



**ECAC**

# ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

FEBRUARY 2024



**MOAA**<sup>®</sup>



## Valentine Social Feb. 15th

The next general meeting is a social with no guest speaker. Come and enjoy the company of other military members and their Valentine (spouse, family member, or friend) at the Auburn University Club. Please make sure to R.S.V.P. the count when it is a yes for attendance.

### Did You Know?

President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives — George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents' Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.

**President's  
Day  
Feb. 19th  
Monday**

Order from the menu below,  
and each person/couple pays their own bill.

#### *Appetizers:*

Chicken Egg Rolls \$11  
Fried Green Tomatoes \$14

#### *Salad:*

Clubhouse Caesar \$8/\$12  
House \$8/\$12  
Add Chicken \$8, Add Shrimp \$13, Add Salmon \$12

#### *Dinner:*

All Served with Mashed Potatoes  
and Grilled Asparagus  
8 oz Filet Mignon \$40  
Grilled Salmon \$25  
Panko Crusted Chicken \$25

**Next Dinner Meeting  
February 15, 2024  
1800 —Thursday— 6 PM**

**1650 Yarbrough Farms Blvd.  
Auburn, AL 36830**

Take Shug Jordan Pkwy to  
North Donahue Dr. and go north.  
After 1/2 mile turn left  
onto Yarbrough Farms Blvd.,  
and the AU Club is on the right.

**Please RSVP at 334-826-1107  
or by email to  
bohler1107@charter.net  
by Tuesday, Feb. 13th by 9PM.**

## Board Meeting was Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

As of January 31, 2024, the chapter has:	<b>2024 Dues</b>
72 Regular Members	<b>\$20</b> Per regular member.
10 Surviving Spouse Members	<b>\$15</b> Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	<b>\$5</b> Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
<b>84 Total Chapter Members</b>	

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

March Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, March 4th, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



**Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg**  
**\$3512.32    1-31-24    Bank Balance**  
**No outstanding**  
**checks, debits, or deposits.**

# Minutes from January General Meeting

- The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:33 p.m. There were 19 members and guests present.
  - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Carson.
  - The prayer was offered by Jerry Williams.
  - Mike Horsefield welcomed everyone to the general meeting and passed on New Year wishes to all present. Mike welcomed two new members and their spouses, Tom Wynn (Deborah) and Jeff Davis (Tate), who then introduced themselves.
  - Tom and Deborah Wynn have been in Auburn for many years. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from Auburn University ROTC. Jeff and Tate Davis are long time Auburn people. After both attending Auburn University together they married and he left for service in Vietnam and after a long career retired from the U.S. Army. Their intro stories were both great and we are glad to have all four of you in attendance. Long live the Space Rangers!
  - Gordon Bugg served as our guest speaker and covered his family's history of service and his time in Iraq. Thanks for the great pictures and discussion Gordon. It was nice to learn more about you and we all really enjoyed seeing a picture of "Young Gordon"!
  - After enjoying dinner, Mike opened the floor for comments and discussion. Judy Bohler reminded us to encourage new membership. Chris Richie spoke about a new initiative that will be led by Ron Carson. He and a yet to be named committee will focus on what we can provide for East Alabama Veterans and spouses that might need our assistance and camaraderie while living in medical facilities. More to follow on the committee, but this will be a way for our Chapter to focus on and make a difference in our community through service.
- ✦ A great time was had by all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Secretary

BJ  
DeBardleben

**ECAC-MOAA's 2024 Meeting Dates**

Feb 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Mar 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<b>April 18th</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6PM</b>	<b>Saugahatchee</b>
May 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
June & July	No Meeting		
August 17th	Saturday	4PM	Grove Hill Luau
Sept 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club

*Every moment is a fresh beginning." T. S. Eliot*

# Celebrating Iconic African-American Veterans

Morgan Freeman	Service: Air Force	James Earl Jones	Service: Army
Tracy marrow, aka Ice-T	Service: Army	Laurence Tureaud, aka Mr. T	Service: Army
Berry Fordy Jr.	Service Army	Elgin Baylor	Service: Army Reserve
David Robinson	Service: Navy	Harry Belafonte	Service: Navy



## 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.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## In Remembrance Of



Neal Lee Scott, age 73 of Auburn, Alabama, passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2024 at UAB Hospital. A Celebration of Life with military honors will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 2:00pm at Jeffcoat-Trant Funeral Home with visitation one hour before. A private family burial will follow at Memorial Park in Auburn.

Neal was born in Santa Monica, California on July 16, 1950 to Sylvia Arshawsky and John Scott. Neal graduated from Santa Monica High School in 1968 and enlisted in the Army. Neal served in Vietnam, Korea, Germany and several stateside locations. As his career progressed, he became a Warrant Officer in CID (Criminal Investigation Division) and through the years served as the Special Agent in Europe and the United States. During Neal's years in the Army, he graduated from The State University of New York (SUNY) in 1987. He enjoyed his years in the military before retiring from the Army in 1992 at the rank of CW4. Neal had great memories of people and places where he served. One of his favorite memories was when he was on the Personal Security Team for Caspar Weinberger and Colin Powell. Another event that was memorable was when he and his family were assigned to Germany and witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. He was given a piece of the wall to pass on to his son as a symbol of freedom. Upon retirement from the Army, Neal and his family moved to Auburn.

Neal completed a Master's Degree in Education from Jacksonville State University. He taught Special Education, then became the Junior High School Principal in Russell County, and finished his educational career in the Russell County Central Office. Neal retired from Russell County after 17 years. Neal had a real love for children and in addition to his school duties, he coached his son's youth sports teams in soccer and baseball. Neal also became an avid fan of Auburn University baseball and served on the Board of Directors for the Auburn Diamond Club. He was an active member of First Baptist Church of Opelika and loved the members of his Empty Nest Sunday School Class.

Neal was preceded by his mother Sylva Arshawsky and his father John Scott and his in-laws, Jerry and Robert H. Ingram. He is survived by the person he loved most in the world, his wife of 43 years, Princie Ingram Scott, the son he was so proud of, Robert Neal Scott, Robert's fiancé' Stephanie Henderson, his sister-in-law Kathy Ingram Voltz, brother-in-law Jim Voltz, and 3 special nephews Ingram Voltz, John Voltz, and Will Voltz.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the CARE Humane Society serving Auburn and Opelika, First Baptist Church of Opelika, or a charity of one's choosing.



Below: Tom Wynn and his wife, Debbie, have lived in Opelika for many years. Tom is a retired Colonel in the US Air Force.

# New Members

Below: Jeff Davis and his wife, Tate, have lived in Auburn for many years. Jeff is a retired Colonel in the US Army.



## Time to Pay for 2024 Chapter Dues

72 Regular Members at \$20 each

2 Dual Regular Members at \$15 each

10 Surviving Spouses at \$5 each

Please pay at the January or February General Meetings. If you can't make either one, then mail a check made to "ECAC-MOAA" to the treasurer, Gordon Bugg, at P.O. Box 1706 Auburn, AL 36831 or membership chair, Judy Bohler, at 1384 Lake Hills Rd. Auburn, AL 36830. The chapter would like to have all of the dues by March 1st. Thank You.

## 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!

From the Military Officer's Magazine page 62 and page 63— newsletters pages 6 & 7. Article gives milestone years at the national level. Page 8 has section that gives the milestones for the Chapter.



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**  
Lt. Col. Marshall Jackson, USA (Ret), runs a small business inspired by his time in uniform.

66

**NEVER STOP SERVING.**  
Your monthly roundup of MOAA news.

MOAA WORKS FOR YOU

# Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, MOAA!

Here's a look at key milestones in association history.

On Feb. 23, MOAA celebrates 95 years. Though the association's name has changed since its founding as The Retired Officers Association (TROA) in 1929, the core mission has remained largely the same. The first leaders of the association hoped that by joining together, they could provide assistance and advice to other servicemembers and veterans. This concern for others fostered natural fraternal relations among

members from all branches of the uniformed services.

What began with about 60 officers in Los Angeles has grown to more than 363,000 members across the U.S.

Here are some milestones from MOAA's 95-year history:

**Feb. 23, 1929:** TROA is founded by Col. Arthur T. Marix, USMC (Ret).

**1938:** TROA hires its first lobbyist.

**1944:** TROA moves to Washington, D.C.

**1945:** A quarterly periodical known as *The Re-*

*tired Officers Association Bulletin* begins publication. In June 1951, the *Bulletin* becomes *The Retired Officer Magazine*.

**1948:** The TROA Scholarship Fund is established.

**1953:** TROA's board authorizes the affiliation of chapters.

**1969:** *The Retired Officer Magazine* becomes a monthly periodical.

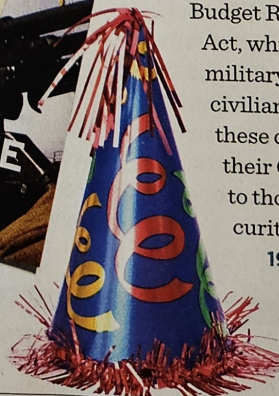
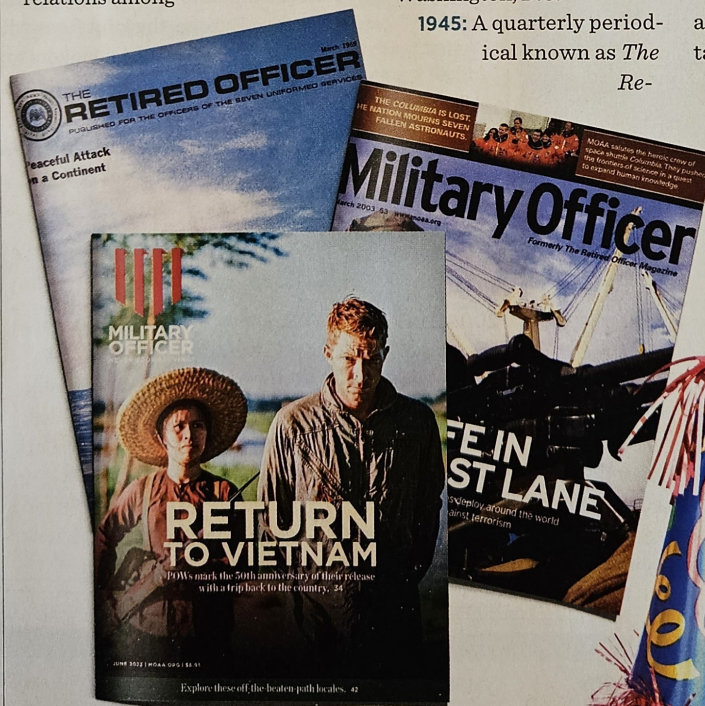
**1977:** TROA purchases its current building at 201 N. Washington St. in Alexandria, Va.

**1985:** TROA joins 15 military associations to form The Military Coalition.

**1986:** The work of TROA and The Military Coalition to undo

the complete elimination of COLA included in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 pays off. On Oct. 21, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signs the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which exempts military and federal civilian retirees from these cuts and links their COLA payments to those of Social Security recipients.

**1996:** The association launches its website as well as





**MOAA purchased** its current headquarters (shown left) in 1977 when the association was then called The Retired Officers Association.

hosts its first spring advocacy campaign.

**1997:** TROA begins awarding the Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership and Distinguished Service awards annually.

**2001:** TROA and other military advocates fight throughout the 1990s for legislation to improve the military health care benefit for Medicare-eligible retirees. With the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress establishes TRICARE For Life that pays out-of-pocket costs after Medicare reimbursement and expands the TRICARE retail and mail-order pharmacy programs to Medicare-eligible retirees.

**2003:** TROA changes its name to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); *The Retired Officer Magazine* is renamed *Military Officer* in conjunction. MOAA wins concurrent receipt (10-year phase-in) for 20-year retirees with 50% disability or higher.

**2007:** *The Hill* newspaper

names MOAA as one of the top 50 lobbying organizations in the Washington, D.C., area. MOAA has remained on the list every year since.

**2014:** MOAA establishes The MOAA Foundation to provide resources, support, and education to members of the uniformed services community.

**2019:** Lawmakers approve the FY 2020 NDAA and its provision to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency Indemnity Compensation offset, which MOAA and supporters fought for elimination of for decades.

**2022:** The MOAA Foundation launches the Crisis Relief program, an enduring emergency relief program to assist uniformed services personnel, veterans, and families in the midst of crisis.

**2022:** MOAA celebrates the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, which became law Aug. 10. III

## DIRECTORY

Call MOAA at (800) 234-MOAA (6622) for help with any association issue or to change your address.

Use the list below to direct your email queries.

To learn more about available services, visit [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

**BENEFIT AND FINANCE INFORMATION:**

[benefits@moaa.org](mailto:benefits@moaa.org)

**CAREER-TRANSITION INFORMATION:**

[transition@moaa.org](mailto:transition@moaa.org)

**COUNCILS AND CHAPTERS:**

[chapters@moaa.org](mailto:chapters@moaa.org)

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:**

advocacy, legislation, and legislative emails and alerts, [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org)

**MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

[pr@moaa.org](mailto:pr@moaa.org)

**MEMBER SERVICES:**

general MOAA information, membership status, death notification, address changes (including seasonal), MOAA-sponsored services, association dues, additional copies of *Military Officer* or other MOAA publications, or subscription to MOAA's free e-newsletters, [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org)

**MOAA FOUNDATION:**

[charities.moaa.org/tmf](http://charities.moaa.org/tmf)

**MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

[charities.moaa.org/sf](http://charities.moaa.org/sf)

**SPOUSE PROGRAMS:**

[moaaspouse@moaa.org](mailto:moaaspouse@moaa.org)

**VA DISABILITY CLAIM INFORMATION:**

[vso@moaa.org](mailto:vso@moaa.org)

**WWW.MOAA.ORG:**

[webmaster@moaa.org](mailto:webmaster@moaa.org)

**REUNIONS & READER EXCHANGE**

Email notices to [infoex@moaa.org](mailto:infoex@moaa.org) or mail them to the address below. Notices will appear in *Military Officer* magazine once. Include the name, address, phone number, and email address of a point of contact.

- Submit reunion notices at least six months before a scheduled event. Include service, name of the outfit, date, and location (city and state) of the reunion.
- Limit "Reader Exchange" items to 40 words or fewer.
- Expect to wait three to six months for your notice to appear in the magazine.

**SOUNDING TAPS**

To notify MOAA of a member's death, visit [www.moaa.org/tapsform](http://www.moaa.org/tapsform); email [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org); call (800) 234-MOAA (6622); or write to MOAA, Attn: MSC, 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

**MOAA recognizes the importance of**

**connecting members** long after they have separated from service and, likewise, noting the passing of a fellow veteran. We encourage immediate next of kin (a surviving spouse or child) or the funeral home handling arrangements to alert us to a member's death. MOAA will not include names in *Sounding Taps* on the basis of reports from friends, extended family members, or other outlets.



**MOAA NEWS**

Visit [www.moaa.org/news](http://www.moaa.org/news) to stay up to date on issues affecting the military and veterans' communities.

PHOTO: MOAA STAFF

# Timeline of East-Central Alabama Chapter

- 1970 Chapter of The Retired Officers Association (TROA) chartered and met at the Elk's Lodge.
- 1992 Membership grew to a hundred.
- 2003 TROA changed to MOAA (President-Emmitt Johnson, Vice President-Ted McMurtrie, Treasurer/Sec.-Jeff Bohler went to bank to change chapter account name.)
- 2006 Newly elected President Mike Golden helps the chapter receives MOAA's National 5 Star Excellent Award.
- 2020 Chapter receives 5 Star Excellence Award and Harris Communication Award with Mike Horsefield as president.
- 2020-2021 Zoom meetings during Covid-19 pandemic

## 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>

## Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

President: Mike Horsefield  
 Vice President: Chris Richie  
 Secretary: BJ DeBardeleben  
 Treasurer: Gordon Bugg  
 Director Chapter Affairs: Ron Carson  
 Director Communication: Jeff Bohler  
 Director Banquet: Judy Bohler  
 Director Legislative: Ron Barto  
 Past President: Mike Golden

### Chair Positions

Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto	Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
Tops:	Mike Horsefield	Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
Membership:	Judy Bohler	By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
Personal Affairs:	Ron Carson	State Council:	BJ DeBardeleben
Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bohler	Legislative Updates:	BJ DeBardeleben
Web Site:	Jeff Bohler	MOAA News:	BJ DeBardeleben
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

