, spiritually – lives.

VISION:
A Global Fitness Family dedicated to improving our
communities worldwide. We aim to serve as a catalyst of
positive global change through our dedication to giving
back to our global communities.

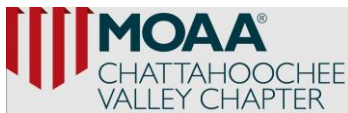
Stay Tuned
to AAF Social Media
for inclement weather
workout locations.

.....
**Watch for our MILITARY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT JUNE 9, 2025, & HELP US
CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF OUR ARMED SERVICES!!**
.....

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR \$25 DUES FOR 2025 Membership DRIVE. Please invite a candidate to one of our meetings. Only \$2 a month to be part of the best chapter. We support Fort Benning and the surrounding communities.

**ALL NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL AND CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR
WEB SITE;**



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THE 2025 CVC MOAA MEMBERSHIP /RENEWAL FORM

Chattahoochee Valley Chapter MOAA

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM – PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Date _____; **2025** 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: MOAA-CVC, 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:

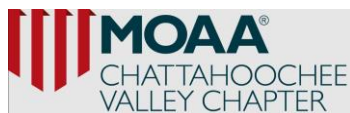
Membership _____
Fund Raising _____
Legislative Advocacy _____

Programs _____
ROTC/JROTC Awards _____
Newsletter/Web Site _____

www.MOAA.org

www.CVCMOAA.org

NEVER STOP SERVING *Take Action*



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CVC MOAA Chapter Leadership

CVC MOAA 2023 – Officers

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

Directors:

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

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		
Personal Affairs	William Ward	706-464-0538
Retiree Council	Dick Nurnberg	706-329-0038
ROTC/JROTC	Carlos Lock	703-576-7840
Transition Asst	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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"Never Stop Serving....Take ACTION "

Mayo ("Biff") A. Hadden III, COLONEL (RETIRED) SF
President MOAA CVC Chapter