



# February 2019



## Presentation: Flags for Vets

By: James Popwell

James Popwell, founder of Flags for Vets, a non-profit corporation that honors veterans for their service by donating a flagpole and flag as a show of thanks.

Mr. Popwell has spent many years overseas in Diplomatic Security and managed contracts at the Program level in the Balkans, Middle East, and Africa. He has served on contracts overseas in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2013 he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as the Project Manager for International Development Solutions (IDS) on the DoS Worldwide Protective Service (WPS) contract (Task Order 9) until January of 2015. Prior to this, he was employed by DynCorp International as their Project Manager for the DoS Worldwide Protective Services contract (Task Order 8) in Erbil, Iraq from 2011-12. In both instances he managed more than 600 employees comprised of U.S., Foreign National and Local National employees. Each Task Order was worth more than \$100M a year and involved major construction projects as well. His expertise lies in overseeing all operational and administrative aspects of a contract. Mr. Popwell has also managed from stateside positions. While employed with DynCorp International LLC, he supported the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement missions/contracts to Haiti, Israel, Sudan and Liberia (2008-2010).

Mr. Popwell previously worked in Law Enforcement for 16 year as a Police Officer, SWAT and Narcotics Investigator in both Opelika and Auburn. Prior to his career in Law Enforcement, Mr. Popwell served in the U.S. Marines from 1982-88 where he was stationed at the Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> and I, the Pentagon and Camp David protecting President Ronald Reagan. He is a 1992 Graduate of Auburn University with a BS in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Popwell is married to Dina and has three children, 2 daughters (Morgan 32, Madison 25) and Conner (16). He has 3 grandchildren (Auden 4 and Miller 3 and Scarlett 2). He lives in Auburn.

### **Next Dinner Meeting 1800 —Tuesday—19 February 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](mailto:bohler1107@charter.net) by Sunday, 17 Feb 2019 by 2100.**

## January Meeting Minutes

- Pledge by Kendal Adams
- Prayer by Mike Kosolapoff
- Dinner
- **Mike Golden welcomed new member Hugh O'Donnell, who is former AF for 10 years and academy grad plus he and his wife Theresa are foster parents; and Mike & Marilyn's daughter, Mackenzie Horsefield, who flew in from Minot, North Dakota, and she is a nuclear missile operations officers in the Air Force.**
- Gary DeMars introduces the guest speaker, William Davenport of H & R Block, who has worked as a tax analyst for over twenty years.



- Davenport reported that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is the biggest federal tax law change in over 30 years.
- Standard deduction amounts have almost doubled. Married Filing Jointly went up to \$24,000.
- Medical 7.5% of gross --needs to be a lot for fed – still collect data for state which is lower
- 65 years old and older \$1300 per event (blind)
- Social Security rate taxed is still the same.
- Active Duty personnel– H & R Block has a discount.
- Charitable contributions went up to 60% of gross. Was 50%.
- Military can still claim moving expense deduction and receive excludable moving expense reimbursements.
- IRA Contribution –Tax Release \$5,500 301K to Roth IRA discussion
- \$15,000 per year as gift to each kid If kid is buying a house in Dec/Jan do \$15,000 in Dec and \$15,000 in Jan.
- No big changes to state tax Head of Family
- Education Act Credit Life Time Learning Credit 10%
- Home Office Def. , Travel mileage,
- Child Tax Credit -under 17 years \$2,000 per child
- Handed out green flyers if anyone needs one.
- Board Meeting has been changed from the end of January to February 11th, Mon. 11 AM to have COL Terri Coles present a leadership program from National MOAA Chapters Affairs.
- The May general meeting may have a guest from National MOAA.
- Our chapter will be 50 years old next year. Mike Golden will chair the event and invite of local chapters.
- Bill Broome made a business card to contain info about our chapter to hand out to potential members.
- AL Council of Chapters in Montgomery has Bill Broome as secretary and Charlie Block as webmaster.
- Raffle prize won by Jeff and Judy Bohler.

## **VA Wants Your Input on How to Implement Free Urgent Care Benefit**

**By Jim Absher and was in Military.com Feb 1, 2019**

**<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/01/31/2019-00277/urgent-care>**

**Go to the above web address to comment by March 4, 2019.**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking public input on how best to provide veterans with free civilian urgent care. The VA Mission act of 2018 directed the department to provide access to walk-in care for veterans who are eligible for VA health care.

### ***What Type of Urgent Care Would Veterans Be Eligible For?***

While the law refers to "walk-in" care, the VA will call it "urgent care," a well-known industry standard. The VA says "urgent care" is medical care that isn't quite emergency care, but is treatment that you can't wait to get done. This could be an injury that isn't bad enough to go to the emergency room (a bad splinter, a sprained ankle, etc.), a bad cold or the flu, or other non life-threatening conditions.

The VA says that most service-connected conditions aren't part of this program, since veterans normally receive on-going care from their VA care team for these conditions. An urgent-care visit is for a medical condition where there usually is no follow-up procedure. Many immunizations are also considered urgent care by the VA and the medical community.

### ***Urgent Care Clinics and How to Find Them***

You probably have seen them where you live. Urgent-care clinics are either stand-alone buildings located near medical facilities or hospitals or in malls or drugstores. Most are open at least 12 hours a day. Both the Urgent Care Association of America and the American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine say that an urgent-care clinic must:

- Accept walk-in patients during business hours.
  - Treat a broad spectrum of illnesses and injuries, as well as perform minor medical procedures.
  - Have a licensed physician operating as the medical director.
  - Be open seven days a week.
  - Have on-site diagnostic equipment, including phlebotomy and X-ray.
  - Contain a procedure room where stitches could be placed, a cast be put on a leg, or a minor surgical procedure could be performed, if it is not too risky and can be done under a local anesthetic.
- For its part, the VA proposes listing participating urgent-care clinics on its website to make it easy for veterans to find one in their local area.

### ***Who Is Eligible for Civilian Walk-In Care?***

According to the law, all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system who have gotten treatment in the last 24 months will be eligible for civilian urgent care.

### ***How Much Would It Cost?***

For most veterans, the first two visits in any calendar year would be free. After that, veterans would pay a co-pay of \$30 directly to the VA for each visit. Those veterans in Priority Groups 7 & 8 would be required to make a \$30 co-payment for each visit.

### ***When Would All This Happen?***

The VA published a notice in the Federal Register on Jan. 31, 2019. It will accept public comments for 30 days from that date. Once all public comments are received, reviewed and responded to, the VA will implement final regulations on this new law later this year.

# Surviving Spouse Liaison Letter

Dear Members,

As your chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison, I have received some wonderful material from MOAA that might be helpful in your estate planning now! I will be sharing some of the information I have learned at our meeting on Tuesday, including how you can get your own legal paperwork such as your Will and Durable Power of Attorney prepared for free at Fort Benning and Maxwell AFB! Get a copy of the following publications:

Personal Affairs Guide "A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind"

Help Your Survivors - Now "A Guide to Planning Ahead"

Estate Planning "Transferring Property to Your Heirs"

Turning the Corner "Surviving the Loss of a Loved One"

Don't wait until it's too late to prepare your collection of important papers for your loved ones. They shouldn't be on an Easter egg hunt through your house after you have passed while they are grieving. Get your affairs in order and continue living your best life! It's a very refreshing accomplishment!

Thanks and see you Tuesday!

Marilyn Horsefield



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## Announcing the 2019 Community Outreach Online Giving Campaign

For the months of February and March, 100 percent of all donations made online through the MOAA Foundation website will be used to provide community outreach grants to MOAA councils and chapters helping military and veterans families in their local communities.

**That's right, 100 percent! For example, if we raise \$10,000 total through your online donations to this campaign in February and March, the MOAA Foundation will disburse at least \$10,000 to MOAA councils and chapters qualifying for the community outreach grants to help local military and veteran families in need.**

In 2018, 19 MOAA councils/chapters received grants of up to \$5,000 to support their participation in a wide range of community outreach programs. These included the establishment of a **veterans' court in Montana, refurbishment of Camp Hometown Heroes for the children of fallen first-responders**, including active duty military parents, in Wisconsin; and adaptive snow sports program in Maine; and six different military and veteran outreach programs in Florida.

Please help us support these wonderful MOAA council/chapter community outreach programs by donating online at the MOAA Foundation website. [www.moaa.org/foundation](http://www.moaa.org/foundation)

For those who wish to make a general donation to the MOAA Foundation and support all MOAA Foundation activities, call MOAA at (800) 234-6622 or mail your tax-deductible check to:

The MOAA Foundation  
P.O. Box 1555  
Merrifield, VA 22116-9942

Thanks so much for your generous support as together, we never stop serving!

**ECAC-MOAA's 2019 Calendar of Meetings**

Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	11 AM- 1 PM	Saugahatchee
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
June	None		
July	None		
Aug 17 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	4 PM- 8 PM	Grove Hill Clubhouse
Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Saugahatchee
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	11 AM- 1 PM	Saugahatchee

Mike and Marilyn Horsefield with daughter, Mackenzie Horsefield, in the center. Proud parents of their 1LT in the Air Force, who flew in to attend the MOAA meeting with them. She is a Nuclear Missile Operations Officer.



# MOAA Legislative Goals for 2019

- ✦ Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- ✦ Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.
- ✦ Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
- ✦ Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.
- ✦ End financial penalties for military survivors.
- ✦ End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
- ✦ Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.
- ✦ Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
- ✦ Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- ✦ Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.

## Board Meeting



COL Terri Coles from National MOAA's Council and Chapter Affairs in Washington D.C. gave a presentation at ECAC-MOAA's Board Meeting on Feb. 11, 2019 at the Ole Times Buffet -Eagle Room. Also attending were Lee Conner, VP, and Joe Decker, President, from the Montgomery Chapter who are seated on the right side of the room. One of COL Coles hand-outs had the MOAA Legislative Goals which was in last months edition, so it is above it this edition as well.

COL Terri Coles



\*\*\*\*\* Collecting Dues for ECAC-MOAA \*\*\*\*\*

Please pay at the February meeting or mail your dues to  
 ECAC-MOAA  
 P.O. Box 1003  
 Auburn, AL 36831.

\$20 for regular membership which is the majority

\$5 for widows, one couple \$15 each because of dual spousal military membership, and \$5 for AU students.

MOAA Vacations is hosting a Signature Cruise through Alaska aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Bliss* that promises to be an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Join fellow MOAA members on an exquisite 7-day cruise embarking from Seattle and traveling through Juneau, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, and more on September 1-8, 2019 .



Plan Your Trip with MOAA: Contact the experts at MOAA Vacations for the lowest price, free onboard amenities, and excellent service. They provide service on every cruise line and every ship. Call toll-free at (800) 211-5107 or email [mail@moaavacations.com](mailto:mail@moaavacations.com). Be sure to ask about MOAA group departures like the Signature Cruise above.

**New Member:**

**Hugh O'Donnell**  
 January's new member is centered between **Richard Maurer** on the left and **Danny Sample** on the right.



The worst of the flu season is ahead. Flu Shots are available to the military veteran at Walgreens.



Next meeting is March 16, 2019  
 the third Saturday at 11:00 AM  
 at Saugahatchee Country Club.

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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 Auburn, AL 36831-1003

