



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

MARCH 2024



Presentation: Long Term Skilled Care with Tricare and other Organizations

Speaker: Dave Moore

Dave Moore served in the Army for 27 years. He graduated from West Point in 1984 and served in infantry and technology project leadership roles. During his career he served in Germany and various locations within the United States. He deployed with the 82nd Airborne Division for Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of and Enduring Freedom, respectively Operation

Iraqi Freedom.

Dave earned a masters of industrial engineering from North Carolina State and also attended the Army War College.

In Auburn, Dave continues employment as a project management and leadership coach consultant.

He has three daughters. One is studying for her masters in social work at Auburn, one is working on her final year at South Alabama, and the other lives in California as a professional photographer and product marketer.

While not living in Auburn until his retirement from the military, Dave has been in and out of Auburn his whole life. He now resides in the home his grandfather purchased new in 1950.

Dave will talk on his health care journey supporting his wife, Teresa who was in her late 50's, from her heart attack to passing. He will talk on his experiences with various health care organizations, interaction with Tricare, and funeral. He will present costs as he knows them and highlight Tricare's support.

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
March 21, 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, March 19th by 9PM.**

Board Meeting was Monday, March 4, 2024.

As of Feb. 29, 2024, the chapter has:	2024 Dues
70 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
10 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$5 Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
82 Total Chapter Members	

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, April 1st, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
 \$3590.28 3-1-24 Bank Balance
 One outstanding item
 Check of \$71

Minutes from February General Meeting

- The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:15 p.m. There were 19 members and guests present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gordon Bugg.
- The prayer was offered by Gordon Bugg.
- Mike Horsefield welcomed everyone to the general meeting. Mike welcomed three potential new members, Joe Bauknecht, Kristian Taylor, and Rachel Taylor, who then introduced themselves.
- Kristian and Rachel recently moved to Auburn from Montgomery. Kristian serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Flight Nurse and works in local hospitals. Rachel serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Logistician and also works at Auburn University in the College of Liberal Arts as an Academic Counselor. They met while stationed at Maxwell AFB. Joe Bauknecht is a retired U.S. Navy Captain.
- No guest speaker.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Secretary
 BJ
 DeBardeleben



Happy St. Patrick's Day

ECAC-MOAA's 2024 Meeting Dates

Mar 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
April 18th	Thursday	6PM	Saugahatchee
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
Oct 17th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 14th	Saturday	11AM	Saugahatchee



POW/MIA National Museum

In February, Jeff and Judy Bohler travelled to Jacksonville, Florida to tour the area previously known as NAS Cecil Field. The hangers and facilities have been sold to other companies to make a community complex. The chapel is the beginning of a National POW/MIA National Museum complex. In September or October, Jeff would like to do a presentation on the this facility and its goals. Finding MIA military personnel and bringing them home has been a very important part of military. Here are two photos from that trip and an illustration of the POW/MIA flag.



In Remembrance Of

Richard "Dick" H Phelan

September 20, 1942 ~ February 14, 2024 (age 81)



Richard "Dick" Harris Phelan of Auburn, AL, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, died February 14, 2024 at the age of 81.

Born September 20, 1942 in Davenport, IA, the son of Martin and MaryKay Phelan, Dick graduated from Davenport High School in 1960. Awarded an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, he graduated in 1964 and went on to pursue naval flight training in Pensacola, FL and Corpus Christi, TX. One year later, he received his flight wings and naval aviator status while training to fly P-2s with Patrol Squadron 24 in Jacksonville, FL.

The posting in Jacksonville proved to be very fortuitous. A successful date to a Naval Ball brought Edna Moore into Dick's life. One year later in March 1966, the two were married in Orange Park, FL. and over the next seven years they expanded from newlyweds to parents of four -- Kelly, Lindsay, Scott and Todd.

Following their marriage, Dick and Edna began their military family journey, first moving to Norfolk, VA prior to Dick being deployed to the Mediterranean. He transitioned to flying P-3s and had further deployments to Iceland and Lajes Air Force Base in the Atlantic in 1968.

In 1969, he began a master's program in operations analysis at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. Upon graduation in 1971, he was stationed in Coronado, CA, where he attended Vietnamese language school and survival training in preparation for deployment to Vietnam.

Dick served in the Vietnam War from January 1972 to January 1973, living in hamlets while flying into different areas throughout the country. Those missions involved creating reports for Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, the U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Following Vietnam, Dick served with several Navy patrol plane squadrons, including an operational test evaluation squadron in Key West, FL and Patuxent River, MD that tested anti-submarine warfare weapon systems.

From 1982-83, he was the Commanding Officer of Navy Squadron VP-45, consisting of 12 anti-submarine warfare planes, 75 officers and 300 enlisted men and women. The squadron was routinely deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. He served as Chief of Staff for Patrol Wing 11 in 1983-84, and continued his education at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, obtaining two additional master's degrees in National Security and Strategic Studies and a Master of Science from Salve Regina College.

Following a three-year posting at the Pentagon serving on the Secretary of Defense's staff, he received orders to move to Auburn, AL to become a professor of naval science and the commanding officer of the Naval ROTC program at Auburn University. He oversaw the program for three years before retiring from the Navy in 1991. In addition to his Bronze Star, Capt. Phelan also received the Legion of Merit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star and several other medals throughout his decorated 27-year military career.

Dick and his family decided to put roots down in Auburn following his Naval retirement, starting a second career in financial planning with Ted Wilson at Wilson Investment Group. His love for service through his military days led to his leading role over the last three decades in the Auburn community. He was Chairman of the Auburn Veterans Committee, the past president of the Rotary Club, past president of the Retired Officers Association and past Chairman of the Auburn United Methodist Church Financial Committee and the Naval Academy Blue and Gold. For 15 years he was on the Board of Directors for the State of Alabama Special Olympics and was selected as Lee County's Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America in 2013. In 2023, Dick was named Distinguished Veteran of the Year.

One of his most lasting impacts in community service were the roles that he served as a member of the Auburn City Council for 16 years, eight of which he served as the Mayor Pro Tem for former Mayor Bill Ham.

Dick retired from Wilson Investment Group in 2021.

A very gregarious man who never met a stranger, Dick leaves a legacy of countless friends. From fellow Midshipmen at the Naval Academy, the men he served with and commanded to the many constituents that he served and those he did business with. In transitioning his business to his son Todd, he didn't refer to those relationships as clients, but as friends, knowing minute details about each of them.

Continued on page 5.

Dick Phelan obituary continued from page 4.

While he had many roles, deployments and responsibilities throughout his life, it was serving along-side “MoMo” in the role of “Pops” that brought him the most joy and satisfaction. Grandfather to 10, “Pops” mastered the role, ready to do whatever it took to be there for all occasions and needs. One of the highlights every Christmas was when “Pops” would serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the blind-draw for the “grands” to get one of his old caps or a cherished Peachtree Road Race t-shirt from when he ran for many years.

Dick’s unyielding commitment to his country through military service, his community through his volunteering and leadership, his loyalty to his lifelong friends, his dedication to his beloved wife and his support and adoration of his children, their spouses and grandchildren defined Dick Phelan.

He was preceded in death by his parents Martin and MaryKay Phelan and his beloved wife, Edna Moore Phelan. It is only fitting that he chose to join the love of his life Edna on Valentine’s Day for their eternal union.

Survivors include his daughters Kelly Parkman (Mark) and Lindsay Dendy (David), sons Scott Phelan (Holly) Todd Phelan (Alice); grandchildren Hannah Grace Dendy, Alex Parkman, Lyla Phelan, Conner Phelan, Will Parkman, Davis Dendy, Riley Phelan, Charlie Richard Parkman, Bennett Phelan and Ella Claire Dendy; and a brother, Jerry Phelan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the Special Olympics of Alabama. To make the donation please use the link: <https://www.specialolympics.org/get-involved/donate/special-olympics-tribute-giving>

A Celebration of Life is planned for Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m. CENTRAL TIME at the Auburn United Methodist Church, 137 South Gay Street, Auburn, AL.

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!

Auburn University Veterans Resource Center is having their Annual Golf Tournament on March 18th at the Auburn University Club. This is an opportunity to connect the student veterans with community leaders like MOAA and to raise funds for veterans programming on campus. The ECAC- MOAA executive board for the chapter sponsored \$100 for the Golf Tournament, and if any member would like sponsor as well, please check the flyer on page 6 and below.

website

aub.ie/vetclassic



Annual Golf Tournament

2024 Auburn Veterans Golf Classic

Location: Auburn University Club



YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNTS:

THIS EVENT HAS
PROVIDED
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES TO
OVER 250
VETERANS TO
DATE.

Registration Fees

Individual: \$200 - Single entry

**4-Person Team: \$600 - Team of 3
Players + 1 student veteran**

**Tee Sponsorship: \$100 - choose
your signage ("In memory of..."
or brand promotion")**



aub.ie/vetclassic

**Team + Tee sponsor: \$650 -Full
package**

Contact Curtis Pippin at czp0036@auburn.edu for more information.



Left: Rachel Taylor, Kristian Taylor, BJ DeBardeleben, and Charlotte De-Bardeleben

BJ and Charlotte invite Rachel and Kristian to the Feb. chapter meeting. Kristian and Rachel are both military officers, and we hope they decide to join the chapter.

Joe Bauknecht also attended the meeting, but no photo was submitted.

No love, no friendship, can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever.
 Francois Mauriac



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MOAA AWARDS

April's chapter meeting will be at Saugahatchee Country Club on April 18th at 6 PM. The cost of the meal will be \$35. This will be the ROTC/JROTC Banquet to honor the students at the local units who were chosen to receive the MOAA Award. Thirteen students will be presented the certificate and medal by Mike Horsefield with Jeff Bohler officiating the award ceremony. Students bring an instructor, parents, and sometimes siblings and grandparents, or a spouse. This is our chapter's main community event with Auburn University units, Tuskegee University units, several local high schools units, and a military academy all participating. Look for the students biographies in the April newsletter and the photos from the banquet in the May newsletter.

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.

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.

		Chair Positions	
President:	Mike Horsefield	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
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



**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**



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.