



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

APRIL 2021



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY "Counterculture vs. Dominant Culture"



Stan Blankenship

Stan is a graduate of Troy 'State' University with a BS in Management and an MBA. He currently serves as the Professor of Practice at Troy University where he has been teaching for the past three years with the Sorrell College of Business. Stan spent 37 years in the apparel industry starting with Vanity Fair Intimates (part of VF Corp), then in 2007, Vanity Fair was purchased by Fruit of the Loom. At the same time, FOTL acquired Russell Athletic (based in Alexander City). He worked for both Russell and Fruit of the Loom over the last decade of his career, until early 2018. Stan held several managerial positions throughout his career, including in Operations, Production Planning, Private Label, Sourcing, Social Compliance, Licensing Compliance, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Human Resources. Stan held various titles over the years including Director, Senior Director, and Vice President. The last 15 years of his business career allowed him to oversee the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility department as well as the Talent Development area.

Stan has been married for 38 years to his wife Sheila, a former sewing machine operator at Vanity Fair. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

His career has offered him the opportunity to live and work in some great places over the years (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky). He is a 'military brat' as his dad was a navigator on C-130's in the USAF. Stan graduated from high school in Frankfurt, Germany, and has traveled for various job assignments over the past 30 plus years to many countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, South America, Central America, as well as Mexico, and Canada.

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 May 18, 2021 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:**



ECAC-MOAA's 2021 Meeting Dates

| | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Jan | 19 th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Virtual by Zoom |
| Feb | 16 th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Virtual by Zoom |
| Mar | 16 th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Virtual by Zoom |
| Apr | 20 th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Virtual by Zoom |
| May | 18th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Virtual by Zoom |
| Jun | | None | | |
| Jul | | None | | |
| Aug | 17 th | Tuesday | 5 PM | Moore's Mill Club |
| Sep | 21 st | Tuesday | 6 PM | Moore's Mill Club |
| Oct | 19 th | Tuesday | 6 PM | Moore's Mill Club |
| Nov | 16 th | Tuesday | 6 PM | Moore's Mill Club |
| Dec | 14 th | Tuesday | 6 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





Standing with you at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainurance.com

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



Greetings everybody and happy May!



This week, we held our board meeting in-person for the first time in over a year. It was really good to see everyone face-to-face and just talk. With that thought, we are planning for our Luau on August 17th, to be an IN-PERSON event at the Moore’s Mill Country Club. Because none of us have seen each other in so long, we not going to have a speaker so that we can just chat with each other as the main event. Accordingly, we’ll start a cocktail hour at 5:00 pm with a cash bar and then we’ll have dinner at 6:00 pm. We have been putting this out for a while now, but I would like you all to plan to attend – with appropriate Hawaiian attire of course.

Aloha maika’i kauwela!

Mike Horsefield
ECAC President



Secretary’s Report April 2021

As of March 31, 2021, the chapter has:

2021 Dues

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 63 Regular Members | \$20 | Per regular member. |
| 14 Surviving Spouse Members | \$15 | Per dual member. |
| 2 Associate Members | \$5 | Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC |
| 79 Total Members | | |

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

The April Board of Directors meeting was Monday, April 12th, at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. May’s meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd, at 1300 at the American Red Cross conference room in Opelika or 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 or 703-395-4317.**

Treasurer’s May 2021

Summary of Activity 04/01/2021 to 04/30/2021

| | | | |
|---|------------|---------|-------------------|
| Balance Forward from 03/01/2021 | \$5,771.86 | | |
| Deposits/Credits | | \$00.00 | |
| Withdrawals/Debits | | | \$00.00 |
| Service Charges | \$00.00 | | |
| Ending Balance as of 04/30/2021: | | | \$5,771.86 |



May 1st is Silver Star Service Banner Day, a time to recognize those who have been awarded The Silver Star Medal, and remember the sacrifices of our wounded and ill veterans. The Silver Star is described as the third-highest military decoration for valor in combat and is typically awarded for actions over a short-term and may be earned for specific acts in combat. Compare that to other types of medals for longer-term service, the Meritorious Service Medal, for example, which is awarded at the end of a military tour when conditions warrant. <https://militarybenefits.info/silver-star-service-banner-day/>



Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

Occasionally I will be asked “What is MOAA doing for me”. Here is the list of their priorities. As you can see these are a mix of active duty and retiree issues. In my case, several of them will directly affect me and I suspect will also affect you. When you receive a request to contact your legislators please take the time to do that. We are 350,000 strong and our voice can be heard if we all speak up.

- ✦ **Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit**
- ✦ **Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays**
- ✦ **Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges**
- ✦ **Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay**
- ✦ **Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards**
- ✦ **Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures**
- ✦ **Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active Duty Counterparts**
- ✦ **Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services**
- ✦ **Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an Option for Those Currently Eligible to Receive Full Military Honors, Through Expansion of Our National Cemetery**
- ✦ **Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees**
- ✦ **Improve Survivor Benefits**
- ✦ **Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown**

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap MOAA

continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021 (H.R. 475), introduced by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.). This bipartisan bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act Food insecurity among

junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee](#)

Act now to urge your senators to support the TRICARE Select Restoration Act, which is an important first step to repeal the enrollment fee for grandfathered retirees.

[Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt](#) Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support The Major Richard Star Act, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

[Support Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans or Veterans Who Have Died Due to a Service-Connected Disability](#) Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability lose access to their parent's health well before the age of 26?

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees](#) The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (S. 829), introduced by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and the House companion bill (H.R. 1997), introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) would ensure these "gray area" retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit.

[Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery and Eligibility for 20-Year Retirees](#)

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your representative and urge them to designate in the FY 2022 NDAA the next national cemetery as ANC reaches capacity.



[CINCO DE MAYO](#)

Cinco De Mayo's deeply rooted history in the Franco-Mexican War influenced Mexican-American communities in the early years of the American Civil War. In the early 1860s, as the Civil War erupted, these communities took up the banner of the Cinco De Mayo celebration as a way to commemorate the cause of freedom and democracy. Today, in the United States, Americans celebrate Mexican-American heritage and pride annually on May 5th.

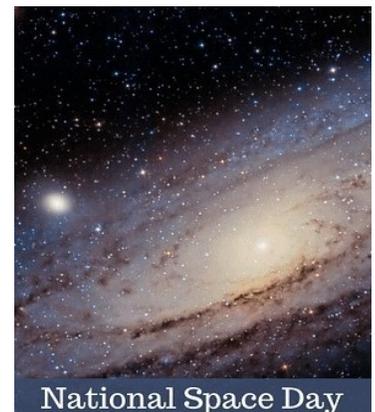
Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for "fifth of May."

[NATIONAL SPACE DAY](#)

[National Space Day](#) dedicates the first Friday in May to the extraordinary achievements, benefits, and opportunities in the exploration and use of space. The goal of the observance is to promote math, science, technology, and engineering education in young people. The hope is to inspire them to pursue a career in science, especially a career in space-related jobs.

[National Space Day History](#)

In 1997, Lockheed Martin Corporation created National Space Day as a one-day event. In 2001, due to its extreme popularity, former astronaut and senator John Glenn expanded Space Day to International Space Day.



National Space Day

MEMBER SECTION



EVENTS FOR MAY 1ST - MAY 31ST, 2021 AU-BURN OPELIKA EVENTS

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendars for our first face-to-face meeting in 17 months. On August 17th, the Chapter will host it's Annual Luau Party at the Moores Mill Club starting with a social hour at 1700 hrs. (5:00 pm) with dinner being served at 1800 hrs.

The Board is excited about the opportunity to meet in person. This event will give you the chance to invite a potential member or bring a friend. The social hour will serve as our presentation. More information to follow in the ECAC August Newsletter.

Tentatively, ECAC will host a special event on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021**. The Chapter turned 50 on April 15, 2020; however, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Chapter was unable to celebrate this awesome occasion. If all goes well, Lt. Gen. Atkins, MOAA President, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Again, mark your calendar for this once-in-a-life-time chapter event. Check your ECAC Newsletter for updates and additional information.



The May ECAC Newsletter did not included this year's recipients of the MOAA Medal from the ROTC and JROTC programs the Chapter sponsors. Because of Covid-19 and the protocols put in place by the State, schools, and universities, the editorial staff did not receive all the pictures and biographies for this publication. Therefore, in July the Chapter will publish a special edition, which will highlight this year's recipients.



MEMORIAL DAY

Each year in the United States, Americans observe the Federal holiday, Memorial Day, the last Monday in May. It honors and remembers all men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day is also a day to remember all loved ones who have passed away. Traditionally on Memorial Day, the flag of the United States of America is raised briskly to the top of the staff then solemnly lowered to the half-staff

position where it remains until noon. At noon, it is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day. When the flag is at half-staff, the position is in remembrance of the more than one million men and women who gave their lives for their country. Raising the flag at noon signifies the nation lives, that the country is resolved not to let their sacrifice be in vain but to rise up in their honor and continue to fight for liberty and justice for all.

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-day-calendar/>



National Military Appreciation Month 2021

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. May is characterized by six national observances highlighting the contributions of those who have served. Show your support on social media with #MilitaryAppreciationMonth.

Six National Military Appreciation Month Observances & Events

Loyalty Day - Saturday, May 1st. Loyalty Day kicks off our Nation’s month-long celebration of military appreciation. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) - May 2nd – Saturday, May 8th. Celebrated the first full week in May. A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day - May 8th, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day - May 7th. Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother’s Day.

The day set aside to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

Armed Forces Day - May 15th. Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year. A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches, the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and Space Force. There is also **Armed Forces Week**, which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

Memorial Day - May 31st. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May. A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service. All Americans are encouraged to pause, wherever they are, at 3:00 pm local time for a minute of silence.



Discover the **National Military Appreciation Month military discounts** available all month long!



COVID-19 Vaccines at Veterans Administration Facilities

We’re working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines as quickly and safely as we can. We know you have a lot of questions, and information is changing fast. Please check back often for updates. We’ll continue to update this page as we have new information to offer.

Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Tuskegee

2400 Hospital Road
Tuskegee, AL 36083-5001

Get directions

COVID-19 vaccines at VA

Main number: 334-727-0550

Update on Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine

We’re following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance to pause in providing the Janssen vaccine at this time. This pause is due to a concern about possible rare side effects. Your safety is our top priority.

For more information, go to the CDC website. Read the CDC and FDA statement on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have a vaccine appointment scheduled, your VA

These groups are now also eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA health facilities are able to offer more vaccines:

1. All Veterans
2. Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans
3. Caregivers of Veterans. For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to a Veteran. Caregivers may help a Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help a Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.
4. Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits.

Sign up to get a COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

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>

Each year we commemorate Victory in Europe Day, also known as V-E Day. On May 8, 1945 Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Forces of the Second World War. This day in history marked the



end of World War II in Europe, although the war would continue in the Pacific Theater of Operations. About **16 million** Americans served in World War II, with **2 million** serving in Europe. <https://militarybenefits.info/victory-in-europe-day/>



Mother's Day

HISTORY OF MAY
 May is the fifth month of the year in the Gregorian and its predecessor, the Julian calendar. Named after the Greek goddess, Maia who is also identified Bona Dea (the Roman goddess of fertility), May is the time of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, May is a season of Autumn. Originally the third month of the year, May later moved to the fifth month when January and February were added to the calendar. It contains 31 days.

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/may-overview/>

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 | Guest Speakers: Jeff Bohler |
| Membership: Judy Bohler | By-Laws: Charlie Block |
| Personal Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield | State Council: Charlie Block |
| Newsletter: Cathy Golden | Legislative Updates: Charlie Block |
| Web Site: Bill Broome | MOAA News: Charlie Block |
| Digital Communications: Jeff Bohler | Chaplain: Mike Golden |
| News Release: Bill Broome | |
| ROTC Awards: Mike Golden | |
| Monthly Meeting: 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/>



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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