



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

DECEMBER 2023



Military Officers Association of America Christmas Party

December 9, 2023 Saturday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saugahatchee Country Club in Dining Room

3800 Bent Creek Pkwy Opelika, AL 36804

Playing Holiday Games

Meals are \$30 per person.

Raffle cost \$5 for 3 tickets.

Dress is festive Christmas attire.



**Please RSVP to
334-826-1107 or
bohler1107@charter.net**

**by Tuesday morning,
for the Christmas Party.**

Let us know if you need a ride.

Buffet Menu:

Salad

Roasted Pork Loin / Lemon Baked Salmon

Saugahatchee Potatoes / Wild Rice

Broccolini / Asparagus

Roll

Pecan Pie



Board Meeting is Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at Chappy's at 11:30 AM.

As of November 30, 2023, the chapter has:		2024 Dues collected Jan/Feb meetings	
73	Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
9	Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2	Associate Members	\$5	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
84	Total Chapter Members		

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

January Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 2, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
\$3757.27 11-30-23 Bank Balance
One outstanding checks of \$50.14
No outstanding debits, or deposits.

Minutes from November 16th General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:18 p.m. There were 19 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeff Bohler.
- ✦ The prayer for dinner was offered by Jerry Williams.
- ✦ Senator "Coach" Tuberville was at the club and after an invite by the Richie's joined the meeting and gave a quick update on his efforts in Washington and on the US military. Sen. Tuberville thanked everyone for their service and then he was presented with a ECAC-MOAA coin.
- ✦ Continued on page 3.



Senator Thomas Tuberville makes a surprise visit to the MOAA chapter meeting/dinner.



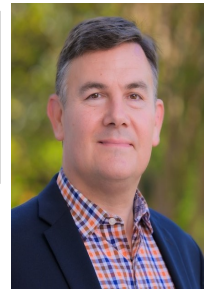
November chapter meeting listening to Senator Tuberville with updates in Washington D.C.



Minutes from November 16th General Meeting, continued

- ✦ Chris Richie introduced the guest speaker Bill Shannon from Auburn Athletics and his wife Vicki.
- ✦ Bill’s discussion was focused on leadership and including many though provoking topics and discussions. He had the members divide into groups and answer five questions from a sheet he passed to each group.
 - ✦ Looking at admired leaders, which four qualities are the highest from a list of twenty.
 - ✦ What makes a high-performing team, use one word?
 - ✦ Where does creativity come from, use one or two answers?
 - ✦ Pick two generations from a chart and tell us what they have in common.
 - ✦ Tell us what employees of every generation want at work.
- ✦ Judy Bohler gave an update on several members experiencing health issues and her visit with Theresa Moore and Kay Pickett.
- ✦ Mike and Chris opened the floor to discussion on the possibilities of setting up a student scholarship or focusing on community service. Possibly linking up with a local nursing home with Veterans and their spouses to provide some events throughout the year to improve their well being while letting us give back as an organization.
- ✦ Gordon Bugg reported that the Chapter is in good financial standing. He also encouraged members to donate through the website to the Wreaths Across America project. ECAC receives a portion of each contribution.
- ✦ Mike Horsefield thanked Bill and Vicki Shannon for their participation in the meeting and presented him with a ECAC-MOAA coin.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Secretary
BJ
DeBardleben



Above: November guest speaker, Bill Shannon, talks to the chapter with wife Vicki on right.

Below: Group Ron Barton, Kathy Barto, and Michele Richie (L-R) work on the five questions Bill Shannon had on the form. Chris Richie is at the end.



ECAC-MOAA’s 2024 Meeting Dates

<i>Dec 9th</i>	<i>Saturday-Party</i>	<i>11AM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
Jan 18th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Feb 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Mar 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>April 18th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
May 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
June & July	No Meeting		



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TRICARE Open Season starts Nov 13 and ends Dec 12.




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Join and Get a Quote Today

MOAA Scholarship edassist@moaa.org

Application Window Now Open for 2024-2025

To be eligible for an interest-free loan, you must meet the following requirements:

- 24 years of age or younger (your 24th birthday must be on or before March 1, 2024)
- If parent is military officer-
 - Parent must sign up for a paid MOAA membership if child is selected to receive financial assistance and continue the membership until the child is no longer in the program.
- If parent is enlisted military personnel-
 - Parent must be active duty, Reserve, National Guard, or retired. No membership is required. **Children of former enlisted personnel are not eligible.**
- High school or college GPA must be 3.0 or higher.
- Children attending U.S. military academies and academy prep schools are not eligible.

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.

Help Our Chapter Meet Its Goal of 50 Wreaths

Now is the time to buy wreaths for the Wreaths Across America campaign. 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 on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 12 PM EST. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone. You can volunteer to lay wreaths as well.



Deadline to purchase wreaths for this year's ceremony has been extended until Dec. 9th. Fort Mitchell Cemetery has 5,587 wreaths for the 11,500 gravesites, so far. *****Our chapter goal is 50 and we have 7.*****

The website is <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159330/Overview>

Page should show AL0046P East-Central Alabama Chapter-MOAA with a red sponsor button to click on to pay for the number of wreaths you want to sponsor. The location slot should have Ft. Mitchell already there. If you wish to sponsor wreaths for a different location, then look for the cemetery you wish to designate.

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.



New Member



Martha McKnight, a surviving spouse, is a new member for the month of November. She attended the luau in August as the guest of Linus and Liz Fiely.



*Congratulation to
Dr. Mary Riley
on her Ph.D.*



Wanting to Travel in 2024-2025
Check out the MOAA Cruises & Tours
And the Webinars about them.



Phone: [1-800-211-5107](tel:1-800-211-5107)
Email: mail@moaavac.com
Website: <https://moaavacations.com>

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 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:	Jeff Bohler
		ROTC Awards:	Jim Matthews
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
		State Council:	BJ DeBardeleben
		Legislative Updates:	BJ DeBardeleben
		MOAA News:	BJ DeBardeleben
		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.

ECAC-MOAA
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