



**ECAC**

# ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

DECEMBER 2020



**MOAA™**



***ECAC Annual Christmas Party from the Comfort of your Home***  
***Tuesday, December 15, 2020 — 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM ..... Central Time***  
**Program will be Fellowship & Fun - Covid 19 Style**  
**With the possibility of \$500 in Amazon gift cards in the amounts of \$20, \$30, \$40, and a Grand Prize of \$50.**  
**You may enjoy the meal of your choice before or during the festivities.**

### MEETING INFORMATION

The location for the meeting this month is a virtual experience by Zoom. You can connect by clicking on the following link: [ECAC-MOAA Christmas Party](#). Meeting ID: [964 4775 6380](#) and Passcode: [Snowflake](#). If chapter members want to call in because they may not have a microphone and webcam, they can still watch the meeting using the link and call in to talk using this information: Call: [\(312\) 626-6799](#). Enter Meeting ID: [964 4775 6380](#) and Passcode: [774900788](#) when asked.



**ECAC-MOAA's 2020 Meeting Dates**

Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
June	None		
July	None		
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	4 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
Sept 15 <sup>h</sup>	Tuesday	7 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1 PM	Virtual by Zoom

**Rosa Parks Day  
December 1st**

Rosa Parks Day is a U.S observance that celebrates the famous civil rights leader Rosa Parks. It's a good day to learn about the civil rights movement or to take part in activities that support the civil rights movement.

"I WOULD LIKE TO BE KNOWN AS A PERSON WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT FREEDOM AND EQUALITY AND JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL PEOPLE."

-ROSA PARKS



# 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



**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 officers. Click on or go to <https://www.moaa.org/whymoaa/> for a short video on why you should join MOAA.



## “Happy 384th Birthday”



**December 13 , 1636**

The National Guard was founded on December 13th, 1636 and had its first drill on the village green in Salem, Massachusetts. This military tradition was taken from England and was designed as a way for citizens to organize themselves for securing the common defense of villages and towns. It was originally known merely as the militia, but in 1916 its name was changed to the National Guard. Over the past 384+ years since they’ve been first established, they have not only secured the defense of local, state, and national assets but have also helped with natural disasters, moments of civil unrest, and have served in major wars.



## The President's Corner:

Merry Christmas everyone!

Please join our Christmas party meeting where we will be giving out several hundred dollars in gift cards! All you need to do is to be present on the Zoom meeting for the event and participate in some of our reindeer games. I look forward to seeing everyone for this event and being able to bring a little sunshine into all of our lives!

Mike Horsefield



**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

Each year on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. An additional 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the USS Arizona and the USS Utah) and destroyed 188 aircraft. On Aug. 23, 1994, the United States Congress designated Dec. 7 as **National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**. Every year on December 7, WWII veterans and Pearl Harbor survivors commemorate the attack with services across the U.S. This year, the commemoration theme for the day is “Above and Beyond the Call” and there was a ceremony held at the Pearl Harbor visitor centre in Hawaii. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Pearl Harbor service this year was closed to the public to protect the veterans attending the event. Instead, the event was live streamed via the National Park Service Facebook page at 11.30am on Monday.

## 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. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone.



**Wreaths Across America**

## Secretary’s Report

November 2020

**As of November 30, 2020, the chapter has:**

**2020 Dues**

67 Regular Members	<b>\$20</b>	Per regular member.
13 Surviving Spouse Members	<b>\$15</b>	Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	<b>\$5</b>	Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
<b>82 Total Members</b>		

**\* 2021 Dues have been sent out.** Please mail a check to ECAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 124, Auburn, AL, 36830-0124.

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

**New member: LTC Jerry F. Williams, USAR (Ret).**

The December Board of Directors meeting was on Tuesday, December 1st and met at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. Any member wishing to attend future meetings should contact a Board member for an invitation. **\* If you have any information that has changed, please contact Bill Broome at wjbroome@gmail.com or 703-395-4317.**

### Treasurer’s

November 2020

**Summary of Activity 11/01/2020 to 11/30/2020**

<b>Balance Forward from 11/01/2020</b>	<b>\$5,173.08</b>		
<b>Deposits/Credits</b>		<b>\$00.00</b>	
<b>Withdrawals/Debits</b>			<b>\$00.00</b>
<b>Service Charges</b>	<b>00.00</b>		
<b>Ending Balance as of 11/30/2020:</b>			<b>\$5,173.08</b>

### Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

### National, State, & Local News

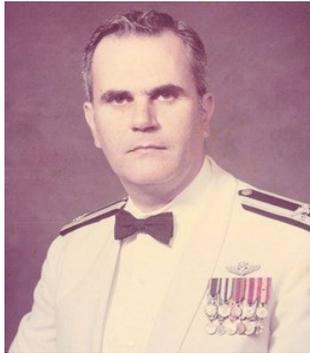
As I write this, we still do not have an agreed to National Defense Authorization Bill. We are operating under another Continuing Resolution which is due to expire on December 11th. It appears that one of the major disagreement relates to the renaming of several Army bases that are currently named for Confederate soldiers. The language in the Democratic version requires the renaming within one year while the Republicans want more time. The President has threatened to veto any bill that requires the renaming. Of critical interest to MOAA are three things that are currently in the bill. First a fair pay raise for active-duty military. Second is stopping the restructuring of Military Treatment Facilities. The last item is the addition of three new diseases to the Agent Orange pre-condition list. By the time you read this we will either have a bill, have a CRA or a government shutdown. The last two items are very undesirable. As for the future with a new administration, who knows? I would not believe the doomsday rumors until they are solid proposals by the congress or by the Presidents Executive order. More on this in January.

Charlie Block  
ECAC Legislative Chair

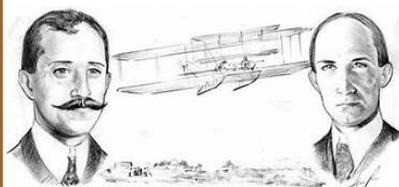
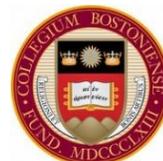
### COVID-19 Vaccine Planning - Frequently Asked Questions for Veterans

## MEMBER SECTION

Don't forget to join us for the reindeer games.



**Sarkis H. Kavookjian**, Colonel, USAF Retired, of Stillwaters in Dadeville, Alabama passed away peacefully after stroke complications at the age of 88 (February 10, 1932 – November 23, 2020). Sark was born as the son of hard working Armenian immigrant parents, and grew up in the Boston suburb of Somerville, Massachusetts. He frequently told his children and grandchildren stories about skipping school as a child and sneaking into Fenway Park to watch Ted Williams and the Boston Red Sox practice. After graduating from Somerville High School, Sark attended Boston College and graduated from Syracuse University. He entered the Air Force and served as a Navigator for the B-29 bomber during the Korean War. He then went to pilot training and flew transport airplanes in the Military Airlift Command (MAC), including the C-141 in the Vietnam War. He next flew the C-5 as the initial cadre (the elite pilots first selected), and flew the first C-5 from assembly line to delivery at an Air Force base (Altus, Oklahoma), eventually becoming their Squadron Commander. His career in the Air Force spanned nearly three decades with several command positions, culminating as Deputy Commander of Operations for the 436th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware, where he served for over two years before retiring in 1978. He had previously earned his MBA at Auburn University in Montgomery in the early 1970s while attending the Air War College, and earned his PhD from Temple University after retirement from the Air Force. His second career included teaching at community colleges in Delaware, including Delaware Technical and Community College, where his teaching touched the lives of many students and colleagues. In the mid-1990s, Sark moved near family in Alabama and enjoyed his retirement golfing and fishing on the lake; he also participated in and taught classes for several years in Auburn University's Adult Lifetime Learning program (now OLLI). He was a lifetime member of the Air Force Association and attended the Lake Martin Living Waters Church. Sark was preceded in death by his parents, Harry Sarkis Kavookjian and Sina Dinjian Kavookjian, his very close uncle and aunt, Mihran Kavookjian and Marie Zolmian Kavookjian, his sister Mary Kavookjian Danielian (George), and his former late wife, Patty Jones Kavookjian of Albany, Georgia.

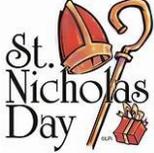


### Wright Brothers Day

**Wright Brothers Day** is a United States national observation. It is codified in the US Code and commemorates the first successful flights in a heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled airplane, that were made by Orville and Wilbur Wright on December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. On September 24, 1959 U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared **December 17** to be Wright Brothers Day. Wright Brothers Day was announced as an official commemorative day in Ohio, on October 5, 2011, celebrating 100 years of practical flight for the



December, a month that encompasses the Christian and Jewish celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, includes spiritually significant days for Muslims, Buddhists, Pagans and Zoroastrians. There are also secular events and traditions that are celebrated during this “most wonderfully holy time of the year”.

EVENT/ DATE	DESCRIPTION
<p><u><b>Ashura</b></u> December 5th</p> 	<p>Ashura, the 10th day of the first month on the Islamic calendar. Sunnis, the largest group of Muslims, remember that the Prophet Muhammad fasted in solidarity with Jews who were observing Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.</p>
<p><u><b>St Nicholas' Day</b></u> December 6th</p> 	<p>Some Christians revere the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a Greek province in Asia Minor. His reputation for piety may have inspired the legend of Santa Claus. The tradition of leaving gifts for children on St. Nicholas Day began in the Low Countries and spread to North America with Dutch immigrants.</p>
<p><u><b>Bodhi Day</b></u> December 8th</p> 	<p>Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, <u>Siddhartha Gautama</u> (Shakyamuni), experienced <u>enlightenment</u>, also known as <u>bodhi</u> in <u>Sanskrit</u> and <u>Pali</u>.</p>
<p><u><b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b></u> December 8th</p> 	<p>Roman Catholics observe this day as the feast of the Immaculate Conception, believing that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born without sin.</p>
<p><u><b>Chanukah/ Hanukkah</b></u> December 10th -18th</p> 	<p>Chanukah/Hanukkah which is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the liberation of Jerusalem from the occupation of Antiochus IV, king of the Seleucid Empire in 165 BCE. Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish festival with the first day known as Chanukah, Festival of Lights, and Feast of Dedication. In the Gregorian calendar, Hanukkah may occur between late November to late December.</p>
<p><u><b>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</b></u> December 12th</p> 	<p>This is a primarily Catholic holiday celebrated by Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent that honors the reported appearance of the Virgin Mary in Mexico City.</p>
<p><u><b>Yule/Winter Solstice/Wicca/ Pagan</b></u> December 21st</p> 	<p>Yule or winter solstice is the point in the year "when the earth is most inclined away from the sun. It is the most southern or northern point depending on the hemisphere. Juul, a pre-Christian festival observed in Scandinavia, featured fires lit to symbolize the heat, light and life-giving properties of the returning sun. Pagans and Wicca believers will celebrate that event through Yule, in which believers also honor “<u>the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun</u>.” Scholars have connected the original celebrations of Yule to the Wild Hunt, the god Odin, and the pagan Anglo-Saxon Mōdraniht.</p>

EVENT/ DATE	DESCRIPTION
<p><b><u>Christmas Day</u></b></p> <p><b>December 25th</b></p> 	<p>Christmas is primarily a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Many will attend church, have family parties, and exchange gifts. Many of the traditions surrounding the Christmas holiday revolve around the Nativity Story, or the story of Jesus’ birth. However, Christmas is also celebrated by non-Christians as a civil holiday and is an integral part of the holiday season, which involves Santa Clause, reindeers, and the North Pole. The Christmas holiday season accounts for almost 20% of the total annual retail sales in the United States.</p>
<p><b><u>Kwanzaa</u></b></p> <p><b>December 26th January 1st</b></p> 	<p>Kwanzaa is a week-long observance in the United States and other countries with populations of African descendants that celebrates and honors African culture. Most Kwanzaa celebrations are based on Nguzo Saba – or the seven principles of Kwanzaa.</p>
<p><b><u>Boxing Day</u></b></p> <p><b>December 26th</b></p> 	<p>Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day, thus being the second day of Christmastide. It originated in the United Kingdom and celebrated by Commonwealth countries, particularly Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Originally, on this day, servants, tradespeople, and the poor traditionally were presented with gifts. Boxing Day has come to be a day of sporting events, including horse races, foxhunting, and rugby.</p>
<p><b><u>Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathustra)</u></b></p> <p><b>December 26th</b></p> 	<p>An important day of remembrance in the Zoroastrian religion. It is a commemoration of the death anniversary of the prophet Zoroaster. It is an occasion of remembrance with lectures and discussions held on the life and works of the prophet. Special prayers are recited and attendance at the fire temple is extremely high.</p>
<p><b><u>Holy Innocents Day</u></b></p> <p><b>December 28th</b></p> 	<p>Christians solemnly honor the <u>deaths of children killed by King Herod</u>, who was attempting to kill Jesus, according to Interfaith Calendar.</p>
<p><b><u>Watch Night- Christian</u></b></p> <p><b>December 31st</b></p> 	<p>A watchnight service is a late-night Christian church service. In many different Christian traditions, such as those of Moravians, Baptists, Methodists, Anglicans and Pentecostals, watchnight services are held late on New Year’s Eve.</p>
<p><b><u>New Year's Eve</u></b></p> <p><b>December 31st</b></p> 	<p>One of the biggest and most prominent tradition in the U.S is the dropping of the ball in Times Square, New York. It is an event that is watched by people from around the world. It features a gigantic ball (weighing almost 12,000 lbs. and measuring 12 feet in diameter) made from Waterford Crystal dropping from the top of a seventy-foot pole in the last minute before New Years. When it reaches the ground, it is exactly 12 Midnight Eastern Time. At this time, everyone grabs their significant other and plants a big wet kiss on them.</p>

## TAKE ACTION

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

### **Pass a Budget to Avoid Damage Caused By Continuing Resolutions**

Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget before the current continuing resolution expires on Dec. 11, 2020.

### **Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Vietnam Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange**

The Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand the VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding medical conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.

### **Urge Your Lawmakers to Support FY21 NDAA Provisions to Stop Cuts to Military Medicine**

Act now to urge your elected officials to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt cuts to military medicine and increase congressional oversight of these efforts.

### **Ask Your Elected Officials to Pass the FY 2021 NDAA**

The FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains important provisions that impact servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors. These include: a military pay increase, a halt to military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts, the addition of three Agent Orange presumptive illnesses, and other important sections. Please contact your elected officials and urge them to support the final bill's passage.

## Contact Your Representatives

### **Protect Gold Star spouses during future shutdowns**

Under current law, Gold Star spouses receiving benefits from the Department of Defense are protected from interruptions in payments during a government shutdown. But because Coast Guard paychecks come from the Department of Homeland Security, these survivors are still at risk.

### **Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt**

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support H.R. 5995, the Maj. Richard Star Act, and the companion S. 3393 -- which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

### **Act now to extend CHAMPVA coverage**

Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability risk losing their health care through no fault of their own during the COVID-19 pandemic?

### **American-made Meds for Troops and More Oversight of Foreign-Made Drugs**

Our nation increasingly relies on generic medications manufactured outside the U.S. Unfortunately, this reliance includes the associated medication manufacturing processes and ingredients, which are not under the strict scrutiny of the FDA.

## 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:** If you are wearing a non-disposable cloth mask to prevent the spread of Covid-19, be sure to wash your mask in hot water and soap, scrubbing at least 20 seconds. Tumble the mask in the dryer on high heat to further sanitize, and store in a clean place. Cloth face masks should be worn in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as in grocery stores, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.



Governor Ivey was joined State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris when she announced her 19th supplemental emergency proclamation containing an amended Safer at Home Order that includes a statewide mask requirement. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. This amended order extends until December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.



includes a statewide mask requirement kept in place to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. that includes a City Council asked for everyone to continue practicing social distancing and wearing masks to help slow the

## Executive Officers and Chair Positions for 2020-2021

### Executive Board

President: Mike Horsefield  
 Vice President: Jeff Bohler  
 Secretary: Bill Broome  
 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

### Chair Positions

Surviving Spouses Liaison: Marilyn Horsefield  
 Tops: Mike Horsefield  
 Membership: Judy Bohler  
 Personal Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield  
 Newsletter: Cathy Golden  
 Web Site: Bill Broome  
 Digital Com: Jeff Bohler  
 News Release: Bill Broome

### Chair Positions– cont.

ROTC Awards: Mike Golden  
 Monthly Mtg: Mike Golden  
 Guest Speaker: Jeff Bohler  
 By-Laws: Charlie Block  
 State Council: Charlie Block  
 Legislative Updates: Charlie Block  
 MOAA News: Charlie Block  
 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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