



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

## MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

### MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S NOTES

#### THE YEAR OF THE ARMY'S 250<sup>TH</sup> 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 fledling 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 Departmet of Defense.



Our meeting in March focused on and individual who entered the Army from the Military Academy at the start of the Civil War, an individual whose impact would be felt all the way to today, MG Emory Upton. Our presenter was Chris Goodrow, and he prepared this special presentation for our chapter. He talked about the unique role played in the History of our Army by MG Emory Upton, who gave us the concept for Combined Arms, forms of Infantry battlefield maneuver, and leadership concepts we use in principle today. Chris we want to thank you for a really informative presentation.

**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 are available and we are looking for candidate applications. This year we will award up to 10 each \$1,000 Scholarships.

Our **next meeting is April \_\_**, and will be held at **Hilton Garden Inn, Brookstone Center**. We will assemble at 11:30. Dan McMichaels does storytelling from the historic perspective of Nathaniel Greene or George Washington. This is informative and enjoyable. Come to see who is represented.

Mayo "Biff" Hadden, President



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

### SPECIAL ARTICLE – WHO IS FRED BENNING

## **The 18-year-old World War I corporal behind Fort Benning's renaming**

By John Hanna, The Associated Press

Friday, Mar 7, 2025

Dana Klabenes, the city clerk in Neligh, Nebraska, points to a photo of former Mayor Fred Benning, a WWI veteran who is being honored by having our local Army base here in Georgia renamed Fort Benning in his honor. (Dan Donaldson via AP)

Trump administration is working on restoring the familiar one — this time for a different Benning. The new namesake is Fred Benning, a Nebraska native awarded the military's second-highest honor for his battlefield courage as an 18-year-old corporal in 1918, near the end of World War I. The military noted that he later served as mayor of the small Nebraska town of Neligh, he ran a bakery, opted to have his Distinguished Service Cross mailed to him rather than presented at a military ceremony and didn't discuss his wartime experiences once home. He died in 1974. Honoring a soldier from the Army's lower ranks encouraged by President Donald Trump's appeals to working-class voters, and is similar to George Washington's actions to present Valor Awards to junior American Soldiers.

Fred Benning deserves recognition, said Andrew Orr, a professor and director of the Institute for Military History at Kansas State University. Benning was part of American assaults on the toughest German defenses by soldiers who fought to take trenches and to hold them, often hand-to-hand and under clouds of poison gas, he said.

Benning was just 17 when he enlisted in the Army in April 1917, joining a machine gun company, according to reports at the time in The Daily News in nearby Norfolk, where he grew up. At age 18, he had been "over the top many times," into the deadly space between opposing trenches, according to the Daily News. Orr said American troops were advancing "over a sea of their own dead." The announcement of Benning's honor said he took command of his platoon in October 1918 after its commander was killed and led its 20 survivors through heavy fire. Later, he didn't talk about his experiences.



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

### MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### **WELCOME 2025 CHAPTER MEMBER RENEWALS**

David Cripe; Tony Chavana; Tom Lokey; Stephen Magennis; John Nix;  
Darin Nunn; Darrell O'Steen;

#### **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; George Sommerfield; Rob StClair; Jack Tidwell; Ray Wagner; Jay Wilkoff; Honorary: Ga Sen Ed Harbison.

#### **NEW CHAPTER LIFE MEMBER:**

Sam Seetin

#### **SURVIVING SPOUSES:**

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

#### **TAPS:**

Earl Cheal, Chapter Member

Marilyn House, wife of John House

#### **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](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)

#### **Active Legislative Campaigns**

## **MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress**

By: Jeff Goldberg



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

*(This article originally appeared in the January 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#); learn more about joining MOAA [here](#).)*

As the legislative slate resets for the 119th Congress, MOAA member engagement will become even more vital to achieving our advocacy objectives.

Your advocacy ensures that MOAA and the broader community of military and veteran service organizations (MSOs/VSOs) maintain momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, [which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans](#).

We also need your help to build support for new objectives and emerging issues, often via immediate action, to respond to the sporadic nature of the legislative process.

First step: Register as an advocate in [our Legislative Action Center](#). If you're already registered, send the link to a family member or friend. Remember, the Legislative Action Center is open to all who support the uniformed services community.

While our advocacy team remains active on many issues not listed here, our priorities are shaped throughout the year depending on policy developments or emerging issues that necessitate an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with [The Military Coalition](#) and other stakeholders. MOAA leverages those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

These are among MOAA's priorities for this year:

### Currently Serving

**Military housing:** Recent reporting from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals the myriad challenges servicemembers in unaccompanied housing are facing. The health, safety, and privacy concerns outlined by GAO show the need for action.

[**RELATED:** [GAO Report Finds Flaws in DoD's Approach to Housing Challenges](#)]

MOAA seeks to improve funding and condition transparency for unaccompanied housing by requiring an annual, publicly available report, which will highlight areas that require the most attention from both DoD and Congress.



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

### Retirees/Veterans

**Toxic exposure:** MOAA will focus on capitalizing on our recently released report, [Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#), to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service.

While the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act has made major improvements to how toxic exposures are treated by the VA, additional measures are required. In cooperation with other VSOs, MOAA will advocate for Congress to pass legislation that shortens the time veterans must wait before their toxic exposures are acknowledged and conceded by the VA.

### Family/Survivors

**Spouse employment:** Rates of unemployment for military spouses continue to be four to five times higher than the national average. This persistent challenge requires not only providing education and employment resources for spouses, but also incentivizing businesses to hire someone who will likely move in two to three years.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program was established to support populations who face significant barriers to employment, and adding a military spouse target group is long overdue. Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act will provide another important lever needed to address the critical issue of spouse unemployment.

### DoD Health Care

**Access to care:** DoD has acknowledged that congressionally directed reforms to the Military Health System (MHS), together with U.S. medical workforce volatility, exacerbated long-standing access challenges and led to a destabilized MHS that does not consistently deliver timely care to beneficiaries.

[RELATED: [What a Major DoD Health Care Shift Could Mean for Your TRICARE Benefit](#)]

Current patient resources for reporting access problems and getting assistance navigating the MHS are inadequate. Also, it is unclear if there are mechanisms for reporting up to the Defense Health Agency so systemic access challenges can be identified and addressed.



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

## MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

### MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

MOAA seeks a digital MHS assistance platform allowing beneficiaries to report access-to-care challenges and receive help navigating the MHS, including reporting requirements to increase visibility on barriers to access so fixable issues can be addressed.

#### VA Health Care

**Support for caregivers:** MOAA has long advocated for legislation that would improve caregiving support for veterans' families. This includes enhancements to the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and expansion of home health and long-term care services to meet current and future needs of veterans, their caregivers, and families.

This year, MOAA strongly supports the reintroduction and enactment of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. This legislation acknowledges caregivers' invaluable contributions while addressing the significant economic and emotional burdens they face. By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the legislation empowers caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden.

#### Persistent Efforts

There are certain issues that MOAA will always advocate for until they are passed. Among these are concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Major Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

MOAA will also continually monitor certain issues and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, and VSO/MSO allies to ensure these issues are not negatively impacted. These issues include:

- Decrements to scheduled pay increases.
- New TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fees.
- TRICARE cost-sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.
- Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

### MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

#### MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

As the work of the 119th Congress gets underway, MOAA will continue its efforts to advocate on behalf of our members and the entire uniformed services community. We will leverage our experience and our relationships on Capitol Hill and with our partners to navigate an increasingly partisan environment.

Through our efforts, MOAA will seek to ensure that servicemembers, veterans, and retirees and their families — who have sacrificed so much — continue to receive benefits earned through their service.

#### 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)

### **VA News Virtual Business Opportunity Session**

### **AT & T Federal Solutions**

#### **Virtual Business Opportunity Session**

**Date: March 4, 2025 at 1:30 PM ET**

AT&T Federal Solutions, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Direct Access Program, will host a virtual business opportunity session. The primary objectives of this session are to share information about the AT&T Small Business Program, expand AT&T's connections with Veteran-owned small businesses, and explore potential teaming opportunities within the Federal Solutions Group. This initiative aims to foster new partnerships and strengthen engagement between AT&T and Veteran-owned small businesses in the federal sector.





## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Business Sectors:

- Information Technology and Services
- Professional Services & Other Supplies

### NAICS:

517810 All Other Telecommunications  
541618 Other Management Consulting Services  
541519 Other Computer Related Services  
517111 Wired Telecommunications Carriers  
541512 Computer Systems Design Services  
541990 All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

[Click here](#) to learn more about this event and to register.



### Multi-year outreach blitz helped bring more vets into VA services

Department leaders have used high-profile partnerships and ad campaigns to reach out to veterans perviously leery of VA programs. [Read More](#)



### DOD report backs quality-of-life tweaks, but not major pay changes

The periodic review of military compensation called troops' pay "strongly competitive" when compared to civilian wages. [Read More](#)



### Some vets get 12 extra months of college benefits under new VA rules

Veterans Affairs officials are updating their GI Bill eligibility rules in response to a Supreme Court ruling last spring. [Read More](#)

[VA Disability Claims Processed Incorrectly: Here's What All Vets Should Know](#)





## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

**MOAA**



**Chapter Formed March 1959**

**MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER**

A new report just came out that shows some very troubling things happening with veterans' disability claims. This impacts the lives of those who served our country and demands immediate attention. Since so many veterans are unaware of this story, we wanted to make sure all our readers know what's going on.

Click below to see everything you need to know about this issue.

**VA Disability Claims Processed Incorrectly**

### **March Meeting**

We had one guest, Mark Hollis brought his Father in Law who is a MOAA National member. Welcome Harry Nelson, and please consider joining our Chapter.

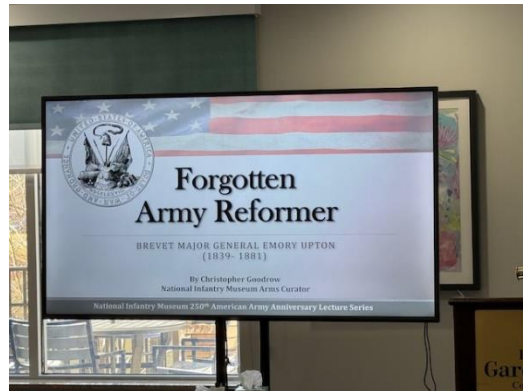
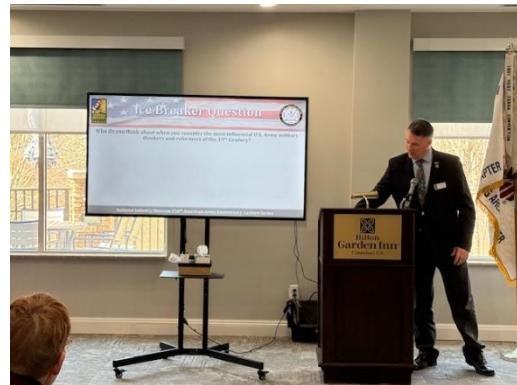
# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER MOAA

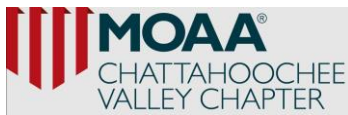


## Chapter Formed March 1959

# MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## PHOTO GALLERY OF OUR MARCH MEETING

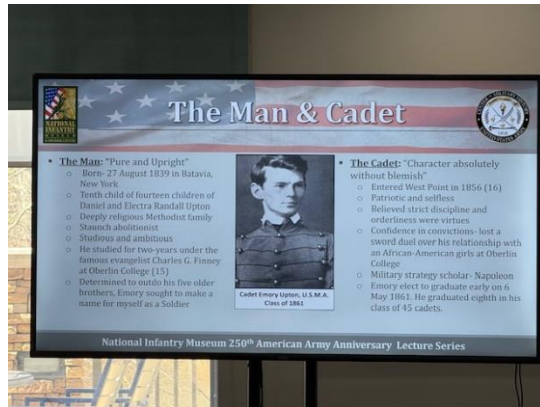
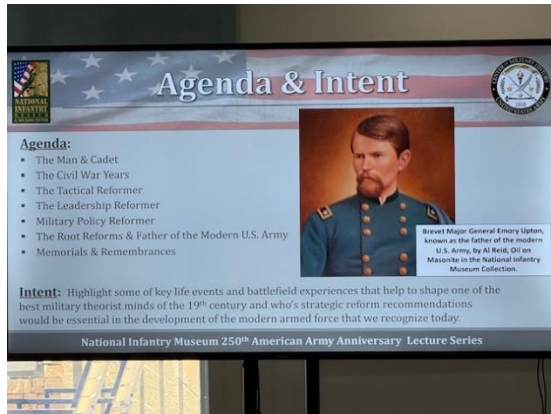




# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959  
MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



A superb presentation and everyone enjoyed learning about MG Emory Upton and the impact he had on our Army of Today. Great job – Chris.

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

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



## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

### MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## 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, April 25** | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Saturday, April 26** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor Week / Gaine Cup*)
- **Sunday, April 27** | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Armor Week / Gaine Cup*)
- **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!**





## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

### MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

### 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 Quinlan 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.

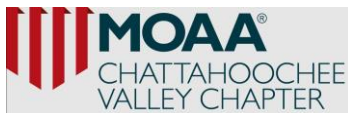
**Stay Tuned**  
to AAF Social Media  
for inclement weather  
workout locations.

.....  
**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;**



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

## MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

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

**NEVER STOP SERVING** *Take Action*



# CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

## MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## 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:

<b>Bobby Goolsby</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>LTC Darrell O'Steen</b>	<b>Speakers/Programs</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		
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]





## CHATAHOOCHEE VALLEY CHAPTER

MOAA



Chapter Formed March 1959

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Thank You SPONSORS



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192  
[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)

100392



\*\*\*\*\*

***"Professional Leaders belong to Professional Organizations."***

***Become part of the solution. Join MOAA and Your Local Chapter.***

**"Never Stop Serving....Take ACTION "**

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