

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com



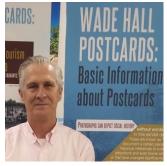
OCTOBER 2020

Wreaths Across America

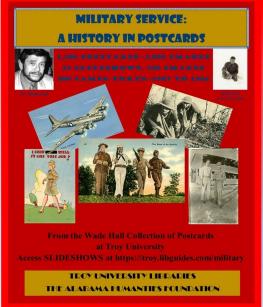
If you or a friend would like to donate to Wreaths Across America, you can click on this website to go directly to the chapter's page for donations helping the Ft. Mitchell Cemetery receive wreaths. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone.



Wreaths Across America



Kelly Reeves. Circulation
Supervisor Troy University
Library. Project Director
Military Service: A History
in Postcards. Formerly
practiced law in Georgia.
Adjunct professor Business
Law, Georgia College &
State University.



Troy University Libraries announces an Alabama Humanities Foundation grant funded project...

MILITARY SERVICE: A HISTORY IN POSTCARDS.

From the Wade Hall collection of 26,000 historical postcards in repository at the Troy University Library, a Libguide having 26 slideshows and 800 images of military history has been created. The images in the *Military Service* collection date from 1903 to 1966 and include 200 military camps, forts, bases or institutions. Use of the slideshows for classroom and assignments is encouraged.

ACCESS SLIDESHOWS at troy.libguides.com/military

Project Director: Kelly Reeves, <u>jreeves157554@troy.edu</u> Project Co-Director, Ruth Elder, <u>relder71917@troy.edu</u>

Next Meeting 1900 — Tuesday — 20 October 2020

The location for the meeting this month is a virtual experience by Zoom. You can connect by clicking on the following link: **ECAC-MOAA Zoom Meeting**. 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:** 914 7047 2915 and Passcode: 292648 when asked.

















ECAC-MOAA's 2020 Meeting Dates

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Halloween is a celebration observed on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. This year will be the first Halloween in 19 years to



have a full moon. Full moons on Halloween are pretty rare. The last time there was a full moon on October 31, it was 2001 — and before that it was 1955. The next one won't occur until 2039. In fact, the 21st century will only see six full moons on October 31: 2001, 2020, 2039, 2058, 2077 and 2096.



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 officers. Click on or go to https://www.moaa.org/whymoaa/ for a short video on why you should join MOAA.



"Happy 245th Birthday"



October 13, 1775

Important Firsts in Naval History

- First use of submarines: While the Navy's first commissioned designs for a submarine were handed over in 1875, it wasn't until 1898 that the first Holland submarine launched successfully.
- First use of modern battleships: While America had battleships before the 1908 South Carolina class dreadnought, which started with the USS Michigan and was

based on British ships, these were the first in the new era of battleships.

- 3) First use of Naval aircraft: In 1911, the U.S. Navy bought its first airplane, the Curtiss A-1 Triad.
- 4) First aircraft carrier: The first flight from the deck of a U.S. Navy cruiser in 1910 led to the 1927 Lexingtonclass aircraft carriers, the first operational aircraft carriers in the U.S. Navy.
- 5) First use of Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat: Introduced in 1992, these rubber boats were originally meant for life boats in the 1960s, but the Navy now uses them for SEALs due to their lightweight, high speed, all-weather specifications.

https://www.military.com/navy-birthday#:~:text=October%2013%20marks%20the%20birthday%20of %20the%20U.S.,to %20the%20early%20days%20of%20the% 20American%20
Revolution.specifications.

The President's Corner:

Greetings East Central Alabama Chapter MOAA members!

I am encouraged every time I get a chance to talk with someone in our group, because we are a very interesting bunch of people with unique perspectives on life here on planet Earth. And although 2020 isn't quite done with us yet, I believe we are seeing glimmers of normalcy return in subtle ways that make me believe everything is going to be alright. For example, last night we took our grand-daughter out to eat at Acre where we sat outside and had a positively fantastic meal which marked our first real outings for the year. We still distanced and sat outside and all the wait-staff wore masks, but it didn't take long to forget the craziness we've gone through and we really had quite a lovely time. On that theme, I look forward to breaking bread together with each and every one of you soon, and sharing each other's company with stories, toasting = heroes and truly enjoy a moment together. This will for certain happen and I cannot wait.

Last month, we had our first virtual meeting with "Mac" McDonald as our guest speaker. As speakers go, I'd say that he was probably the best speaker we ever had and he shared some fantastic stories of his father Billy McDonald, who was one of the original members of Chennault's Flying Tigers during World War II. As an aviator, I very much appreciated the stories and if you'd like to see the 30 minute talk, the link is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxYlzYligl8.

Your ECAC MOAA Board continues to meet monthly and is actively looking for innovative ways to keep us all connected and informed. Mostly this involves choosing the "best" bad option of the available choices and making the best of it. For now, that means we're doing virtual meetings and exploiting digital connectivity, which isn't great, but it is much better than I thought it would be. With this in mind, we'd love for everyone to attend our next virtual meeting on October 20th at 7:00 pm. A link to this meeting is in this newsletter. Last month we had 15 people show up. This month let's see if we can double that because our organization is (1) a social group, (2) we keep our members informed of legislative activities that may affect them as Veterans, and (3) MOAA lobbies on our behalf.

I can't wait to see everyone there!

Mike Horsefield President CAPT USN (Ret)



Secretary's Report

September 2020

As of August 31, 2020, the chapter has: 2020 Dues

Regular Members
 Surviving Spouse Members
 \$20 Per regular member.
 \$15 Per dual member.

2 Associate Members \$5 Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC

81 Total Members

Please mail a check to ECAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 124, Auburn, AL, 36830-0124. Or, bring your check to a dinner meeting.

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

The October Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th and will meet at 1300 by Zoom video-conference.

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

Treasurer's Report September 2020

Summary of Activity 09/01/2020 to 09/30/2020					
Balance Forward from 09/01/2020	\$5,229.73				
Deposits/Credits		\$00.00			
Withdrawals/Debits			\$00.00		
Service Charges	00.00				
Ending Balance as of 09/30/2020:				\$5,229.73	

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

As of Oct. 1, Congress has again missed its deadline to pass necessary appropriation bills to fund the federal government for the new fiscal year. Instead, a continuing resolution (CR will provide stopgap funding for government activities through Dec. 11. The House had no problem passing the measure with a 359-57 vote on Sept. 22; the Senate followed suit the evening of Sept. 30 with an 84-10 vote. The president signed the CR into law later that night. Without funds from the CR, federal agencies would shut down at the start of FY 2021. As you may remember, shutdowns greatly hinder agencies like DoD and others employing uniformed service personnel in executing their missions; ultimately, they lead to furloughing non-excepted personnel. The last funding gap that lead to a government shutdown lasted 34 days, from Dec. 22, 2018, to Jan. 25, 2019. It will fund programs and activities at FY 2020 levels, and it will extend several authorities and programs, including: Medicare Part B premium adjustments, and other Medicare and Medicaid-related authorities and programs.

TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees: TRICARE Select Group A retirees must begin paying enrollment fees to maintain health coverage starting on Jan. 1, 2021. TRICARE Select is the name of the plan that replaced the former TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra programs in 2018. You're in Group A If you or your sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before January 1, 2018. If you're a Group A retiree, you must set up payment for your TRICARE Select fees before the end of TRICARE Open Season. Open season runs from Nov. 9 until Dec. 14. If you're eligible, you may also have the option to switch your enrollment to TRICARE Prime. During TRICARE Open Season you may set up a monthly allotment, where feasible, through your regional or overseas contractor for your monthly payments to start on Jan. 1, 2021. If you don't receive your retirement or other pay from a military pay center, you can make payments via electronic funds transfer from your U.S. bank account, credit card, or debit card. Your regional or overseas contractor will guide you in setting up payment.

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block (Con't)

The enrollment fees are:

Individual plan: \$12.50 per month or \$150 annually

Family (two or more) plan: \$25 per month or \$300 annually

The fee change only affects Group A retirees and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Select and TRICARE Overseas Program Select. Most groups will experience no change.

This change doesn't impact TRICARE Select beneficiaries in these groups:

- Active duty family members
- 2) Survivors of deceased active duty service members
- 3) Medically retired retirees and their family members

These important issues require your **immediate attention**. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today. *Press the control key and then click on the link.*

<u>Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Legislation to Stop Cuts to Military Medicine</u> Act now to urge your senators to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt MTF restructuring as well as cuts to uniformed medical personnel billets. While the House NDAA draft includes critical provisions, the Senate version remains silent. Ask your senators to support these protections and push for their inclusion in the final NDAA.

Pass a Budget, on Time, to Avoid Damage Caused By Continuing Resolutions
Stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget on time this year.

Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Tens of Thousands of Vietnam Veterans The Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.

<u>Protect Gold Star spouses during future shutdowns</u> Under current law, Gold Star spouses receiving benefits from the Department of Defense are protected from interruptions in payments during a government shutdown. But because Coast Guard paychecks come from the Department of Homeland Security, these survivors are still at risk.

<u>Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt</u> Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support H.R. 5995, the Maj. Richard Star Act, and the companion S. 3393 -- which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

<u>Act now to extend CHAMPVA coverage</u> Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability risk losing their health care through no fault of their own during the COVID-19 pandemic?

<u>Support the Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act</u> According to Department of Defense data, 24% of the military spouse labor force remains unemployed. That's over six times higher than the national unemployment rate. Additionally, many military families feel the impact of the rising cost of health and dependent care. To retain the best and brightest in an all-volunteer force, we must remove as many barriers to family financial stability as possible. Ask Congress to expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to military spouses and provide Flexible Spending Accounts as a servicemember benefit.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The American Cancer Society recognizes October as breast cancer awareness month to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer.



Each year in the United States, more than 200,000 women get breast cancer and more than 40,000 women die from the disease. Except for skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women. Because of personal and family medical history, some women are at higher risk for breast cancer. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that women who are 50 to 74 years old and are at average risk for breast cancer get a mammogram every two years, while women aged 40 to 49 years old should talk to their doctor or other health care professional about when to start and how often to get a mammogram.



Photo by Sgt. Kirstin Merrimarahaiara.

Monday, October 26, 2020 Armed Forces Day of the Deployed

It is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for the bravery and sacrifice they are making for our country.





U.S. Navy photo by Public Affairs Specialist Joel Diller.

Ways to Bring Awareness to Deployed Troops

- Send care packages.
- Make a donation to a military support organization.
- Look to local chapters of veteran-supporting groups such as the Veterans Of Foreign Wars, USO,
 Disabled American Veterans, etc. for ways to aid and assist.
- Connect with **Soldiers' Angels** which has many programs for supporting deployed troops.
- Donate money to send a care package.
- Display a yellow ribbon. Yellow ribbons are a remembrance of the men and women who serve far from home.
- On social media, use the hashtag **#DayOfTheDeployed** on October 26th to raise awareness and encourage others to support deployed service members and their families.



BAT APPRECIATION MONTH

These winged mammals are drawn to invasive insects like teenagers to a vampire movie. Consider their ability to navigate with precision via echolocation. They are also one of the largest and longest living species on earth. Even the smallest at approximately one inch is appropriately named the Bumblebee Bat. Add to their unique charm the ability to sleep upside down, that they are the only mammals able

to fly, and bats are downright savvy. These fascinating creatures live everywhere humans live and yet manage to avoid us quite well. While the bat continues to fascinate and often frighten some, it maintains its status as an asset to agriculture. They are also a non-invasive species and a source of natural pest control.

MOAA News

MOAA Honored for Magazine, Video Products

By: Amanda Dolasinski OCTOBER 07, 2020



MOAA's communications team has earned top honors in distinguished contests for magazine design and videography this year.

The February 2020 issue of *Military Officer* was named a co-winner of the Ozzie award for best single-issue magazine design for an association (nonprofit, professional/membership) publication. The award is presented annually by Folio:, a publishing industry group. The issue included features on military officers in space and African American trailblazers in the military; like the rest

of the Military Officer archives from 2006 forward, it's available to MOAA Premium and Life members via digitized archives.

Military Officer also received three honorable mentions from the Ozzie award judges:

The magazine's August 2019 cover, featuring a photo of a member of a Navy underwater construction team entering the clear blue water off Diego Garcia, earned honorable mention for best design.

Leading the Fight, a feature in the February 2020 issue offering a timeline of African American milestones in service, was honored in the data visualization category.

The *Wings of World War II* feature in the May 2020 issue, which celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of that conflict by showcasing multiple airframes of the era, earned honorable mention for feature design.

"Great design and great content inspire each other, and this recognition by industry leaders underscores the value of the collaboration between the teams in the department and across MOAA," said Alan English, MOAA's vice president of communications.

Video Honors

Five MOAA-produced videos earned Videographer Awards from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, including three that received the "Distinction" honor, second only to the Videographer Award of Excellence.

Distinction honors went to a video outlining the complicated process of concurrent receipt, one highlighting the generosity of MOAA members who'd contributed to the MOAA COVID-19 Relief Fund, and another wishing NOAA a happy birthday.

Honorable Mention awards went to a video featuring MOAA members who'd received Purple Hearts to mark Purple Heart Day and to a preview of the yet-to-open National Museum of the U.S. Army.

"These awards are emblematic of their dedication and the way they work with all of MOAA to tell stories, advocate and keep membership informed," said Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA, of the department's members. "I continue to be impressed and am proud they continue to be honored for the remarkable products we are seeing."

https://www.moaa.org/content/publications- and-media/news- articles/2020-news- articles/moaa-honored-for-magazine, -video-products/2020-news- articles/2020-news- ar

UNITED STATES NAVY



MISSION

The Department of the Navy will recruit, train, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.



VISION



We are an integrated Naval force that will provide maritime dominance for the Nation. To accomplish this in the face of current and emerging challenges, we must renew our sense of urgency and speed of execution throughout the entire organization. Our core values and accountability at the individual and organizational levels will shape our culture and guide our actions.



CORE VALUES



HONOR, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT

Our **Core Values** are neither situational nor merely workplace attributes; rather they epitomize the thoughts and deeds of a Naval Officer every minute of every day. **Honor** is a keen sense of ethical conduct, honesty, integrity, and responsibility.



MOTTO



"Non sibi sed patriae" (Not self but country)



The US Navy's Three Great Intellectual Challenges

- 1. <u>Design the future naval force</u>. The Navy's biggest challenge is to design a force structure to meet a new era of great uncertainty.
- 2. <u>Grapple with technological change</u>. Our Navy must also understand how new and emerging technologies will change the battlefield, and adjust our force structure and tactics to suit.
- 3. **Buy and maintain ships.** Finally, the Navy must create new classes of surface ships, build them in large numbers at reasonable cost, and keep them in fighting trim.

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/01/us-navys-three-great-intellectual-challenges/162543/



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.

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.

Due to COVID-19, Chapter face to face meetings are on hold until safe conditions can be guaranteed.

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.

United States Navy SEALs

The United States Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams are the U.S. Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Special Warfare Command. One of the SEALs' main functions is conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous, and desert environments, which includes capturing or to eliminating high level targets, or to gather intelligence behind enemy lines. Although not formally founded until 1962, the modern-day U.S. Navy SEALs trace their roots to World War II. The United States Military recognized the need for the covert reconnaissance of landing beaches and coastal defenses. the joint Army, Marine Corps and Navy Amphibious Scout and Raider School was established in 1942 at Fort Pierce, Florida.



Governor Kay Ivey on Wednesday issued her eighteenth supplemental emergency proclamation containing an amended Safer at Home Order that includes a statewide mask requirement. 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 extends until Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.



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

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

Chaplain: Mike Golden

Alabama Absentee Voting During State of Emergency General Election 2020



Governor Kay Ivey issued a Supplemental State of Emergency related to the November 3, 2020 General Election. The Governor has authorized the opening of absentee ballots, for tabulation, to begin at 7:00 a.m. on Election Day. In addition, student poll worker interns (who were previously unpaid) may now be compensated \$50.00 for working on Election Day. Interested students should sign up online or contact their county probate office in order to become a student poll worker intern.

The Governor has also authorized county probate judges to conduct remote training for precinct election officials and poll workers via live or recorded video or telephone call. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill has extended to the general election an emergency rule to allow people to vote absentee if they don't want to go to the polls because of COVID-19.



Alabama Absentee Ballot Deadlines

- In Person: Received 5 days before Election Day.
- By Mail: Received 5 days before Election Day.
- Voted ballots are due: Postmarked 1 day before Election Day, received by noon on Election Day.

Alabama Absentee Ballot Directions

- Use our Absentee Ballot Tool to prepare your application.
- Sign and date the form. This is very important!
- Return your completed application to your <u>Local Election Office</u> as soon as possible. We'll provide the mailing address for you.
- All Local Election Offices will accept mailed or hand-delivered forms.
 If it's close to the deadline, call and see if your <u>Local Election Office</u> will let you fax or email the application.
- Double-check the deadlines and be sure to cast your voted ballot on time to be sure it is counted.
- Please contact your <u>Local Election Office</u> if you have any further questions about the exact process.

Tracking Your Ballot

♦ You can **track your ballot** directly with your state.

Once You Receive Your Ballot...

- 1) Once you receive the ballot, carefully read and follow the instructions.
- Provide a copy of an acceptable form of photo ID with your voted ballot. (You must provide a copy of one of the forms of ID listed when you mail back your voted absentee ballot.)
- 3) Sign and date the affidavit where indicated.
- A notary public or two witnesses must sign your absentee ballot envelope to verify your signature of the affidavit.
- 5) Mail your voted ballot back to the address indicated on the return envelope.
- Double-check the deadlines and be sure to cast your voted ballot on time to be sure it is counted.



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/

Alabama Voting Offsite Links

- 1) State Election Website
- 2) <u>Local Election Office</u>: This is the government office responsible for running elections in your region. Theses are the best people to contact if you have any questions at all about voting in your state.
- 3) Find your polling place
- 4) Absentee ballot tracker tool
- 5) Learn more about absentee voting
- 6) Learn more about voter ID
- 7) State Election Code





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

