



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

AUGUST 2023



Our August MOAA meeting will be a luau party, so come dressed in your favorite Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, coconut bra, leis, or any fun colorful attire.

The party starts at **4:00 pm** with piña coladas, margaritas, macadamia nuts, and tropical fruit as some of the appetizers. And yes, there will be spam!

The Hawaiian dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and there will be plenty of pineapple and coconut.

After dinner we will have a short business meeting followed by hula dancing, coconut contests, and more piña coladas. Aloha!

Next Dinner Meeting 1600 –Saturday– 19 August 2023

The location for the meeting this month is at the
Grove Hill Club House

Turn into Grove Hill Subdivision off Moores Mill Rd.
Club house is on the left by pool.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107 or by email to
bohler1107@charter.net by Wednesday, 16 August 2023 by 2100.

Board Meeting was Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

As of July 31, 2023, the chapter has:	2023 Dues
68 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
9 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
1 Associate Members	\$5 Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
78 Total Chapter Members	

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

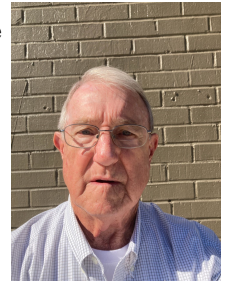
The August Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, August 1st, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
\$3546.17 7-31-23 Bank Balance
No outstanding checks or deposits.
Expenses: Website Renewal & Luau Rental

Minutes from May 18th General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:17 p.m. There were 21 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeff Bohler.
- ✦ The Invocation was offered by Jerry Williams.
- ✦ Chris Richie introduced the speaker, Dr. David Bottomlee, Dean of U.S. Air Force War College, Maxwell Air Force Base. Dr. Bottomlee is a retired USAF Col.
- ✦ Dr. Bottomlee spoke on the focus of the Air Force War College which is Lethality and Joint Warfare. He discussed the War College Mission, the composition of the faculty and staff, and the constantly changing national security strategy.
- ✦ Judy Bohler informed the group of the recent deaths of two members.
- ✦ Ron Mussig won the drawing for a free meal at a future meeting.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Secretary
Jerry Williams



May 18th presentation by Dr. David Bottomlee at AU Club



ECAC-MOAA: 2023 Meeting Dates

Aug 19 th	Saturday-Luau	4 PM	Grove Hill House
Sept 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 9th	Saturday-Party	11AM	Saugahatchee



Standing with you at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • www.moainsurance.com

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Friday, Nov. 3 Arlington, VA

Sheraton Pentagon City



ALL RANKS | ALL BRANCHES | ALL GENERATIONS

Join and Get a Quote Today

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>

Memorial Day is at the end of the month and if you post on the "Remember Wall" you will be entered into a random drawing to have 100 wreaths place at a participating location. 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



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In Memory of Colonel Emmett F. Johnson



Colonel Emmett F. Johnson was born in Geneva County, Alabama on March 25, 1935. He passed away on July 14, 2023, in Dothan, Alabama.

Colonel Johnson volunteered for the U.S. Army right after graduation from Samson High School. He served in the Army Security Agency as an enlisted man for over three years. After his stint in the U.S. Army, he utilized his G.I. Bill benefit to enroll at Auburn University in 1957. In June 1961 he graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate in Electrical Engineering.

He was commissioned as a Regular Army 2nd Lieutenant in the Signal Corps and assigned as a Platoon Leader in the 122nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia. While assigned to Fort Benning, he attended the Signal Officers' Basic Course, Ranger and Airborne Schools. His next assignment was to the 5th Signal Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, where he served as Platoon Leader and commanded B Company. He subsequently attended the U.S. Army Aviation School and was rated as a fixed-wing aviator in 1963. After flight school, Colonel Johnson was assigned as the Battalion Communications Officer and Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander in the 25th Infantry Aviation Division in Hawaii. He served his first tour in the Republic of Vietnam with the 25th Division and later as a Platoon Leader with the 221st Aviation Reconnaissance Company in the Mekong Delta. In 1967 he returned from Vietnam to Fort Rucker where he became rotary-wing qualified, attended the Instrument Flight Examiners Course, and served as a Flight Commander at the Army Aviation School. He then attended the Signal Officers' Advanced Course enroute to a second tour in Vietnam where he served as Commander, 61st Assault Helicopter Company (Combat). Upon returning from Vietnam in 1970, Colonel Johnson attended the Command and General Staff College and the University of Alabama, where he earned a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1973. Subsequent assignments included a tour with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.; Division Chief, Avionic, Visionics and Electronic Warfare Division, Combat Developments Directorate, U.S. Army Aviation Center; and Commander, USACC-Fort Rucker. After his assignments at Fort Rucker, he commanded the 58th ATC Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From Fort Bragg, he was assigned to the Air University where he attended the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama.

After graduation from the Air War College in May 1983, Colonel Johnson was assigned as Commander, Air Traffic Control Activity, U.S. Army Communications Command where he served until 1984. He returned to his College Alma Mater, Auburn University, to serve as Professor of Military Services for three years where he retired from in 1987. His U.S. Army decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal w/15 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Medal Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the JCS Identification Badge. He finished his U.S. Army career as a Master Army Aviator and is Ranger and Airborne qualified. After retirement from the U.S. Army, Colonel Johnson joined the Auburn University College of Engineering in the Aerospace Department where he served as an instructor in the School of Aviation Management. In his 20-year tenure with the Aviation Management Department, he was selected by the Student Body with the Aviation Management Program as Outstanding Faculty Member, twice. Colonel Johnson worked within the Aviation Management Program until becoming the Head of the Department in early 1994. During his tenure as Department Head of the Aviation Management Program, Colonel Johnson was instrumental in the transfer of the School of Aviation Management from the College of Engineering to the College of Business, where it resides today.

Colonel Johnson was a Free Mason and originally initiated and raised at Hancock Lodge No. 311 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He attained his 32nd degree as Free Mason while also joining the Shriners. He later was accepted to the Carmichael Lodge No. 548 in Enterprise, Alabama.

After retiring from Auburn University and the Aviation Management Program, Colonel Johnson has spent his last years being an active member at Roper Heights Church of Christ and enjoying fishing, entertaining friends, family and spoiling his grand and great grand kids at his home in the Lake Martin area.

Funeral services were held on Friday, July 21, 2023, at Earlytown Church of Christ with Minister Don Jackson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery with full military honors and Masonic rites. Warren Holloway Ward Funeral Home of Geneva, AL directed. Please keep Sue and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

Live & Play 2023: Off the Beaten Path: Alabama Excursions

(This article by Louisiana-based writer Kathie Rowell originally appeared in the June 2023 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members.)

Many visitors to Alabama focus on its Gulf Coast — and there is plenty to do there. Make your journey to the beach more enjoyable with fun stops along the way.

Break your trip with a stop at [Noccalula Falls Park and Campground](#) near Gadsden. Noccalula Falls Park features a 90-foot waterfall. (Photo by Chris Granger/Courtesy of Alabama Tourism Department)



“It’s just absolutely gorgeous, with a beautiful campground and walking trails,” said Lt. Col. Robert Barrow, USA (Ret), who grew up in Alabama and retired there.

Another spot Barrow recommends is [Lake Martin Recreation Area](#), operated by Maxwell AFB for use by active duty and retired military personnel and DoD civilians and their families. Visitors can camp, rent cabins and boats, and fish on the state’s largest manmade lake.

For a taste of the old South, veer off I-45 about 5 miles to Stockton, where you’ll find the Stagecoach Café, with its favorites like fried chicken, creamed corn, green beans, turnips, fried okra, and rice and gravy.

For a less-crowded beach experience once you reach the Gulf, head to Dauphin Island, a barrier island with stunning sugar-white sand beaches and clear water as well as a historic Civil War fort and Audubon bird sanctuary with walking and biking trails.

Historical Highlight: Within [Blakeley State Park](#) is the site of one of the last battles of the Civil War, including several miles of Confederate and Union fortifications.



As Huntsville’s only locally owned Life Plan community, [Redstone Village](#) is the perfect environment for your retirement lifestyle — offering financial freedom, quality health care, and whole-person wellness. Experience comfortable, luxurious, maintenance-free living in well-appointed apartments or villas, including weekly housekeeping and linen service, scheduled transportation, and restaurant-style gourmet dining. Redstone also features a salon and spa, a fitness and aquatic center, a woodworking shop, and secure underground parking. Residents have guaranteed access to a full continuum of on-site health care services, including

assisted living, memory support, short-term rehabilitation, and skilled nursing. That’s the power of Redstone’s Life Plan agreement, a definitive health care solution to rising long-term care costs. Combining the best of city living with Alabama’s traditional southern charm and hospitality, Redstone is Huntsville’s most desired retirement community! (Sponsored Content)

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.

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

