



April 2019

MOAA Award Program

This month's presentation will be our annual Senior and Junior ROTC Awards Ceremony, with LCDR Bill Broome as the Emcee. In all, there will be thirteen awardees, four from Auburn University's ROTC units, four from Tuskegee University's ROTC units, four cadets from local high school JROTC units, and one cadet from a military academy. Please read about this year's recipients on pages 3-6.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - The cadet or midshipman must:

Be in the next-to-last year of the ROTC or JROTC program (customarily in his junior year of college or high school). Local chapters have final approval if in a different year group.

Be in good academic standing.

Be of high moral character.

Evince a high order of loyalty to his/her unit, school and country.

Show exceptional potential for military leadership.



Next Dinner Meeting 1800 – Tuesday – 16 April 2019

The location for the meeting this month is at the

Saugahatchee Country Club

3800 Bent Creek Road Opelika, AL 36804

Take Bent Creek Parkway which is Exit 57 off I 85. Go the opposite direction of the Sam's Club/Sports Academy stores and through the residential section. Saugahatchee Country Club is on the left before Hamilton Road.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107 or by email to bohler1107@charter.net by Sunday, 14 April 2019 by 2100.

March Meeting Minutes

- Pledge by Danny Sample
- Prayer by Mike Golden
- Lunch
- Welcome Members and New Member: Sonny Morrow and his wife, Peggy, joined this past week. He has an Army family with a son who may be a future member. Two future members who have sent in applications are Pat Williams & her husband, Kevin and Steve Ogburn & his wife, Trisha. Both military officers couldn't make the luncheon, but plan to attend next month.
- Mike Golden introduced the guest speaker, James Fogal, whose presentation included the Civil Air Patrol and Wreaths Across America
 - Civil Air Patrol– CAP
 - James, who is a chaplain, and his son are both in the Civil Air Patrol which is a civilian component of the Air Force.
 - CAP was established in 1941.
 - Air Force like the CAP because 70% of down aircraft or missing person (search and rescue operations) are done by CAP.
 - Volunteer organization
 - Meets every Tuesday evening, but 1st and 3rd Tuesday for leadership at the Auburn Airport.
 - Video about Civil Air Patrol.
 - Wreaths Across America (WAA)
 - 1,600 National Cemeteries across USA.
 - Ft. Mitchell is taken care of by his Civil Air Patrol unit since 2006
 - This year had @ 10,000 wreaths on tombstones meaning one was on every grave this past Dec.
 - Dec 14, 2019 will be the ceremony date. “Everyone Plays a Part” is the theme. ECAC is invited to come and help, but our chapter meeting is on the same day and time.
 - Our chapter is trying to become a fundraising organization for WAA.
 - On December 2, tractor trailers filled with wreaths-2 drivers stayed overnight to participate in laying of wreaths during ceremony the next day.
 - Police and Fire Dept escorts for ceremony to start.
 - 600 extra wreaths in 2018, took to Ft. Benning to their cemetery.
 - Remember. Honor. Teach Motto
 - Video about founder and organization.
 - Columbarium will be done in 4 months.
- Mike Golden presented James Fogal a MOAA mug for his presentation.
- Bill Broome talked about our website, since James had his laptop hooked up on-line still. If you go to the chapter website www.ecacmoaa.com and then to programs, then scroll down to Wreaths Across American, then donate to WAA and our chapter will be recognized if this code number AL0046P is there or entered.
- Mike Golden announced a change to the board meeting date to March 25, Monday at 10 AM. Mike and Marilyn Horsefield volunteered their home as the location.
- Earl Digman turned in a financial report of \$3,478.30 which was after the challenge coin payment.
- Membership News: Gary DeMars had storm damage and surgery last week– he and Jewel were absent, Betty Gruver was home from the hospital again, Kay Pickett has had some issues, Madelyn Pate passed away, Jack Brown brought his wife, Short, today.
- Jeff Bohler mentioned that National MOAA sent a list of 300 National, but not Chapter members, to recruit potential members for our chapter.

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Storming the Hill---April 10th, Wednesday

Servicemembers are in line for their largest raise in 10 years, but as with all budget items, there are no guarantees. President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for a 3.1 percent increase in military basic pay. The figure matches the Employment Cost Index (ECI) from October 2018, the established benchmark lawmakers should use to set the raise servicemembers receive on Jan. 1, 2020.

With the budget request and the ECI in agreement, servicemembers and their families can breathe easy, right? Not exactly. MOAA has long made the protection of military pay and benefits a top priority. The issue will be one of three core advocacy elements to this year's Storming the Hill event, where MOAA members from across the nation will make their top issues known to representatives in Washington, D.C. Here are some of the reasons why:

CBO concerns: Pay caps -- holding the basic military pay raise below the ECI -- aren't off the budget radar. December's Congressional Budget Office report on ways to reduce the federal deficit includes a suggestion to "cap basic pay raises for military service members at 0.5 percentage points below the increase in the ECI for five years starting in 2020 and then return them to the ECI benchmark in 2025." Lawmakers looking to free up funds, or DoD officials seeking to shuffle their budgets, could see the CBO report as cover for a move that could prove costly to servicemembers and their families.

Health of the force: Fair compensation is an element of readiness -- underpaying servicemembers will lead to the loss of well-qualified, well-trained men and women, and that means a less-secure nation. As services struggle with recruiting goals, and as retention experts try to figure out what the new Blended Retirement System will mean to retaining the best talent, the last thing the military can afford is a decrease in overall benefits for its members.

Beyond basic pay: Even if the 3.1 percent raise goes into effect, servicemembers still could see reductions in other benefits, including their retirement contributions and housing allowances, and their purchasing power at commissaries and military exchanges. Their families also could face increases in TRICARE fees. An impressive top-line figure is a good start, but it's not enough to ensure military families receive all of the benefits earned by service.

For these reasons and others, MOAA is not content simply to hope that good economic indicators and preliminary budget proposals will combine to protect military compensation. Too much is at stake to remain on the sidelines; MOAA will continue to work with the White House, the DoD, and with lawmakers to solidify a 3.1 percent pay raise in FY 2020 and protect other benefits from becoming budget targets.

MOAA's Stormers will carry that message on April 10, but others can make their voice heard by writing a letter to their lawmakers. Follow the day's event on Facebook, Twitter @MilitaryOfficer, or Instagram.

Thirteen Students Receive ECAC-MOAA Awards



ECAC-MOAA Military Academy Award Winner



Lyman Ward Military Academy

Cadet Captain Jade Mayard

Cadet Captain Jade Mayard has attended Lyman Ward Military Academy for five years. He currently holds the highest position in the Battalion as the Battalion Commander. During school year 2017-2018 Captain Mayard was the Sword Drill Commander for LWMA which is one of the highest honors at the Academy. During his five years at LWMA, Captain Mayard has held many leadership positions: Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant Company XO, Color Guard member, and Bravo Company Commander. While attending the Academy, Captain Mayard played football for two years, soccer for one, baseball for one, and basketball for three. He has been a member of the BETA Club for four years and currently is the President. Captain Mayard will be the Valedictorian for School Year 2018-2019 with a GPA of 3.85 and will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to be a Commercial Electrician.



ECAC-MOAA Tuskegee Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Tuskegee University Air Force ROTC

Cadet Major Alesha Webb-Turner

Cadet Major Alesha Webb is a Junior Chemical Engineering Major with a 3.5 GPA at Tuskegee University. She is also a Merit Scholar and has been awarded Honor Roll for the past three years. Cadet Webb is in many academic organizations. This includes Society of Women Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, American Institute of Chemical Engineering and the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. Cadet Webb was inducted into Omega Chi Epsilon, the Chemical Engineering Honor Society, and now serves as the treasurer. Membership is only awarded to the top 10% of her Chemical Engineering class. In the ROTC program she has served as Flight Commander and is now the Operations Squadron Commander. Her personal motto is, "For the future generations to be better, we must do better ourselves". She plans to become a Developmental Engineer in the Air Force.

Tuskegee University Army ROTC

Cadet MS III Diamond Richardson

Cadet SFC Diamond Richardson was born and raised in Midway, GA. SFC Richardson is a Biology Pre-Med Major with a current GPA of 3.48. She would like to branch 61M (Medical Services) branch. She is currently serving as First Platoon, Platoon Sergeant in the Army ROTC.

Tuskegee University Naval ROTC Marine

Midshipman 1/C Rynel Marshall

Midshipman 1/C Rynel Marshall was born in Ft. Campbell, KY on July 20, 1997. He attended Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama. MDN 1/C Marshall is currently attending Tuskegee University on the Frederick C. Branch Marine Leadership Scholarship and is majoring in Aerospace Engineering. He is scheduled to graduate and commission in December of 2019 and plans to become an Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Tuskegee University Naval ROTC Navy

Midshipman 1/C Anthony Simonte

Midshipman 1/C Simonte was born October 31, 1996 in the small town of Ukiah, California until his family moved to Reno, Nevada in 1998. He is a strong academic maintaining a 3.55 GPA as a Senior Aerospace Engineering Major. On top of strong academics, Midshipman Simonte is an ardent endurance athlete, having ran triathlons, duathlons and looks to run ultramarathons in his future. He is on track to commission on December 13th, 2019 as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy where he hopes to become an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician.



ECAC-MOAA Auburn Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Auburn University Air Force ROTC

Cadet Major Austin J. Thompson

Cadet Major Austin Thompson, born in Utah, is an Air Force brat, whose family currently makes their home in Destin, Florida. He is a junior Industrial and Systems Engineering major at Auburn University, and in his third year with AFROTC. Cadet Thompson is the 5th Cadet Wing Field Training Preparation Squadron Commander. In this role, he prepares cadets for Field Training Air Force ROTC's premier evaluation encampment while establishing a professional and challenging environment conducive to training. Additionally, he provides mentorship to Flight Commanders and ensures their leadership development. During his own Field Training experience last summer, Cadet Thompson was ranked first in his Flight out of 18 Cadets, and second of 398 total Cadets in his encampment. He was recently selected as a candidate for Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training.

Auburn University Army ROTC

Cadet MS III Aaron M. Giller

Cadet Aaron Giller was born in Atlanta, GA, and upon high school graduation he enrolled at Auburn University in August 2016. Cadet Giller joined the Auburn University Army ROTC program at the beginning of his freshman year after receiving a four-year National Army Scholarship. While in the ROTC program he has been a Squad leader, the Ranger Challenge Captain, Cadet of the Month-twice, and presently serves in a staff capacity as the assistant S3. Next month he will attend the Army's Mountain Warfare School. He chose ROTC to serve his country, to commission as an Army Officer, and to continue a family tradition. Cadet Giller is a sociology major and hopes to branch Infantry when he graduates and commissions in 2020.

Auburn University Naval ROTC Marine

Staff Sergeant John M. Roth

Staff Sergeant John Roth joined the USMC in February 2009. He enlisted as a Machine Gunner and spent the first eight years of his career with 1st Battalion 2nd Marines. While there he completed Advanced Machine Gunners Course, Corporals Course, Martial Arts Instructor Course, Sergeant's Course, and Infantry Small Unit Leadership Course. SSgt Roth was accepted into the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) in August 2015. He graduated Officer Candidate School (OCS) in August 2016 and reported to Auburn University in January 2017. SSgt Roth is in his final semester and will be graduating and commissioning in May 2019.

Auburn University Naval ROTC Navy

Officer Candidate Shawn Bass

Officer Candidate Shawn Bass graduated from Prattville High School in 2013, and shortly afterwards enlisted in the Navy as a Nuclear Machinists Mate. Upon completion of his initial training, he served as a staff instructor aboard the MTS 635, before being selected for the STA-21 program. OC Bass is studying to complete a physics degree at Auburn University and will be commissioning in May 2019. He will return to Charleston, SC for training to become a submarine officer.



ECAC-MOAA High School JROTC Award Winners



Auburn High School JROTC

Cadet Major Justin Torres

Cadet Major Justin Torres is currently the Operations Officer for the Tiger Battalion. His performance this year has been exemplary, and he was integral in assisting the battalion in achieving the Honor Unit with Distinction Award upon completion of the program's JROTC Program Accreditation. Cadet Torres consistently displays the values that reflect greatly upon the unit. An exceptional student, Justin currently maintains a 4.1 GPA and is also an excellent athlete, as evident by his performance on the high school's lacrosse team. Cadet Torres is currently in the process of applying to the United States Naval Academy. He represents the "whole person" concept that academies covet.

Booker T. Washington High School JROTC

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel JaMyia McNeil

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel JaMyia McNeil is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnetta and Nathaniel McNeil. She will matriculate at Tuskegee University and major in Occupational Therapy. Currently, she serves as battalion commander, and she is the captain of the JROTC Academic Team. Miss JaMyia McNeil is a member of the Varsity Cheer Team, the Student Government Association, the Tuskegee University Bridge Builders Program, and many other organizations. Her goal is to become an Army officer and make the military a career.

Smiths Station High School JROTC

Cadet First Lieutenant Linda Montgomery

Cadet Linda Montgomery, a junior at Smiths Station High School, ascended from the rank of Private to First Lieutenant and is currently serving as the Operations Officer for the Smiths Station High School Marine Corps JROTC Program. She is a dual enrolled student taking medical courses at Chattahoochee Community College. Cadet Montgomery is also a part of the program's Color Guard where she has participated in and led numerous Color Guard presentations throughout the Smiths Station, Phenix City and Columbus areas. Cadet Montgomery has put in over 30 volunteer hours to the community so far this year. Her future plans are to attend the Naval Academy and to pursue a degree medicine to become a doctor.

Central High School JROTC

Cadet Commander Tory Williams

Cadet Commander Troy Williams joined the NJROTC program as a freshman. He has been an instrumental asset to the program at Central High School for four years. He is ambitious, energetic, and dependable. As an NJROTC staff officer he was involved in organizing and participating in various community service activities to include: habitat for humanity, elementary and middle school career day programs, hospital/nursing home visits, community clean-up projects, and activities honoring the veterans of this nation. He is in outstanding physical condition and he has demonstrated the ability to perform under stressful conditions. He is a leader who provides an example for others to emulate. He works well in a team or group environment and he always strives to accomplish all assign tasks efficiently. Cadet Williams has exhibited the traits associated with successful leaders. He is compassionate, trustworthy, and he has a genuine concern for the welfare of others. Cadet Williams has enlisted into the U.S. Navy and will be shipping to basic training during June of this year. After basic he will be trained in the aviation ordinance field.

In Remembrance Of...

Thomas Jones



LT Thomas Farrell Jones passed away on March 14, 2019. He was from Rome, Georgia and graduated from Griffin High School in Griffin, GA. He then graduated Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1956 with a B.S. Degree in Economics. Graduate work was taken at the University of Southern California and New York University where he received the M.A. Degree in Educational Administration. He served his country as a Naval officer on active duty from 1956 to 1959 and in the Naval Reserve components until 1976. His educational career included work as a teacher, principal, and administrator in Georgia public schools. After retirement in Georgia, he and his beloved wife, Tobi, moved to Auburn in 1988. He was employed with Auburn University for 11 years in the College of Education. He and Tobi were married for 56 years. Please keep Tobi and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Husky Kirkwood



CAPT Kenneth "Husky" Kirkwood passed away on April 6, 2019. He was born at Roamer's Roost in Gold Hill, Alabama and attended Lee County High School followed by Boys High in Atlanta. Husky then attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute. His sophomore year was outstanding and it was the year the United States entered into WWII. Kirkwood enlisted in the Navy on June 25, 1942, and was commissioned as an Ensign and Naval Aviator on August 23, 1943. While stationed in Clinton, OK he met Alice Pozorski and married in the summer of 1944. They were married for 63 years when Alice passed in 2008. After training at Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii, Husky was stationed in the South Pacific, where every third day he flew a sector in his PV1, a bomber and patrol aircraft. He left the Navy in 1945 and served in the Naval Reserves Research Company 6-2 at Alabama Polytechnic in 1950. Husky served in the Naval Air Reserve in Atlanta until 1973, when he retired as Captain and Staff Commander of NAS Atlanta Reserve Base. For thirty years, he delivered the Waverly Post Office mail.

If you go to the chapter website www.ecacmoaa.com and then to programs, then scroll down to Wreaths Across American, then donate to WAA, our chapter will be recognized if this code number **AL0046P** is entered or selected from the list. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone.



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Left Photo: Sidney "Sonny" Morrow with his wife, Peggy, standing behind him.



Right: Last month's new member, Jack Brown, with his wife, "Short" on the left.

Membership Update

All dues have been paid, and our chapter member number is...

Thank you for making this an easy year to finish this task.

Directories will be available at the banquet, and then mailed.

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Minutes continued...

- A discussion of adding Distaff Club for military spouses to the chapter website in community items with an email link to a member.
- Bill Broome continued with website sections discussion and then talked about the Golf Tournament for Auburn University Auburn Student Veterans on April 16th. He mentioned an advertisement on the golf tee for our chapter would be \$100. Charlie Block made a motion to sponsor an ad on the golf tee for \$100, and Mike Horsefield seconded the motion. Voted and passed.
- Mike Golden talked about the Memorial Day Mayor's Breakfast. Each table is \$200 for a company or organization to sponsor. Last year after buying sponsorship for a table, our chapter sold the tickets to our members to recoup the money and we had no extra tickets. If we get two tables and have extra tickets not bought by our members, then a veteran can sit with us. Mike Horsefield made a motion to sponsor two tables this year and sell the tickets to our members and if we have extra then give to a veteran in uniform that day. Sonny Morrow seconded the motion. Voted and Passed.
- Earl Digman updated our chapter about the damage done to Madelyn Pate's property and the flag. Jamie Popwell replaced the flag, since the pole was still there. Earl thought it would be appropriate to reimburse Flag for Vets the cost of the flag, since Bill Pate was our chapter's member and Madelyn just passed away. Earl Digman made the 1st motion and Earl Allen 2nd motion. Voted and Passed.
- Raffle won by Earl Digman.



Next chapter meeting is Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Saugahatchee Country Club at 6:00 PM.

Guest speaker is LTC Marcantonio Oliveri, USAR (Ret)

Board of Directors for National MOAA

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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