

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**MARCH 2025**

March 20th at 6PM at Auburn University Club

This month's chapter meeting is a social dinner. Please notice a different person to call or to email for your reservation. Chris Richie will be the point of contact and his information is below.

Military Observances and Holidays

March 13, 2025 – K-9 Veterans Day – Official birthday of the U.S. K-9 Corps. The Army founded the K-9 Corps in 1942 during WWII to train dogs to help troops.

March 25, 2025 – Medal of Honor Day – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.

March 29, 2025 – Vietnam Veterans Day – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War. Learn more about Vietnam Veterans Day here.

April 17, 2025: **Mark Your Calendar**

The ROTC Banquet at Saugahatchee Country Club which celebrates the students who receive our MOAA award is on this date. Many family members and instructors attend this event, so we ask our membership to assist in recognizing these recipients. Please save this date for our biggest event. This dinner is also a cash or check only payment event, since the treasurer will pay the country club afterwards, so a reservation is a commitment to pay.



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

Salad:

Clubhouse Caesar \$8

House \$8/\$12

Add Chicken \$8, Add Shrimp \$11,

Add Steak \$12, Add Salmon \$13

Dinner:

All Served with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus

8 oz Filet Mignon \$39

Grilled Chicken Breast \$25

Cabana Burger \$15

Fresh Catch Special \$38

Next Dinner Meeting

March 20, 2025**1800 —Thursday— 6 PM****Auburn University Club****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 334-275-1842**or by email to****richiefam1@gmail.com****by Tuesday, March 18th by 9PM.**

Board Meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025.

As of February 28, 2025, the chapter has:

2025 Dues

69 Regular Members	\$50	Per regular member.
12 Surviving Spouse Members	\$45	Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$25	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
83 Total Chapter Members		

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

April's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, April 7th, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
 \$2528.20 2-28-25 Bank Balance
 No outstanding items,
 but 1 outstanding deposits of \$140

Minutes from the March Chapter Meeting

- The general meeting was held at the Saugahatchee Country Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:32 p.m. There were 21 members and guests present with a total of 31 reservations. Several spouses were absent and members paid for those meals to take home. Other absent members were called and plan to pay for their meals, since the chapter was charged.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Carson.
- The prayer was offered by Danny Sample.
- CAPT Frank Michael, USN (RET) from National MOAA was our guest speaker.
 - Frank spoke from notes and updated the membership on what is happening in Washington D.C. and around the country with MOAA and its over 350 chapters. MOAA membership stands around 350,000 with only 35,000 members participating in a local chapter. Unfortunately 29 chapters closed last year. He said the chapters generally close from lack of people wanting to take on the responsibility of leading the chapter.
 - MOAA is advocacy in motion and they continually advocate to congress for all active duty, veteran, and family members.
 - The newly built MOAA website has taken longer to migrate from the legacy program than expected, but should offer an improved product once complete.
 - Frank reminded us to engage with the community, carry the flag for MOAA, and to bring in some of the 40-60 year old MOAA members in our community who aren't part of the chapter yet. Frank was excited about our turnout and chapter participation. He wished all chapters looked like ours.
- Mike Horsefield thanked Frank Michael for coming and presented him with a chapter challenge coin.
- ★ The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Photo on page 5 Secretary: BJ DeBardeleben

ECAC-MOAA's 2025 Meeting Dates

Mar 20th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Apr 17th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
May 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Jun/July	No Meetings		
August 16th	Saturday	4PM	Grove Hill Clubhouse



Medicare Advantage

Open Enrollment Period started on Jan 1, 2025 and closes March 31, 2025.



Quote of the Month from the book "Pathways" given to the MOAA chapter by Dave Hall.

No love, no friendship, can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever.

Francois Mauriac



The Auburn Planesmen R/C Flying Club,

<https://auburnplanesmen.org/>

is located on a private full-scale (700 feet long by 100 feet wide) grass runway, flying radio-controlled electric, glow, gas, and turbine-powered aircraft. There is a solar-powered battery charging station for 12V and 120V battery chargers. You can expect 5-7 of the flying club members out every weekend, most likely on Sunday afternoons.

Check out the website for more information.

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!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF...

Dr. David Michael Hall

With profound sorrow, we share the passing of our beloved father, Dr. David Michael Hall, of Auburn, Alabama, on Saturday, February 8, 2025. He left us peacefully at home, surrounded by those he loved. His life was a beautiful testament to resilience, intellect, kindness, and above all, an unshakable love for his family.

David's early years were shaped by hardship, as he spent much of his childhood in Catholic orphanages. However, at the age of twelve, through God's grace, he was welcomed into a loving home on a farm in Chambers County, near LaFayette, Alabama. That farm and the community became his anchor, and he cherished it deeply throughout his life.

David was a gifted scholar. He graduated from Auburn University in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Textile Chemistry, supported by an Avondale Mills Scholarship. He served proudly as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and later retired as a full Colonel, with a strong sense of duty and honor. His thirst for knowledge led him to earn his master's degree from Clemson College in 1962, through a Celanese Corporation fellowship. Not content to stop there, he pursued a doctorate in Fiber and Polymer Chemistry at Victoria University of Manchester, England, which he completed in 1964. He furthered his research with a year at the Swiss Federal Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, thanks to a United States Department of Agriculture fellowship.

Through it all, David was never alone. He shared this incredible journey with his devoted wife, Florence Lorain Barrett Hall, whose love and unwavering support made every achievement even more meaningful. Together, they built a life full of discovery, adventure, and deep devotion to one another.

David returned to Auburn, where he and Florence raised their family. As a professor of Textile Engineering at Auburn University, he shared his love of learning with countless students and made significant contributions to the field through his books and thirty-two patents. But more than his academic accolades, David will be remembered for his warmth, humility, and generosity. His sense of humor, his caring nature, and his ever-present faith created lasting bonds with everyone he met.

David's legacy will live on not just in his intellectual contributions, but in the love he gave to those around him. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Florence Lorraine Barrett; his adopted parents, Zachery Ramsey and Alma Ramsey; his birth mother, Mertle Elloise Hall; and his sister, Phyllis Ann Moss.

He is survived by his son, David Michael Hall Jr. and his wife, Valerie Zegarelli; his daughter, Mary Elisabeth Rease and her husband, Randy Keith Rease; his daughter, Alma Jane Knuth and her husband, Richard George Knuth; his daughter, Florence Courtney Evermon and her husband, Darin Wendall Evermon; his adored grandchildren, Claire Cumbee Robinson, George Hunter Robinson, Ethan Nathaniel Evermon, Lindsay Grace Evermon, Natalie Jane Evermon, Madison Elaine Knuth, and Richard George Knuth II; his beloved sisters and brothers-in-law, along with many cherished nieces and nephews. David's love for his family was boundless, and his legacy continues through them.

David's kindness, intellect, and loving spirit have touched so many lives, and though he is no longer with us, his impact will forever remain in our hearts. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. Through our promise of eternal life and the sure hope of the resurrection, we find assurance that we will see him again.

In his memory, the family invites all who knew David to join them for a Celebration of Life Mass at Saint Michael's Catholic Church in Auburn, Alabama on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Visitation 10:00, Rosary 10:45, Celebratory Mass 11:00, and reception following Mass. Graveside service for immediate family only. For those who wish to honor David's life with a donation, the family asks that you consider supporting the Exceptional Foundation of East Alabama, a cause near to David's heart. Donate - Exceptional Foundation of East Alabama



New Member

The right photo is new member, Alan Bugg sitting to the right, who is a retired Army reservist and who is married to Kathy. Hopefully, she will attend the next meeting. Alan is sitting with member, Sam Edge, on the left at Saugahatchee Country Club.



National MOAA Representative Visits

The left photo is Capt. Frank J. Michael on the left receiving a chapter challenge coin from the chapter president, Mike Horsefield, on the right. Capt. Michael gave a wonderful presentation about chapters around the nation and their goals. A short Q&A followed.

As Tax Season is upon us, please read through the *Military Officer's* magazine. Page 28 has an article "A Guide to TSP Investments. Get tips on funds and portfolio building . Page 24 has IRAs: When to Take Out Money Early– Know your options and how to avoid potential penalties.

Auburn University Veterans Resource Center is having their 8th Annual Golf Tournament on March 31st at the Auburn University Club. This is an opportunity to connect the student veterans with community leaders like MOAA and to raise funds for veterans programming on campus. The ECAC-MOAA executive board for the chapter sponsored \$100 for the Golf Tournament, and if any member would like to sponsor as well, please check the flyer on page 6.



Annual Golf Tournament



THE 8TH ANNUAL
**AUBURN
VETERAN
GOLF
CLASSIC**

March 31, 2025



Scan the QR code or visit
aub.ie/VeteransGolfClassic

Join us in empowering our nation's heroes at the Auburn Veterans Golf Classic. This tournament honors our veterans and directly aids students in their academic journeys and transitions to civilian life by providing critical support through scholarships and academic resources.

Play as an individual or sign up as a 3-player team - each team is comprised of 1 student veteran and 3 members of the Auburn community.



CAN'T PLAY?

**BE A TEE
SPONSOR FOR
\$100!**

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE EVENT TODAY



**ENHANCING
EDUCATION**



**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**



**RECOGNITION
AND RESPECT**

East Alabama Health has TRICARE as "Out-of-Network"

East Alabama Health has a list of accepted health plans. TRICARE is one of those, but participates as "Out-of-Network" only. Since they are a participating non-network provider, they may choose to participate on a claim-by-claim basis. They have agreed to accept payment directly from TRICARE if they choose to participate on your claim, which we are sure they would for an ER visit. For Prime it means nothing—cost will only ever be \$77. For Select it is 25% of the bill!!!! So, be aware of this change in East Alabama Health's payment plan for the military folks in the community.

To find a list of East Alabama Health providers that participate in TRICARE, you can visit the [East Alabama Health website](#) and search for providers, or use the [TRICARE provider directory](#).

Here's a breakdown of how to find TRICARE-authorized providers within the East Alabama Health system:

East Alabama Health Provider Directory:

- ✦ Visit the East Alabama Health website and search for providers by specialty or name.
- ✦ You can filter your search to find providers who accept TRICARE.

TRICARE Provider Directory:

- ✦ Go to the [TRICARE website](#) and search for providers in the Auburn, AL area.
- ✦ You can filter your search by specialty, location, and network status (network or non-network).

TRICARE Eligibility:

- ✦ Remember that a CAC or ID card alone does not prove TRICARE eligibility.
- ✦ Providers should verify eligibility with Humana Military.
- ✦ The quickest way to verify eligibility is through provider self-service.

Types of TRICARE Providers:

- ✦ **Network Providers:** These providers have agreed to be in the TRICARE network and may offer lower out-of-pocket costs.
- ✦ **Non-Network Providers:** These providers are not part of the TRICARE network, but you can still see them, though you may have higher costs.

TRICARE Eligibility:

- ✦ TRICARE is a health program for uniformed service members and their families, National Guard and Reserve members and their families, and survivors.
- ✦ You can find more information about TRICARE eligibility on the [TRICARE website](#).



If you haven't done so already, send in the envelope with your check for dues.



Who Can Join MOAA Chapter?

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.

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>

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

President:	Mike Horsefield	Chair Positions	
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Secretary:	BJ DeBardeleben	Tops:	Mike Horsefield
Treasurer:	Gordon Bugg	Membership:	Judy Bohler
Director Chapter Affairs:	Ron Carson	Personal Affairs:	Ron Carson
Director Communication:	Jeff Bohler	Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bohler
Director Banquet:	Judy Bohler	Web Site:	Jeff Bohler
Director Legislative:	Ron Barto	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Past President:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Ron Carson
		ROTC Awards:	Open
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
		State Council:	Ron Barto
		Legislative Updates:	Ron Barto
		MOAA News:	Ron Barto
		Chaplain:	Mike Golden



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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Editorial Policy. The East-Central Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.