



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com



Presentation

A Brief History of Naval Aviation from Pearl Harbor to Midway to the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

By

Dr. Robert B. Kane



This month we are delighted to welcome Dr. Robert Kane as our guest speaker. He will enlighten us with his knowledge of Naval Aviation History. Dr. Kane received his PhD in European History from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, he obtained a Education Specialist, Higher Education (EdS), from George Washington University, a Masters from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelors from Clemson.

During his career, Dr. Kane has held many teaching and historian positions, while serving 27 years in the USAF and as a civilian since 2001. He currently serves as Senior Historian for the Air University at Maxwell AFB. He has authored & co-authored numerous articles and publications, the latest being *Cradle of Airpower an Illustrated History of Maxwell Air Force Base, 2018*.

Next Dinner Meeting 1800 —Tuesday—21 January 2020

The location for the meeting this month is at the

Moores Mill Club
1957 Fairway Dr. Auburn, AL 36830

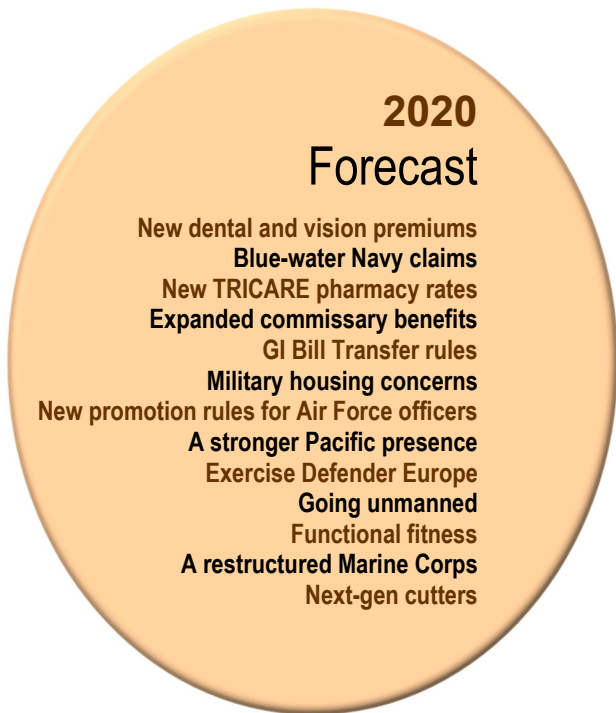
Turn onto Rock Fence Road off Moores Mill Road. Take the second right onto Fairway Dr. and the Country Club is on the right.

Please RSVP at 334-246-7142 or by email to moaa.ecac@gmail.com

(Revised)

ECAC-MOAA's 2020 Meeting Dates

Jan	21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
Feb	18 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
Mar	24 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
April	21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
May	19 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
June		Summer Break		
July		Summer Break		
Aug	15 th	Saturday	4 PM	Grove Hill Clubhouse
Sept	15 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
Oct	20 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
Nov	17 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club
Dec	8 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moores Mill Club



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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. 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.



MEMBERS AND EVENTS

In December, the Chapter held its Annual Christmas Party. Members enjoyed visiting with one another, and playing **Christmas Jeopardy!** which was MC'd by Jeff and Judy Bohler. The competition was keen; however, it was *strategy* that carried the day. Jack Walls' skill and conservative approach made him the winner, without wagering his winnings during Final Jeopardy! After we finished playing, Judy started raffling the prizes she and Debra Bugg had selected for the event. Good cheer and fun was had by all!



ECAC's Newest Members: Buddy (left) & Cynthia (right) Kahler joined as a dual military couple. Both served in the USMC. **Semper Fi!**



Lydia (left) & Jack (right) Walls. Jack was the **Christmas Jeopardy! Winner.**



Raffle winners: Joanne (left) & Frank (right) Ovnich.



Raffle winners: Debra (left) & Gordon (right) Bugg.



Christmas Jeopardy! Hosts: Jeff (left) & Judy (right) Bohler.



Gary (left) & Jewel (center) Demars & Debra Bugg (left) are enjoying the festivities.



Chapter members are awaiting the winning raffle number selected by Judy Bohler (out of the screen shot of the camera) and called out by Jeff Bohler (standing).



Raffle winners: Pat Anderson (right) and her niece, Jeri-Ann Johnson (left).



Secretary's Report January 2020

As of December 20, 2019, the chapter has:

77	Regular Members
9	Surviving Spouse Members
2	Associate Members
88	Total Members

A reminder that 2020 dues are due by January 1st.

\$20	Per regular member.
\$15	Per dual member.
\$5	Per Surviving Spouse/ Associate/ROTC

Please mail a check to ECAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 1003, Auburn, AL, 36830-1003.

Or, bring your check to the dinner meeting. As a reminder, you must also be a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter.

If you have any information that has changed, please contact Bill Broome @ wjbroome@gmail.com or 703-395-4317.

There is a meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for Tuesday, January 7th at 1PM at the American Red Cross Building, 206 26th St., Opelika, AL.

Meeting Minutes

The December lunch meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Vice-President Jeff Bohler.

23 members and guests enjoyed a great lunch and a festive time.

Chapter Business:

- ✦ Pledge by Dave Hall
- ✦ Prayer by Mike Golden
- ✦ Welcome
 - Mike and Marilyn Horsefield were out-of-town; Vice President, Jeff Bohler, officiated.
 - Treasurer, Earl Digman, and Louise Henn were absent for a family Christmas gathering.
 - Bill Broome was attending the Wreath Across America ceremony at Fort Mitchell. He presented a wreath in honor of the USCG.
 - **New members:** Buddy and Cynthia Kahler joined as a dual military couple.
- ✦ Jeopardy Game with Christmas categories and a New Year's Eve final question was the party activity. Jeopardy winner was Jack Walls.
- ✦ Ruffled 10 Christmas prizes.
- ✦ Next chapter meeting will be on Jan 21, 2020 at 6 PM at Moores Mill Club. The guest speaker will be Robert Kane, who will be presenting a Brief History of Naval Aviation.
- ✦ Vice-President Jeff Bohler adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

MOAA News

- ✦ Gen. Paul X. Kelley, the 28th Marine Corps commandant has died. He was 91.

“From his service in Vietnam, to leading our Corps through the Beirut bombing aftermath, Gen. Kelley served with honor and distinction,” said Gen. David Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Kelley, a Life Member of MOAA, was truly a Marine's Marine. He commissioned into the Marine Corps in 1950 after graduating from Villanova University. He served 37 years in the Marine Corps, including assignments commanding reconnaissance Marines, serving as the exchange officer with the British Royal Marines, and working as the Combat Intelligence Officer for the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force during



A portrait of Gen Paul X. Kelley, 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps, hangs at the Home of the Commandants at Marine Barracks Washington in 2014. (Photo by Cpl. Michael C. Guinto/Marine Corps)

✦ MOAA Remains Cautiously Optimistic on Commissary-Exchange Merger

- ◇ The recently approved defense authorization bill postpones any consolidation of the commissary and exchange systems until a government study can assess the effectiveness of a merger. MOAA is happy to report that the NDAA additionally has provisions for the commissary system to improve quality through locally procured produce and dairy products.
 - ◆ How DoD would protect the commissary benefit — one that's relied upon by many servicemembers and retirees, and their families — under a merged system, to include overall savings, product inventory, and other factors to include customer satisfaction.
 - ◆ What consolidation would mean for the morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) funds generated by the exchanges.
 - ◆ How DoD would distribute initial merger costs, and whether those costs could limit funds available for other earned military benefits.

OTHER NEWS

The Department of Defense is proud to expand access to the military commissaries, exchanges and morale, welfare and recreation facilities for more veterans and caregivers. The fact sheet link (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products#!/detail/780>) provides information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding commissary, exchange and MWR facility access for service-connected disable veterans, caregivers, Purple Heart recipients and former POWs.

The following military facilities that will open to the newly eligible patrons starting Jan 1, 2020:

- ⇒ Commissaries ⇒ Recreational lodging ⇒ RV campgrounds ⇒ Military service exchanges
- ⇒ Bowling center ⇒ Movie theaters ⇒ And More!

Also, there is an opportunity to subscribe to Military OneSource e-publications (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/epublications>) for the latest military-related information for prior and current service members and their family members. Plus, there are mobile apps. (<https://www.militaryonesourceconnect.org/achievesolutions/en/militaryonesource/Content.do?contentId=35842#>) that caters to military service members and their families' lifestyles.

If you have additional information, please contact Military OneSource toll free number at 800-342-9647.

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

The 2020 NDAA contained some excellent changes to many of the things that MOAA has been pushing. Your help also played a role through your email responses to Legislative Alerts. Here is a summary of the changes.

- ✦ A 3.1% pay increase for Active Duty troops
- ✦ No increases to TRICARE fees in 2020.
- ✦ Causes a study to examine effect of cuts to military medical billets. No cuts authorized until completion of the study.
- ✦ Eliminates the Widows Tax over a three year period. Unfortunately, the elimination will not start until 2010. There is not provision for back pay. The House also promised that other benefits will not be cut and used as a Bill Payer.
- ✦ Changes to Guard and Reserve that allow those on 12304B orders can now use the time served as active duty time which will help their retirement benefits.
- ✦ Some change to allow claims for medical malpractice.
- ✦ Increase in Spouse employment benefits.

This was a great way to start 2020.

(Source: MOAA Website/MOAA Newsletter)

“Take Action” at MOAA. <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

State & Local Legislative Issues & News

- ◆ The Alabama legislature will be in session from February 4, 2020, through May 18, 2020.
 - ◇ Proposed Alabama Council of Chapters’ (ALCOC) legislation:

CONVENE DATE		ADJOURN DATE	HOUSE INTRO DEADLINE
2/4/2020		5/18/2020	5/13/2020
Bill	Status	Summary/Title	Last Action
SB5	Intro	Taxation, provide income tax deduction, military stationed out of state	2020-02-04 To Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee
SB8	Intro	National Guard benefits, increase survivor and education benefits, Secs. 31-3-2, 31-6-4, 31-12-1, 31-12-2 am'd.	2020-02-04 To Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee
SB10	Intro	Education, National Guard, to limit amount of private tuition reimbursed to eligible guard members, Secs. 31-10-20 to 31-10-25, inclusive, repealed; Secs. 31-10-2, 31-10-3, 31-10-4.1.	2020-02-04 To Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee
SB 101 (2019)	To Be Intro	Alabama Council of Chapters - Military Officers Association of America, and its affiliated local chapters located in Alabama, exempt from state, county, and municipal sales and use tax.	2020-02-04 To Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee

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.

Come and Join Us at One of Our Monthly Dinner Meetings.

Dinner meetings are held on the third Tuesday in January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December at The Moore's Mill Club in Auburn.

The meetings begin at 6:00 pm with a social time and usually adjourn by 8:00 pm.

We do not meet in June & July.

Our annual August Luau is at a separate location.

Join ECAC Online!

https://ecacmoaa.com/join-ecac

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.



The Navy's bell-bottom trousers are commonly believed to have been introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.



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



Past-President's Message:

Greetings Members, Spouses, Guests, & Friends –

Mike and Marilyn were busy last month with family matters, so I offered to fill-in with my well overdue farewell message. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the president of the East Central Alabama Chapter (AL-03) for the past 13 years, 8 months, and 16 days. We have been through a lot together and I truly appreciate the support and kind words that you have provided me over the years.

ECAC is truly an outstanding chapter and we have the people and the numbers to prove it. We may be a small chapter by MOAA standards, but we are enormous when it comes to making folks feel welcomed and appreciated. Our accomplishments are many because of the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our members, officers, and board of directors.

Words can hardly express the respect and affection I have for the extraordinary efforts of Judy Bohler, Earl Digman, and Gary Demars. Judy has been the linchpin of the Chapter from the very beginning. The amount of time and effort she spent making sure everything goes off without a hitch is incredible. Moreover, she published the monthly newsletter and was responsible for 99% of its content. Earl's dedication and commitment to the Chapter is second to none. He continues to be diligent, persistent, and unmovable. He guards the Chapter's resources as if they were his. He shows up every time to collect the monies for the meals and dues with a smile on his face and he is never late. Earl will be the first person to greet you. Gary had the most thankless job. He was required to fill in for me during my absences and was responsible for finding speakers for our month programs. Month after month he delivered some excellent and interesting speakers. In addition, he travels from the outer limits of east Lee County to make our monthly meetings. Former board of directors: Caleb Pipes, Bob Recknor, and Mike Hogan have been steadfast in their willingness to serve year in and year out. They always showed up to board meetings with positive attitudes, willingness to help, and great ideas to improve the Chapter.

Other members who have served in non-elected positions during my tenure, such as Bonnie Showalter, Jeff Bohler, and Mike Kosolapoff were exceptional leaders and genuine assets to the Chapter. Bonnie served as the Chapter's Surviving Spouse representative until recently. She provided our surviving spouses critical information at the time of their loss and made sure the proper materials were available in their time of need. Jeff—what can I say? He was like the rover on a softball team; he played all the positions and he was always willing to step up and fill the gaps with a positive approach and steady hand. Mike is the man who flies under the radar. For over twenty-five years, he has been in charge of the MOAA ROTC/JRROTC Medal program, which included the annual banquet in April of each year. In addition, he presented the medals at the individual school's awards programs. Mike and Emily purchased two year's worth of medals, certificates, and holders. Bill Broome agreed to take the program for two years and has done a superb job; making a flawless transition to insure the standards are maintained and improved upon.

The efforts of these Chapter officers, board of directors, and non-elected members are why we have such an exceptional Chapter. Their dedication, steadfastness, and can do attitudes are directly responsible for the health of the Chapter and the many accomplishments we have achieved over the past 13 plus years. I will forever be grateful for their support and hard work, which made my job effortless.

Sincerely,

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/>

VA and Walgreens are national partners, providing no-cost standard (Quadrivalent) flu shots to enrolled Veterans of the VA health care system. Simply go to any Walgreens, tell the pharmacist you receive care at a VA facility and show your Veterans Health Identification Card and another form of photo ID.

With the VA-Walgreens partnership, after a Walgreens pharmacist administers a vaccine, the immunization information is transmitted to VA through the eHealth Exchange and becomes part of the patient's VA health record. The no-cost flu shot program starts August 15, 2019 and runs through March 31, 2020.

Publix has free flu shots if you are on Medicare.



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 1003
Auburn, AL 36831-1003

