



**ECAC**

# ECAC Newsletter

[ecacmoaa.com](http://ecacmoaa.com)

**SEPTEMBER 2023**



**Location: AU Club**

**Sept 21, 2023**

**6PM**

The next chapter dinner meeting is a social with no guest speaker. Final nominations will be opened to the members to have a slate of nominees to vote into office at the October chapter dinner meeting. Chris Richie, Vice President, is working on a guest speaker who may swear in the executive officers for the next two years after voting.

At the executive board meeting a week ago, Jerry Williams, Secretary, informed the board that he could no longer continue in the position. Also, the Director of Legislation, is open as Charlie Block resigned a while back. The Surviving Spouse Liaison which is a chair position, is also open.

The ECAC-MOAA Executive Board is actively searching for members who are willing to serve as an officer of the board or as a board member. Presently there are two officer positions and one chair position that will be vacant as of October 19, 2023. If you are willing to serve or wish to nominate someone to serve please contact Judy Bohler at [bohler1107@charter.net](mailto:bohler1107@charter.net) or Jerry Williams at [jfw1920@gmail.com](mailto:jfw1920@gmail.com). Please do so by September 21.

**Position Duties:** Our chapter positions are on page 8.

**Secretary:** Basically, attending the monthly board meetings on the first Tuesday and chapter meetings to take minutes (or have sub if absent) and submit them for signing or inclusion in the newsletter, respectively. Email board members about the board meeting with last month minutes attached and any other items to prepare.

**Director of Legislation:** Bylaws; State Council; Legislative updates; and Monthly MOAA Update. Submit an article monthly or every other month to the chapter newsletter with this information and attend board meetings on first Tuesday of the month. The National MOAA newsletter has some of this information.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Contact spouse of a deceased military personnel in our chapter and help her/him with items on a checklist that is provided. The material needs to be updated occasionally, but national MOAA has a Surviving Spouse representation who helps with the material. Occasionally, the chapter liaison gives the surviving spouse a ride to a base to get a new ID card as that is on the checklist. This position can be by a surviving spouse or a spouse of a living member.

Order from the menu below,  
and each person/couple pays their own bill.

*Appetizers:*

Chicken Egg Rolls \$11  
Fried Green Tomatoes \$14

*Salad:*

Clubhouse Caesar \$8/\$12  
House \$8/\$12  
Add Chicken \$8, Add Shrimp \$13, Add Salmon \$12

*Dinner:*

All Served with Mashed Potatoes  
and Grilled Asparagus  
8 oz Filet Mignon \$40  
Grilled Salmon \$25  
Panko Crusted Chicken \$25

**Next Dinner Meeting  
21 September 2023  
1800 –Thursday– 6 PM**

**1650 Yarbrough Farms Blvd.  
Auburn, AL 36830**

Take Shug Jordan Pkwy to  
North Donahue Dr. and go north.  
After 1/2 mile turn left  
onto Yarbrough Farms Blvd.,  
and the AU Club is on the right.

**Please RSVP at 334-826-1107  
or by email to  
[bohler1107@charter.net](mailto:bohler1107@charter.net)  
by Wednesday, 20 September by  
9PM.**

## Board Meeting was Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

As of August 31, 2023, the chapter has:	2023 Dues
71 Regular Members	<b>\$20</b> Per regular member.
9 Surviving Spouse Members	<b>\$15</b> Per dual member.
1 Associate Members	<b>\$5</b> Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
<b>81 Total Chapter Members</b>	

***Per Chapter By-laws, you must become a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter.***

The October Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, October 3rd, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg  
 \$3947.41    8-31-23    Bank Balance  
 No outstanding checks or deposits.  
 Expenses: Luau Food & Supplies

# Minutes from August General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Grove Hill Clubhouse and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 5:03 p.m. There were 34 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeff Bohler.
- ✦ Mike Golden offered the invocation.
- ✦ Gordon Bugg reported that the Chapter is in sound financial condition. He expressed appreciation to all members for their service to the country.
- ✦ Mike Horsefield thanked Judy and Jeff Bohler for their planning for the Luau and for all the preparation for the event. Judy Bohler indicated that they had a lot of help from Kathy Holtz, Ginger Brannon, Mike Horsefield and Pat Wingfield in setting up the venue and in decorating the venue.
- ✦ Mike Horsefield welcomed special guests and new members Vernon and Crystal Allison, Rich and Christy Pelham, and Bill and Nancy Hecker.
- ✦ Judy Bohler reported on deceased members and members who are hospitalized.
- ✦ Judy Bohler gave instructions for being served dinner.
- ✦ Winning raffle tickets were held by Rich & Christy Pelham and Vernon & Crystal Allison.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. with social time following.

Secretary  
 Jerry Williams



**ECAC-MOAA's 2023 Meeting Dates**

Sept 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 9th	<i>Saturday-Party</i>	<i>11AM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership  
 Friday, Nov. 3 Arlington, VA  
 Sheraton Pentagon City

**Wreaths Across America**

If you or a friend would like to donate to Wreaths Across America, you can click on this website to go directly to the chapter's page for donations helping the Ft. Mitchell Cemetery receive wreaths for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone.

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159330/Overview>

Our chapter supports Ft. Mitchell Cemetery or you can choose one of your own.

**Who Can Join?**

Membership in the East-Central Alabama Chapter is open to any National MOAA member who is on active duty, reserve, retired, or a former commissioned officer or warrant officer in any component of the Seven Uniformed Services of the United States (U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The Surviving Spouse of these individuals are also eligible to join and participate as regular members. Additionally, we offer Associate memberships to 4th year ROTC cadets at Auburn University and Tuskegee University as well as to the living spouse of a regular Chapter member.



**Why join MOAA or a Chapter?**

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military





Many spouses don't see their military spouse's MOAA website account or receive the national MOAA newsletter. Several spouses in our chapter receive the chapter newsletter by Judy, so here is an article from national MOAA's Surviving Spouse Liaison you might not see otherwise and may find helpful.

## **Surviving Spouse Corner: Thrift Savings Plan Considerations**

**By: Kathy Thorp      8-31-2023      National MOAA Article**

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan for members of the uniformed services. When your military spouse dies, you — as the surviving spouse — will need to make many decisions about the TSP's future in your financial planning.

For spouse beneficiaries of deceased participants' TSP accounts with a share of the balance of \$200 or more, TSP will establish a beneficiary participant account (BPA) in your name.

Having a good financial planner, who is particularly familiar with the TSP, is the key. He or she can guide you to the best option for your new investment plan, known now to you as a BPA.

According to TSP.gov, as the owner of a TSP BPA, benefits include:

- ✦ a diversified choice of investment options, including individual funds; professionally designed Lifecycle (L) Funds, which mix the individual funds with an eye toward specific target dates; and an option for investing in mutual funds
- ✦ tax-deferred earnings on traditional money
- ✦ tax-free earnings on Roth money if qualified
- ✦ low administrative and investment expenses
- ✦ the ability to roll your beneficiary participant account over to an existing civilian or uniformed services TSP account if you have one
- ✦ a variety of distribution options

Learn all that you can through hosts of various veteran financial planners' podcasts, websites such as MOAA.org, and other social platforms. The most vital of all these is the TSP webpage, where you will find a plethora of resources for your perusal.



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In Remembrance of .....Edna Moore Phelan

February 2, 1943 - July 29, 2023

Edna Moore Phelan of Auburn, AL, a devoted wife, mother and adoring grandmother, died July 29, 2023, in Atlanta, GA, at the age of 80.

Born February 2, 1943, in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Ralph and Madeline Moore, Edna graduated from Clay County (FL) High School where she was voted the most popular senior and Homecoming Queen before enrolling at Florida State University. While at FSU, Edna became a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and received her degree in Fashion Merchandising. During her days at FSU and as an active member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, she was in the original "Zeta Picker Band," a washboard band that started as a sorority rush skit and evolved into playing at various venues around Tallahassee. Playing the washboard with thimbles on her fingers, Edna and the band were invited to be on the TV program "The Ted Mac Amateur Hour" to open a new auditorium in St. Petersburg. In addition to the band, Edna had the distinct honor of being a member of the nationally famous Florida State Student Circus, specializing in the triple trapeze and swinging ladders.



It was at the end of her days at FSU when an invitation to a Naval Ball and an introduction to Naval Academy Midshipman Richard "Dick" Phelan would change her life. Around one year later, the two would marry, leading to a love affair that would last a lifetime. Following their marriage, they lived in numerous cities around the country as Dick was serving as a Navy Aviator, rising to the rank of Captain. During those early years, while Dick was in Vietnam, Edna led the wives' support group, ensuring that all of the spouses were connected, comforted and taken care of, particularly wives of POW's including John McCain's first wife, Carol.

The union of Edna and Dick brought about the next loves of her life, their four children, Kelly (Parkman), Lindsay (Dendy), Scott and Todd Phelan, all born in different parts of the country due to their early nomadic Naval stations. Eventually, they settled back in her hometown of Orange Park for an extended period before moving to Northern Virginia as Dick was appointed to a position in the Pentagon. With his Naval career coming to a close, their final posting was in Auburn, AL, as he was appointed Commanding Officer of Naval ROTC unit at Auburn University. While they assumed it to be a temporary posting when they arrived in 1988, they have never left, both becoming pillars in the Auburn community. Edna would work as a Media Specialist at Auburn Junior High School and was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church.

In Auburn, Edna reconnected with Zeta, serving as its Housing Corporation President and Advisor for more than 24 years. Becoming actively involved in the design of the chapter room, the planning for the annual rush of incoming sisters, and contributing to its Breast Cancer philanthropy "Big Man on Campus" annual event, she was a guiding influence in the lives of many Auburn students. Edna was especially proud of her role with Zeta and its chapter room as it would become a tourist attraction when she would entertain her 10 grandkids. According to the Auburn Zeta's, "she showered our chapter with love, compassion and an infectious sense of spunk! Her genuine care and mentorship touched the lives of countless sisters, inspiring us to become better individuals and fostering a stronger, united sisterhood. Her commitment to ZTA's values was unparalleled and she leaves behind a legacy that will continue to guide us as well as a true testament that "Zeta Is Forever."

It was those 10 grandkids that would become the next loves of her life and where she would take on the affectionate name of "MoMo." When all were born, those 10 grandkids ranged in ages from 8 years old to a new born, with three girls and seven boys, making for a perfectly fine chaotic adventure flawlessly led and coordinated by MoMo. Whether it was the family beach trip to Ponte Vedra, FL, the annual family photo or the yearly Christmas gathering, MoMo orchestrated them all to perfection, even sometimes re-doing the blowing out of birthday candles to make sure the picture was perfect. Not only did she entertain and dote on the 10 grandkids, particularly though her Instagram birthday postings of each "Grand," but she also instilled many life lessons that her grandkids called "MoMoisms." She was an incredible and active presence in each of their lives and was always available to take charge at a moment's notice, regardless of the time or place.

The last love of her life was her country. Her love and dedication of the USA was constant, inspired through her upbringing in a military family, to marrying a military man to then planning the family vacation for the week of July 4th, where she would lead the celebrations decked in the red, white and blue of her beloved USA. She was actively involved in assisting Dick in coordinating the annual Memorial Day Remembrance event in Auburn each year, the last of which honored Dick as Veteran of the Year.

Her dedication and loyalty to her husband, her children and their spouses, her grandchildren, her community, her sorority and her country is the essence of Edna Moore Phelan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Madeline Moore; and her brother, Jimmy.

Survivors include her husband, Richard (Dick) Phelan; daughters, Kelly Parkman (Mark) and Lindsay Dendy (David); sons, Scott Phelan (Holly) Todd Phelan (Alice); grandchildren, Hannah Grace Dendy, Alex Parkman, Lyla Phelan, Conner Phelan, Will Parkman, Davis Dendy, Riley Phelan, Charlie Parkman, Bennett Phelan and Ella Claire Dendy; and a brother, Ray Moore.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the Edna Moore Phelan Memorial Scholarship of the Gamma Rho Chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority at Auburn University. To make the donation please use the link: <https://zta.crowdfunder.co/33757>.

# LUAU PARTY & New Members



Left: Overall view of the Grove Hill Club House where the August Luau Party was held.



Below Right: L-R New member, Bill Hecker, his wife, Nancy, and Mike Golden



Left: L-R New member, Richard Pelham, his wife Christy, and Cindy & Ron Carson who invited them to the luau.



Right: Couple with back to camera, Ben & Charlotte DeBardleben, left couple, **Mike Horsefield & Kathy Holtz** (Mike's wearing a wig), and the new member and wife on the right, Vernon & Crystal Allison.

Please welcome our three new members and their wives.



# T.O.P.S.

Network for Career Success with National MOAA

The MOAA Newsletter 9-7-23 sent by National MOAA by email.

October 4, 2023

6:30 PM-9:00 PM EDT

**Army Navy Country Club**

1700 Army Navy Drive

Arlington, VA, 20004

Go to your online account to register for the event.

Join National MOAA for an evening of networking and professional development where you can engage with MOAA's career transition experts, hear from industry recruiters and talent acquisition professionals, and grow your network to support your personal and career aspirations!

At National's event, you'll have the chance to:

- Mingle in a professional setting with light refreshments
- Have your résumé reviewed for free by a MOAA transition expert
- Meet with a certified career coach to explore your options
- Connect with fellow job seekers and industry talent acquisition professionals
- Have your LinkedIn profile photo taken (PREMIUM and LIFE member benefit)

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., you'll have the opportunity to engage with these military-friendly and veteran-ready employers and organizations:

- Humana Military (3-Star Sponsor)
- American Corporate Partners
- CACI International, Inc.
- JPMorgan Chase
- JRC Integrated Systems
- Leidos
- Northrop Grumman
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
- And more!



Arrive early for an exclusive pre-event employer panel at 5:30 p.m. Hear from:

- Lt. Col. Stephen Bentz, USA (Ret): Market Director, East-Central Region, Humana Military
- Meredith Lozar: Military Affairs Leader, Social Impact Strategist and Manager, Deloitte
- Capt. Donald A. Nisbett Jr., USN (Ret): Director, Military Affairs and Facilities, Navy Mutual

*With support from The MOAA Foundation, this event is free and open to all uniformed servicemembers, veterans, military spouses, and surviving spouses. Sponsorship opportunities, including employer booths and positions on an event panel, are available; please email [transition@moaa.org](mailto:transition@moaa.org) for more information.*

## ECAC Mission Statement

The East-Central Alabama Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and was chartered in 1970. It serves the cities of Auburn and Opelika, Alabama, as well as the surrounding areas of Lee, Chambers, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Macon counties in Alabama. The mission of the East-Central Alabama Chapter is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors, and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

Join ECAC Online!  
<https://ecacmoaa.com/join-ecac>

### FYI: Distaff Club

If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that there is a local organization called Distaff Club for military spouses. They restaurant hop on the second Wednesday of the month in the Auburn/Opelika area. Traditionally, the February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend/Valentine to lunch and the December meeting has an ornament exchange. They enjoy getting together to socialize and getting to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year and collected at the restaurant in the summer. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. Come join us!

## Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for 2021-2023

President: Mike Horsefield  
 Vice President: Chris Richie  
 Secretary: Jerry Williams  
 Treasurer: Gordon Bugg  
 Director Chapter Affairs: Ron Carson  
 Director Communication: Jeff Bohler  
 Director Banquet: Judy Bohler  
 Director Legislative: Open  
 Past President: Mike Golden

### Chair Positions

Surviving Spouses Liaison: Open  
 Monthly Meeting: Judy Bohler  
 Tops: Mike Horsefield  
 Guest Speakers: Chris Richie  
 Membership: Judy Bohler  
 By-Laws: Open  
 Personal Affairs: Ron Carson  
 State Council: Open  
 Newsletter Editor: Judy Bohler  
 Legislative Updates: Open  
 Web Site: Jeff Bohler  
 MOAA News: Open  
 Digital Communications: Jeff Bohler  
 Chaplain: Mike Golden  
 News Release: Jeff Bohler  
 ROTC Awards: Jim Matthews



Find ECAC-MOAA on Facebook and Linked In



If you are interested in joining our Facebook group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300482473982236/>

If you are interested in joining our LinkedIn group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12227504/>



Some of the articles on these pages are gathered online from various MOAA websites and newsletters. They are attributable to their reporters and personnel. Contact the club secretary with any questions.

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