



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

AUGUST 2021



Our **August MOAA meeting** was supposed to be our annual Luau Party with our members and their guests dressed in their favorite Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, coconut bra, leis, or any other fun/colorful attire. However; due to Covid-19-Delta variant's rapid infection rates and the lack of ICU units available at EAMC and other hospitals around the State, the Board decided to err on the side of caution and cancelled this years Luau. We know many members were disappointed, but health and safety should come first. Be assured, we will have another Luau Party, whether it is later this year or next August. Preparations are already in the works and we look forward to celebrating in true Hawaiian style. Judy is already arranging for spam and macadamia nuts to be available for all attendees.

Aloha 2021 or Aloha 2022!



Aloha everyone!

Due to health concerns from the rising number of cases of Covid-19 in Alabama and in Lee county, we've decided to cancel the Luau and try again at a later date. Even though the current strain of Covid doesn't appear as lethal, it still poses a credible threat to the health and well-being of our members and we're mitigating this risk by not having a gathering for just a bit longer. I do feel as though we are very near to being able to get together in person soon, just not now. I am very much looking forward to our next gathering whenever that may be, but in the meantime stay healthy and God bless!

Mike Horsefield
President
MOAA East Central Alabama Chapter



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.

ECAC-MOAA's 2021 Meeting Dates

Jan 19 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Feb 16 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Mar 16 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Apr 20 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
May 18 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 17th	Tuesday	5 PM	Cancelled
Sep 21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Oct 19 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Nov 16 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Dec 14 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club

COVID-19 Protect yourself and loved ones

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

- WASH YOUR HANDS**
Wash your hands with soap and warm water regularly.
- COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE**
Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.
- DON'T TOUCH**
Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- STAY HOME**
If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.
- GET HELP**
If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.

MORE INFORMATION
Follow the California Department of Public Health: @capublichealth and www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19

MOAA
INSURANCE PLANS

Standing with you at every stage.

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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



Secretary's Report August 2021

As of July 31, 2021, the chapter has:	2021 Dues
64 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
13 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$5 Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
79 Total Members	

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

The August Board of Directors meeting was Tuesday, August 3rd, at 1400 at the Horsefield's residence. September's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 2nd at 1300 at the Horsefield's residence or by Zoom video-conference. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation. *** If you have any information that has changed, please contact Judy Bolher at bohler1107@charter.net or 334-826-1107.**

Treasurer's August 2021

Summary of Activity 05/01/2021 to 07/31/2021

Balance Forward from 05/01/2021	\$5,771.86		
Deposits/Credits		\$300.00	
Withdrawals/Debits			\$323.43
Service Charges	\$00.00		
Ending Balance as of 07/31/2021:			\$5,748.43

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

Not much has changed in the legislative arena since the last newsletter. It appears that we will not have an approved budget by the end of the fiscal year which will require a "continuing resolution". How that will shake out is anyone's guess. In thinking about this report I thought about our membership. What we have is a collection of heroes. Be it the infantry officer who dove into the sand to avoid hot lead, or the naval officer who rode the high seas in fair and foul weather. Be it the airman who soared with the angels and dodged the bullets of the devil or the Marine who slogged through swamps. We are all heroes. This reminds me of a quote (author escapes my memory):

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Thank you for your service.

Charlie Block
ECAC Legislative Chair

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block**National, State, & Local News****TAKE ACTION**

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#) MOAA

continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021 (H.R. 475), introduced by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.). This bipartisan bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act](#) Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee](#)

Act now to urge your senators to support the TRICARE Select Restoration Act, which is an important first step to repeal the enrollment fee for grandfathered retirees.

[Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt](#) Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support The Major Richard Star Act, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

[Support Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans or Veterans Who Have Died Due to a Service-Connected Disability](#) Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability lose access to their parent's health well before the age of 26?

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees](#) The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (S. 829), introduced by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and the House companion bill (H.R. 1997), introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) would ensure these "gray area" retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit.

[Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery and Eligibility for 20-Year Retirees](#)

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your representative and urge them to designate in the FY 2022 NDAA the next national cemetery as ANC reaches capacity.

MEMBER SECTION

John Sellers has been a resident of Opelika since the 1930's. He served in the Marine Corp during WWII and the Korean War. After finishing college, he joined the Air Force Reserves for 22 years as an officer. He is married to Judi and is looking forward to attending the chapter functions.

**New
Member**

FYI: Distaff Club If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that we have a group for spouses of MOAA members called Distaff. In non-Covid times we meet once a month for lunch. We usually try new restaurants in the local area. We also have an annual Christmas Party/ ornament swap. Traditionally, our February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend luncheon. We enjoy getting together to socialize and get to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. We would love to have you join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tentatively, ECAC will host a special event on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021**. The Chapter turned 50 on April 15, 2020; however, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Chapter was unable to celebrate this awesome occasion. If all goes well, Lt. Gen. Atkins, MOAA President, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Again, mark your calendar for this once-in-a-life-time chapter event. Check your ECAC Newsletter for updates and additional information.

In Memory Of...

Sarah Elizabeth Gruver, affectionately known as "Betty", passed away on August 1, 2021, in her sleep at her home in Monarch Estates in Auburn, AL. She was born Sarah Elizabeth Yeldell on August 12, 1929, in a three-room shack on the family ranch in Yeldell, Texas to George A' Clark Yeldell and Lucy A. Calame Yeldell. Her father died in 1941, leaving four children for her mother to rear during the depression. She worked at the drug store in town and graduated from Mexia High School (Mexia, Texas) in 1947. After graduation, Betty attended Business College and became an executive secretary in the days of typewriters and five carbon copies. She resigned when she received a marriage proposal.

She married the love of her life, Col. Elvin E. Gruver, in San Antonio, Texas in 1954. The couple moved to Dallas where she fulfilled her lifelong dream of being a fulltime housewife and mom while raising their two sons, Christopher Earl Gruver and Kenneth Sloan Gruver.

Betty was a devout Christian and would routinely spread the gospel to anyone who would listen and even those who wouldn't. She was competitive and played bridge and competitive volleyball well into her 60's. She was also a lifelong seamstress until she couldn't see to thread a needle at age 90. She was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church, a sister of the Chapter X P. E. O., MOAA, and numerous other organizations. After the death of Earl in 2001, Betty traveled to Ireland, Costa Rica, Hawaii, Germany, Alaska and Canada, plus went on many cruises.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband ("the Colonel"), her parents, brother Jack and two sisters, Peggy and Sophie. She is survived by her loving family, two sons, Christopher Gruver of Vancouver, BC, Kenneth Gruver and wife Tammy of Waverly, AL., grandchildren Hayden Isherwood -Gruver and Sebastian Isherwood-Gruver both of Vancouver, BC and Sloan Gruver and Jillian Gruver both of Waverly, AL. Nieces and nephews Susanne Shipley, Lisa Balmer and Leslie Black, Stephen Yeldell and Paul Yeldell.

A very special thank you to her caregiver, Barbara Whatley, who took amazing care of her for the past three years.

A private burial will be held later in Texas at the Dallas Ft. Worth National Cemetery with the "Colonel".

The family would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support we have received. The number of cards, calls, texts, flowers and especially the prayers has been overwhelming.





Left: Farewell to our Coast Guard member, Bill Broome, and his wife Jane. He was our Secretary for several years, and he created and ran our wonderful website which won the Harris Award for 2019 and now 2020. Best wishes to both of you in your new home in Virginia.



Right: Farewell to our dual military couple, Buddy and Cynthia Kahler, who were both in the USMC and joined our chapter in December 2019. They are also moving to Virginia.



COVID-19 Vaccines at Veterans Administration Facilities

We're working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines as quickly and safely as we can. We know you have a lot of questions, and information is changing fast. Please check back often for updates. We'll continue to update this page as we have new information to offer.

Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Tuskegee

2400 Hospital Road
Tuskegee, AL 36083-5001

Get directions

COVID-19 vaccines at VA

Main number: 334-727-0550

Update on Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine

We're following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance to pause in providing the Janssen vaccine at this time. This pause is due to a concern about possible rare side effects. Your safety is our top priority.

For more information, go to the CDC website. Read the CDC and FDA statement on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have a vaccine appointment scheduled, your VA

These groups are now also eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA health facilities are able to offer more vaccines:

1. All Veterans
2. Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans
3. Caregivers of Veterans. For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to a Veteran. Caregivers may help a Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help a Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.
4. Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits.

Sign up to get a COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

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>



Each year, MOAA recognizes affiliates that achieve excellence in communications with four- or five-star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards. Councils and chapters may submit entries in up to two categories: newsletters (print or electronic) and websites. We are pleased to announce 210 five-star awards and seven four-star awards to the following 139 affiliates for 2020. Congratulations!

Harris Communication Award

Chapter President, Mike Horsefield, (center) presented the 2020 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Five-Star Awards from National MOAA to the Webmaster, Bill Broome (left), and the Newsletter Editor, Cathy Golden (right) at the July Board Meeting on July 13, 2021.

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for 2020-2021

President: Mike Horsefield
Vice President: Jeff Bohler
Secretary: Judy Bohler
Treasurer: Earl Digman
Director Chapter Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield
Director Communication: Cathy Golden
Director Program & Banquet: Mike Golden
Director Legislative: Charlie Block
Past President: Mike Golden
Surviving Spouses Liaison: Marilyn Horsefield

Chair Positions

Tops:	Mike Horsefield	Guest Speakers:	Jeff Bohler
Membership:	Judy Bohler	By-Laws:	Charlie Block
Personal Affairs:	Marilyn Horsefield	State Council:	Charlie Block
Newsletter:	Cathy Golden	Legislative Updates:	Charlie Block
Web Site:	Jeff Bohler	MOAA News:	Charlie Block
Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler	Chaplain:	Mike Golden
News Release:	Jeff Bohler		
ROTC Awards:	Mike Golden		
Monthly Meeting:	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/>

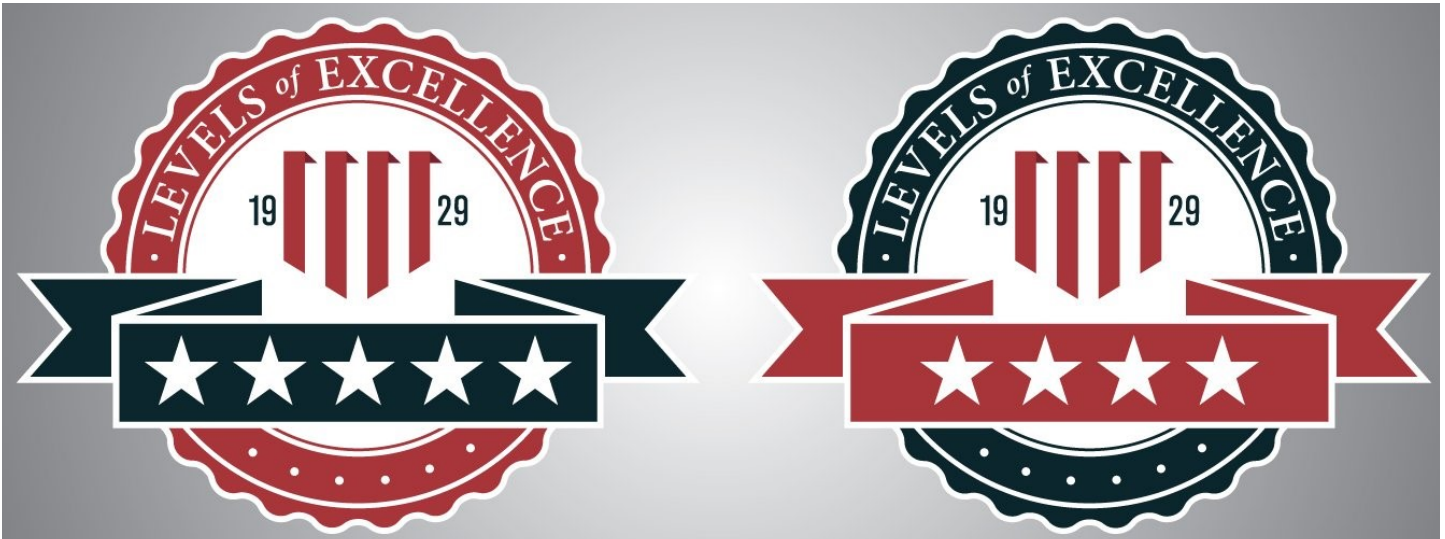


Some of the articles on these pages are gathered online from various MOAA websites and newsletters. They are attributable to their reporters and personnel. Contact the club secretary with any questions.

ECAC-MOAA
 P.O. Box 124
 Auburn, AL 36831-0124



2020 Levels of Excellence



MOAA is pleased to announce the winners of the annual Council and Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards for performance in 2020.

Out of just over 400 MOAA affiliates, 162 councils and chapters nominated themselves for awards this year. Input from those who submitted a package for consideration was independently evaluated by two members of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee of the MOAA Board of Directors. Questions had been adjusted to recognize a necessary shift away from in-person events due to the pandemic, and committee members' evaluations, along with objective performance data, was weighed according to a long-established grading scale.

All 162 councils and chapters didn't just maintain satisfactory performance, but persevered and excelled during the pandemic, earning five-star awards. These councils and chapters, their volunteer leaders, and their members found new and innovative ways to serve their communities and help veterans, excelled in grassroots advocacy by nurturing relationships and educating elected officials (often virtually) and grew our shared membership even without in-person meetings.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking our awesome volunteers and affiliates for their great work on behalf of our association. Learn more about the awards [here](#). Congratulations to the winners!

Five-Star Affiliates

Alabama

Alabama Council of Chapters
East-Central Alabama Chapter
 Fort Rucker Chapter
 Greater Birmingham Chapter
 Huntsville Chapter
 Montgomery Area Chapter
 South Alabama Chapter

Mike Golden, Past President, submitted our chapter for this Level of Excellence Award for 2020. Our board members are working hard to make sure the chapter is one of the best.

Listed below are the Harris Communication Awards in Alabama from page 7.

Alabama Council of Chapters (website)
[Charlie Block, webmaster, ECAC member, East-Central Alabama Chapter \(print newsletter and website\)](#) [Bill Broome, webmaster](#) and [Cathy Golden, newsletter](#)
 Greater Birmingham Chapter (print newsletter and website)
 Huntsville Chapter (print newsletter and website)
 South Alabama Chapter (print newsletter and website)



Congratulations
 Charlie Block