



**ECAC**

# ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

MARCH 2021



**MOAA**<sup>®</sup>



**Women’s History Month** is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture, and society and is observed annually in the month of March. Honoring the contributions of Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women’s history milestones stretches back to the founding of the Nation.



**Lieutenant Colonel Todd Peachey, USAF, Retired**

Lieutenant Colonel Todd Peachey served 24 years in the Air Force including four years enlisted. As a Communications and Information officer, he worked at squadron level communications, maintenance, and at Headquarters Air Combat Command as a staff officer. He spent a large part of his career as a faculty member for the Air Force, which included two tours in AFROTC and one tour teaching graduate school at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Lt. Col. Peachey will discuss the most rewarding assignment of his career was as Team Chief, Embedded Training Team, Afghan National Army Communications Support Element. His major awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

## 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 MARCH 16TH MEETING**. **Meeting ID: 998 1811 6089** and **Passcode: MOAA**. 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: 998 1811 6089** and **Passcode: 961139** when asked.



**ECAC-MOAA's 2021 Meeting Dates**

Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
<b>Mar 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5 PM</b>	<b>Virtual by Zoom</b>
Apr 20 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 17 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	4 PM	Grove Hill Club
Sep 21 <sup>h</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1 PM	Moore's Mill Club

**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

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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. 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



## Secretary's Report March 2021

As of January 31, 2020, the chapter has:	2021 Dues
68 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>83 Total Members</b>	

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

The March Board of Directors meeting was Monday, March 1st, at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. April's meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5th, at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation. **\* If you have any information that has changed, please contact Bill Broome at [wjbroome@gmail.com](mailto:wjbroome@gmail.com) or 703-395-4317.**

## Treasurer's March 2021

Summary of Activity 02/01/2021 to 02/28/2021	
<b>Balance Forward from 02/01/2021</b>	<b>\$5,312.86</b>
<b>Deposits/Credits</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals/Debits</b>	<b>\$33.75</b>
<b>Service Charges</b>	<b>00.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance as of 02/28/2021:</b>	<b>\$5,349.11</b>

**National Medal of Honor Day** is on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** and it is the day the nation honors the valor that the most courageous servicemen and servicewomen in the United States military have displayed. Awarded by the President of the United States, only military members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty will receive this distinction. There are actually three different versions of the Medal of Honor, for the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, though Coast Guard members and Marines are also eligible to earn the Navy version. To date, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to those who fight to keep our country safe – and March 25th is the day to honor their exemplary service.



We commemorate those who fought in the Vietnam War on **National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29<sup>th</sup>**. There's no doubt that the Vietnam War was one of the most brutal. In fact, over three million people were killed during the 20 years it went on. It was known as the Second Indochina War to Americans, and considering its long fighting time and brutality, **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** was created to honor all the men and women who fought during its time. Aside from honoring those who fought, four other parts of this day that are meant to be highlighted are the service of the Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; the wartime contributions at home; the advancements in technology, science, and medicine; and the contributions by American allies.

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>

**Legislative Chair—Charlie Block****National, State, & Local News****At different times folks ask, “Why should I join MOAA”.  
Below are 12 good reasons.**

MOAA engages with Congress on all manner of issues related to the uniformed services community. These efforts can include collaboration with other like-minded organizations and with The Military Coalition. We also rely heavily on our members who make their voices heard by contacting lawmakers via [MOAA’s Legislative Action Center](#), by participating in our annual signature advocacy event, and through local efforts at the level. For **more than 90 years**, this work has led to real results – pay and benefits protected from budget-driven threats, continued access to quality medical care, and countless other areas of concern to our members, our military, and the wider uniformed services community. No list could encompass everything MOAA’s achieved since 1929, but below, you’ll find some of the highlights. Click the links for details on each of the items (or scroll below the boxes to see the full list), and reach out to MOAA’s legislative team at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org) to discuss your concerns on these or other topics. Note: Items with an asterisk (\*) are reoccurring under attack or under resourced.

- ✦ **[Repealing SBP-DIC offset](#)**, known as the ‘Widows Tax’ – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- ✦ **[Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD’s health care](#)** – protecting continued access to quality care.\*
- ✦ **[Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform](#)** – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.\*
- ✦ **[Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes](#)** (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.\*
- ✦ **[Protecting TRICARE For Life \(TFL\)](#)** – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).\*
- ✦ **[Maintaining pay raise comparability](#)** – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.\*
- ✦ **[Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements](#)** – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.\*
- ✦ **[Defeating ‘COLA Minus 1 Percent’](#)** – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.\*
- ✦ **[Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability](#)** – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.\*
- ✦ **[Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability](#)** – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.\*
- ✦ **[Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage](#)** – and securing a premium cut.
- ✦ **[Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service](#)** – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

# MEMBER SECTION

## Welcome New Members



**Mary & Jim Mathews**

Jim Matthews and his wife, Mary, joined the Chapter on February 10. Jim is retired Army, and they live in Salem. He is a member of National MOAA and Mary is a member of the Distaff Club. We look forward to opportunity to meet them in person in the near future. **Welcome Aboard!**



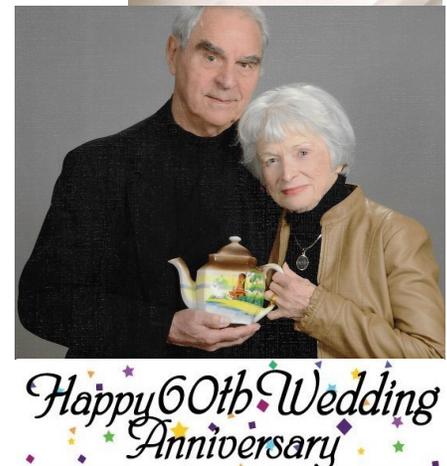
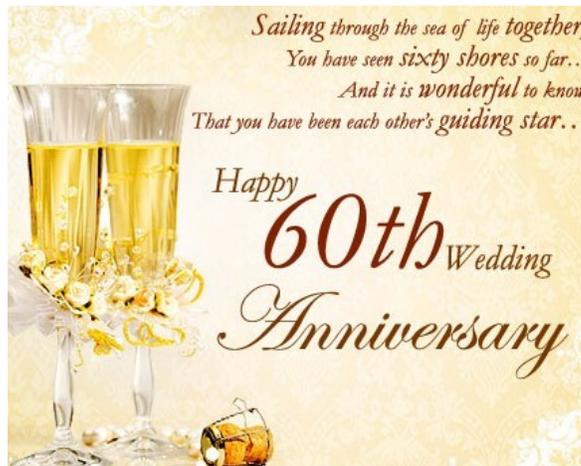
**Chris Richie**

Chris Richie and wife, Michele (photo coming), also joined the Chapter in February. Chris is an active duty USMC Colonel stationed at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery. Chris and Michele live in Auburn. **Welcome Aboard!**



## INVITATION

**You are invited to celebrate Bob and Kay Recknor's 60th Wedding Anniversary on March 18th. Drive-by and wish them well 3 — 6 P.M. 151 Prathers Lake Drive in Auburn.**



On March 18th, 1961, Bob and Kay Recknor were married at the Naval Air Station in El Centro, CA, where Bob was testing parachute gear for the Navy. In addition, he was also assigned to the first Navy Exhibition Team known as the Chuting Stars. While in El Centro, Bob was selected for the Mustang program and was commissioned as an ensign and was assigned as a Maintenance and Safety and Survival officer. While serving in this career field, he was selected for a two-year exchange duty assignment with the Royal Navy. Bob went on to serve for 30 years in the Navy and retired in 1980 from NAS Oceana in Virginia.

Throughout their many moves, Kay became a jack of many trades with the most rewarding being the owner of her own interior design business in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Bob and Kay moved to Auburn 16 years ago to be near their daughter, Karen, and her husband Bob Cochran, along with their three grandchildren; Christy, Kelly and Clint. They are very proud of their grandson, Clint, who is third generation Navy. Living in Auburn has been more rewarding than they could have ever dreamed. Being a member of MOAA is one of the many rewards of living on the Loveliest Village on the Plains.

As they reflect back on 60 years of marriage, throughout the ups and downs, their lives have been filled with respect, independence, and love.



## AUBURN OPELIKA EVENTS MARCH 1ST - MARCH 31ST, 2021

**FYI: Distaff Club** If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that we have a group for spouses of MOAA members called Distaff. In non-Covid times we meet once a month for lunch. We usually try new restaurants in the local area. We also have an annual Christmas Party/ornament swap. Traditionally, our February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend luncheon. We enjoy getting together to socialize and get to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. We would love to have you join us!



### COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

This is the East Alabama Medical Center portal for COVID-19 vaccine registration. [Index - EAMC Secure Forms](#)

At this vaccination site, vaccines are available for persons **age 65 and greater who reside in Lee, Chambers or Macon counties.**

If you meet the age and residence requirements, please complete the form below with your demographic information and you will be called to schedule your vaccine.

- It may take several days to receive a call as vaccine is still very limited.



### COVID-19 Vaccines at Veterans Administration Facilities

The VA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel. They realize that health care personnel, veterans, and caregivers have a lot of questions, and information is changing quickly. **Please click on the link above** for information and updates. The VA will continue to update this page as new information becomes available.

[Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the VA at this time?](#)

[Basic information about getting your vaccine at the VA](#)

**MARCH 14, 2021**

**1 hour Forward**

**2:00 am**



### Daylight Saving Time in the United States

Daylight saving time in the United States is the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour when there is longer daylight during day, so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 established the system of uniform daylight saving time throughout the US.



**National K9 Veterans Day, March 13th**, is a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs. On March 13, 1942, the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces. Border Patrol K9s, Customs K9s, Police K9s, Secret Service K9s, Airport Service K9s and FBI K9s work daily to serve and protect Americans and the homeland. K9 Veterans Day was created by Joe White of Jacksonville, Florida. He was a Vietnam War veteran, K9 handler and trainer.

<https://militarybenefits.info/k9-veterans-day/>



**Julius Caesar**

**March 15th, the Ides of March**, was originally the date on which Romans settled their debts. Other ancient traditions on this day included the slaughter of a sheep, the 'Ides sheep', by Jupiter's high priest; the feats of Anna Perenna, the goddess of the year, to celebrate the first full moon of the year with drinking, picnics, and lively festivities; and in the 'holy week' of festivals during the Imperial Period, which celebrated the goddess Cybele and the god Attis. The unlucky pall over the **Ides of March** has a more portentous tie to ancient Rome. Roman Emperor Julius Caesar was famously unlucky on the Ides of March in 44 B.C. when he was assassinated by his senators, fearing their ruler was becoming a dictator.

<https://nationaltoday.com/ides-of-march/>

The luck of the Irish and all things green is celebrated on **St. Patrick's Day on March 17th** every year. Initially a day to honor patron saint St. Patrick of Ireland, over time the holiday has evolved into a fun and festive celebration of Irish culture.



**St. Patrick's Day** is celebrated in more countries around the world than any other single-day national festival, largely due to America's enthusiasm for what many consider a holiday, although it is not an official holiday in America.

### FIVE SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THE PATRON SAINT PATRICK

- ✦ **St. Patrick was not an Irishman** - He was born Maewyn Succat around 385 A.D., son of a Christian church deacon and wealthy family, in Britain which was under the rule of the Roman Empire at that time. He chose the name Patricious after he became a priest.
- ✦ **He arrived in Ireland as a slave** - The rich kid was kidnapped from Britain at the age of 16 by a band of raiders who enslaved him as a shepherd in Gaelic Ireland for six years, during which time he converted to Christianity.
- ✦ **He was a saint, but not really** - Although Patricious is known as Saint Patrick and is the most beloved of all patron saints of Ireland, he has never been formally canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church.
- ✦ **Patrick did not rid Ireland of snakes** - He could not have done this because there have never been any snakes on the island nation of Ireland. This is a folklore legend.
- ✦ **Four-leaf clovers are never shamrocks** - The 4-leaf clover being lucky has nothing to do with St. Patrick. Legend has it that Patrick used a green plant with three leaves, commonly called a shamrock, to teach the Christian concept of the Holy Trinity. Only a 3-leaf clover can be a shamrock; a clover with more or fewer leaves is never a shamrock.

## 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 has extended the State's Safer at Home. 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 is extended until April 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. It includes a statewide mask requirement to be kept in place to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. [COVID-19 News and Resources - Office of the Governor of Alabama](#)



The Auburn City Council requests everyone to continue practicing social distancing and wearing masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19. In addition, to the resolution of support for Governor Ivey's amended Safer at Home order.

## Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for 2020-2021

**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

**Surviving Spouses Liaison:** Marilyn Horsefield

### Chair Positions

**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

**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



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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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